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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **PRS for Music Foundation hosts a Composer Gathering ahead of New Music Biennial 2017**

**2nd Edition of New Music Biennial to contribute to Hull UK City of Culture 2017**

Today **PRS for Music Foundation** hosts a Composer Gathering in Hull ahead of the **New Music Biennial 2017**, an initiative which is presented in partnership with **Hull UK City of Culture 2017**, **London's Southbank Centre** and **BBC Radio 3**. The Composer Gathering brings together composers, representatives from commissioning organisations and supporting partners involved in the New Music Biennial 2017 for two days of discussions and workshops. This events gives the composers the opportunity to further explore ideas and challenges relating to their commissions, to network with fellow artists and other commissioning organisations and to familiarise themselves with the city of Hull and potential performance spaces.

Attendees at the gathering include composers **Errollyn Wallen, Ray Lee, Brian Irvine, Daniel Elms, Gavin Bryars, Jocelyn Pook, Laurence Crane, Emily Hall, Mica Levi, Anne Martin, Peter Edwards** and **Simon Holt**. The composers are joined by representatives from commissioning organisations including **BFI, Opera North, London Sinfonietta, BBC Philharmonic** and **J-Nights** amongst others.

New Music Biennial 2017 comprises 20 new pieces of music: ten brand new works and ten pre-existing works that have been composed within the last 15 years. The commissions present a snapshot of contemporary music in the UK and include a range of genres: from classical and chamber opera to jazz, folk, electronic and music for brass band and organ. The commissions receive public performances throughout the UK in 2017, culminating in two celebration weekends in Hull on 1 & 2 July as part of Hull UK City of Culture 2017 and 7- 9 July at London's Southbank Centre.

Many of the commissions resonate with one of the themes of Hull UK City of Culture: *Made in Hull, Roots and Routes, Freedom, Tell the World*. **Errollyn Wallen's** *Mighty River* orchestral work explores the themes of slavery and freedom by drawing inspiration from the work of English politician and Hull native William Wilberforce who lead the movement to abolish the slave trade. Influenced by the natural landscape surrounding his Yorkshire Hometown, **Daniel Elms'** piece for acoustic and electronic instruments celebrates the maritime history of Hull using re-imagined sea shanties and maritime hymns. Fellow Yorkshire composer **Gavin Bryars** uses the inspiration of the Holderness/Spurn Head landscape alongside the life and poetry of Andrew Marvell to form the basis of his new work.

**Martin Green, CEO and Director of Hull UK City of Culture 2017**, said: *"The future of new music in the UK is here in Hull today thanks to the creative partnership between Hull 2017 and PRS for Music Foundation. Our organisations share a common ethos in our aim to engage new audiences with brilliant new music – from beatboxing to folk. It's a pleasure to be working with such talented individuals. It is going to be fascinating to hear the work they create with - and for - different communities across Hull as we move closer towards 2017."*

**Vanessa Reed Executive Director PRS for Music Foundation**, said: *"This gathering of composers and commissioning organisations from across the UK marks the beginning of an exciting collaboration with Hull City of Culture 2017 which will be presenting our New Music*

*Biennial in the summer of next year. This unique project will give people in Hull the chance to discover new music in all its forms - from jazz, classical and opera to folk, electronic and beatbox - written by some of the most original composers of our times. I can't wait to see all of the pieces come together across one weekend in July 2017."*

New Music Biennial 2017 is supported by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Arts Council England, Arts Council Wales, Creative Scotland, NMC Recordings, The John S Cohen Foundation, The Finzi Trust, Jerwood Charitable Foundation, RVW Trust and The Bliss Trust.

Full details of the twenty commissions chosen for the New Music Biennial 2017 can be found [here](#).

For more information about the New Music Biennial visit [www.newmusicbiennial.com](http://www.newmusicbiennial.com)

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### **Notes to editors**

**PRS for Music Foundation** is the UK's leading charitable funder of new music and talent development across all genres. Since 2000 PRS for Music Foundation has given more than £22 million to over 5,200 new music initiatives by awarding grants and leading partnership programmes that support music sector development. Widely respected as an adventurous and proactive funding body, PRS for Music Foundation supports an exceptional range of new music activity – from composer residencies and commissions to festivals and showcases in the UK and overseas. [www.prsformusicfoundation.com](http://www.prsformusicfoundation.com)

**Hull** secured the title of **UK City of Culture 2017** in November 2013. Hull is only the second city to hold the title, and the first in England. The vision of the Hull 2017 Culture Company, the delivery organisation of the project, is "to deliver 365 days of transformative culture in 2017 through a range of diverse and high-profile events and projects". Following on from the Olympics and Paralympics, Commonwealth Games and the Tour de France in Yorkshire, Hull 2017 is the next major event in the nation's cultural calendar. The Culture Company is an independent organisation with charitable status, funded both publicly and privately. For more information, visit [www.hull2017.co.uk](http://www.hull2017.co.uk)

**Southbank Centre** is the UK's largest arts centre, comprising three iconic buildings (Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Hayward Gallery) and occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Building on this rich heritage, Southbank Centre offers an extensive artistic and cultural programme including annual and one-off themed festivals and classical and contemporary music, performance, dance, visual art and literature and spoken word. [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

**BBC Radio 3** broadcasts high-quality, distinctive classical music and cultural programming, alongside regular arts and ideas programmes, jazz and world music. The station features more live classical music programming than any other and is the home of the BBC Proms - broadcasting every Prom live and more than 600 complete concerts a year - alongside daily speech programming, 90 full-length operas, over 25 drama commissions and over 20 new BBC music commissions a year. Radio 3 is the most significant commissioner of new musical works in the country and is committed to supporting new talent, from composers to writers and new young performers, through schemes such as New Generation Artists and New Generation Thinkers. [www.bbc.co.uk/radio3](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio3)

**NMC Recordings** is a registered charity record label devoted to the promotion of contemporary British classical music. The first organisation to be heralded with the Royal Philharmonic

Society's Leslie Boosey Award for "its outstanding contribution to the furthering of contemporary music in Britain" NMC is a member of Arts Council England's National Portfolio and is the proud digital partner of New Music Biennial 2017, providing a permanent digital home to the recordings of the works featured in the festival. [www.nmcrec.co.uk](http://www.nmcrec.co.uk)

**Arts Council England** champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2015 and 2018, we plan to invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

Find out more about all the New Music Biennial supporters [here](#).