



Kickstart Commissions Guidelines

Applications are now being invited from jazz musicians, bands, collectives, music creators, artists, creative producers and organisations for a series of commissions and residencies to be presented by Hull Jazz Festival (HJF) over the next 2 years. The closing date for initial applications is Monday 10th May at 12 noon.

Introduction

Hull Jazz Festival has been successful in its bid to the DCMS Cultural Recovery Fund.

From April 2021, we're taking a new approach to tackle the challenges of creating new work in different times. Our focus will shift more towards artists' talent development.

The Kickstart Commissions will reflect our values: artist-led, high-quality, ground-breaking, Hull and the North focussed, and championing artists from all backgrounds.

We want to be extremely flexible and really connected and relevant to our audience.

The successful commissions and residencies will be ready for performance between July 2021 through until July 2023. All shows should be flexible enough to take place live indoors, outdoors or via livestream, as the COVID guidelines dictate.

We want to focus on what is absolutely essential: firing up creative practitioners to bring meaningful, joyful experiences to audiences. This work must capture imaginations and be fresh and bold and ensure that we can transition into an exciting and brave new world.

What is a Kickstart commission?

We will support jazz musicians, bands, collectives, music creators, artists and creative producers to produce a piece of new work, based on Hull and the North's sense of place.

It could be geographical, historical, emotional, lyrical or personal. It could reflect an incident, a specific location, an atmosphere or reflect what you think is the spirit of the North, of Yorkshire or of Hull.

It could involve other artforms such as dance, spoken word or film.

It must have aspirations to be linked to a live performance, but this could be site-specific or shared to a global audience online. It could be in a venue, a location, a school or indoors or outdoors or a residency.

It could involve just one person or a big band.

It could involve residency, education and outreach work or just concentrate on one performance or a tour.

We're looking for projects that explore stories that define a sense of place and that embody the spirit of jazz and improvised music as forward-facing music that's continually evolving.

All rights for the commissioned work will remain with the music creator(s), but HJF will be permitted to host the premiere performance and HJF shall be credited as commissioner on all future performances or recordings.

What can we offer?

HJF can contribute between £700 and £4,000, depending on project needs. The agreed amount will cover the composition plus live performance fees and any special production costs (e.g. filming, rehearsal rooms, and special equipment).

HJF can offer:

- Practical and mentoring support designed around your project
- Live performance at an official Hull Jazz Festival event
- Practical support and guidance on production, career development and profile raising

Finances

You may request up to £4,000 from HJF towards the cost of your project but should bear in mind that, if an offer is made, it may be lower and will be determined by the needs and ambitions of the project and the availability of funds. We're expecting to receive more applications than available funds.

Eligibility

To be eligible you must:

- Be over 18 years old and based in the UK
- Not be in full-time education
- Have a track record of a professional music career
- Have a clear and coherent project proposal

Genre and length

We're looking for new music across a range of genres that is celebratory and emotional and is reflective of the great jazz and improvised music tradition. Minimum length of the commission should be 20 minutes, up to a maximum of a full-length show. The commission can be one piece or a series of numbers and performances.

Application

The application process will begin on Monday 12th April and will close on **Monday 10th May at 12 noon**. You must apply using the application form, with the option to submit videos for some of the questions.

In the application form you will be asked to provide

- Outline of your proposed commission idea (up to 800 words, or a 4-minute video); describe your project, its sense of place, artists you would like to collaborate with etc

- Personal statement (up to 500 words, or a 3-minute video) including relevant experience and why the time is right for you to be commissioned, plus a link to 2 examples of your work
- Who your target audiences would be; do you have a specific venue or location in mind? (up to 500 words, or a 3-minute video)
- Simple budget and the amount of commission required (minimum £700, maximum £4,000)

How and when we make our decision

All applications will be considered by a selection panel, consisting of music and cultural professionals, in early May 2021.

- A shortlist of candidates will be invited to present their ideas over Zoom between 10 to 24 May 2021.
- Offers of commissions will be made by the end of May 2021 and projects will be developed during June with contracts and public announcements made at the end of June 2021.

Who to contact

If you have a question about any aspect of the process or wonder if the commissioning process is right for you or you have an access query please contact the HJF Director David Porter by email david@creativeartspromotion.org

J-Night and Hull Jazz Festival is committed to ensuring that the Kickstart commissions will be representative of wider society in terms of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, disability and socio-economic background.



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