

SONG Virtual Composition Project 2021

Timeline & FAQs

4th January 2021 – schools receive access to educational materials:

- PDF handouts on composing for voice (soprano) / clarinet / double bass / harp
- Four (optional) listening tasks exploring different elements of contemporary music and song
- Videos from each individual ensemble member exploring their instrument / voice
- Video from the whole ensemble exploring composing for the group and featuring specific tips on composing songs, using varied examples from our repertoire

FAQ: How will I receive these resources?

- *There will be a dedicated page on our ensemble's website that we will share with you on 4th January. The videos will be embedded there for easy access, and you will also be able to download the PDF handouts and listening task materials from the page*

13th February 2021 (6pm) - school submission deadline for the first draft of student pieces

FAQ: Is there a specific brief for these pieces?

- *Yes – please see the composition brief below the timeline*
- *First drafts must be at least a complete skeleton of the eventual piece i.e. please avoid small excerpts – this is so that we can get an idea of your students' work as a whole and give the most useful and encouraging feedback*

FAQ: How do I submit the pieces?

- *Details of what is required are in the brief below*
- *Students must NOT submit their pieces directly for safeguarding reasons*
- *Teachers must submit all pieces on students' behalf to: annedenholm@hotmail.co.uk – you are welcome to send a Dropbox link or similar if this is easier than large attachments*

27th February 2021 - schools receive audio recordings of the submitted draft pieces along with personalised video feedback from the ensemble for each student

FAQ: How will I receive the recordings and feedback?

- *The audio recordings will either be uploaded to a Dropbox and shared with you via a link, or they will be sent to you via WeTransfer*
- *The video feedback for each student will be uploaded as a private video on YouTube or Vimeo – we will then share the relevant links and passwords with you*

[Timeline continued overleaf]

15th March 2021 (6pm) – school submission deadline for completed student pieces

22nd March 2021 – video recordings of student compositions are uploaded to the Online Song Gallery on The Hermes Experiment’s website; the Online Song Gallery is subsequently shared widely on social media

May 2021 – evaluation forms sent to schools

Composition Brief

Duration:

- max. 3 minutes

Instrumentation:

- voice (soprano) + at least two of the instruments (harp / clarinet / double bass) *i.e. no duos, and no purely instrumental pieces*

Text:

- we encourage the use of a very small amount of text - a few words / phrases is more than enough, and students could even just use vocal sounds ('oo' or 'ah')
- we encourage the use of the student’s own text / words
- all text not created by the student must be out of copyright (i.e. 70 years has passed since the death of the author(s)) – *if this is not adhered to, we won’t be able to publish the final video recording of the piece on the Online Song Gallery*
- any text used in languages other than English, German, French or Spanish must come with an audio recording of the text being spoken very slowly, in addition to a translation into phonetic sounds

Presentation of the music (for both draft and final deadlines) – we need:

- a full score in C
- individual parts for the instruments, including (if applicable) a transposed clarinet part - *if in doubt, the notation software should do this for the student automatically*
- as long as the music is easily readable, there are no specific requirements for which software (if any) must be used - tidily handwritten music is happily accepted
- ***graphic scores, or scores in other forms of non-traditional notation, are also warmly accepted***

Notation should NOT be a barrier to anyone taking part in this project. Please contact us if you have any concerns regarding this – we are very happy to receive pieces in a variety of formats.

Co-Curricular

A polite reminder that this project is co-curricular and as such should **not be used directly for pieces intended for GCSE / A Level (or any other formal qualification) exam submissions**. This is a condition of our funding for the project.

Safeguarding

This is an online project in which we, The Hermes Experiment, do not have direct / live contact with any students. We therefore estimate the safeguarding risks to be low. However, we recognise this is an essential assessment for any project, and online work carries its own risks for young people. A safeguarding risk assessment and management plan therefore exists for this project. Please do let us know if you or your school would like a copy of this document and we will happily send it to you.