

## SONG Virtual Composition Project 2021

We at The Hermes Experiment are so excited that you are taking part in our SONG Virtual Composition Project - we can't wait to work on, perform and record your music! Let the composing begin! Here are all the details you should need to take part.

### Timeline & FAQs

**4<sup>th</sup> January 2021** – educational materials go live on The Hermes Experiment's website – [www.thehermesexperiment.com](http://www.thehermesexperiment.com)

You'll find:

- PDF handouts on composing for voice (soprano) / clarinet / double bass / harp
- Four 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

**13<sup>th</sup> 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 important so that we can get an idea of your work as a whole and give you the most useful 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 - your teacher must submit your work on your behalf***

**27<sup>th</sup> February 2021** - schools receive audio recordings of the submitted draft pieces along with personalised video feedback from the ensemble for each student. *Your teacher will pass these on to you.*

**15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (6pm)** – school submission deadline for completed student pieces. *Remember that your teacher must submit your work on your behalf, do not submit it directly.*

**22<sup>nd</sup> 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 – *hooray!*

## Composition Brief – what and how should I compose?

### **Duration of your piece:**

- 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 you could even just use vocal sounds ('oo' or 'ah')
- we encourage you to use your own text / words if possible
- if you're using text that isn't yours, you must make sure it is out of copyright (that means that 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*
- you are very welcome to use text or words in any language! But if you use words in any language other than English, German, French or Spanish, please create an audio recording of the text being spoken very slowly, in addition to a translation into phonetic sounds, and ask your teacher to include these with your submission

### **Presentation of the music – what your teacher needs to send us for both the DRAFT and FINAL deadlines so that we can work on and record your music:**

- a full score
- individual parts for the instruments, including (if applicable) a transposed clarinet part - *if in doubt, notation software should do this for you automatically*
- as long as the music is easily readable, you can present your music in any way you like e.g. you don't have to use computer software, we warmly accept tidily handwritten music
- **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. We are very happy to receive music in a variety of formats – just ask your teacher to check with us if you have any questions about how to create and present your work.

## 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.