

YOUNG COMPOSERS PROJECT

2014 - 2015 Information Pack

What is it?

The project involves the young composers attending 8 workshops throughout the year where they will be working with a number of professional composers and musicians to learn more about what it is to be a composer in the world today. The young composers will not only compose for young professional musicians but they will also devise and perform group pieces, attend free concerts, have masterclasses with professional composers, be involved in discussions and debates and have their music performed in Birmingham Conservatoire's annual new music festival 'Frontiers Plus'. Everything is free of charge.

Who is it for?

Any young person interested in composing, aged 14-18 and based in the West Midlands. Composing means creating a new piece of music that is original. We work with a diverse range of students from a variety of different backgrounds with different levels of composing experience. Whether you create songs, write instrumental music, improvise or have just started composing but are keen to know more, we want to hear from you! We support a creative community where we all learn from each other.



Where? & When?

Lecture room 2 (2nd floor), Birmingham Conservatoire, Paradise Place, Fletchers Walk, Birmingham, West Midlands, B3 3HG (please see attached map).

Sundays 10.00am – 3.30pm

1. September **21st**
2. October **5th**
3. November **30th**
4. December **7th**

5. January **18th**
6. February **1st**
7. March **8th**
8. March **15th**
9. Concert date **TBC**

Why?

Composing can be quite an isolated task at times. There are few opportunities for young composers to get high level support and to meet other composers and like minded musicians. This project creates a community of young musicians and composers to support each other through the composing process. We offer advice and guidance from young professionals who are working in the field.



Who is involved?

The Young Composers Project is an initiative run by Birmingham Conservatoire and lead by composer Kirsty Devaney alongside Conservatoire students and guest musicians.

How do I get involved?

We liaise with local schools and students can contact us directly on

birminghamyoungcomposers@gmail.com

Or download an application form from

www.youngcomposersproject.wordpress.com

Optional theory & notation classes

January 18th (4-5pm) & February 1st (4-5pm)

These classes are for students who feel that they need some extra help with their classical notation skills. This will be a small group so that students can have maximum time with mentors for individual help and questions.

What to bring:

- An instrument (a piano will be provided, but if you play another instrument bring that along as well!)

- Pencil
- Lunch

Please bring a packed lunch every day. Drinks and snacks will be provided on the day for short breaks. Students 18 or over you may be permitted to leave the building to buy lunch from nearby shops. Please bring in a signed letter from parents to confirm and let one of the staff know before you leave.

Parents and Guardians:

Parents and Guardians: please sign the photo permission form and fill in the emergency contact form, bring them both with you on the 21st September.

At 3.00pm each session family members, guardians and teachers are welcome to come into Birmingham Conservatoire and listen. We will often have a run-through of the music created at the end of the day.

Contact information:

Kirsty Devaney (project manager): 07977175692 or Kirstydevaney@gmail.com

Joe Cutler (head of composition): Joe.Cutler@bcu.ac.uk

Birmingham Conservatoire: 0121 331 5901

Visit our website www.youngcomposersproject.wordpress.com

to download an application form, find out more and join our composers blog.

“The best thing about the group is the mixture of backgrounds and that there are also students from the Conservatoire, that’s really excellent!! There’s a really good atmosphere”



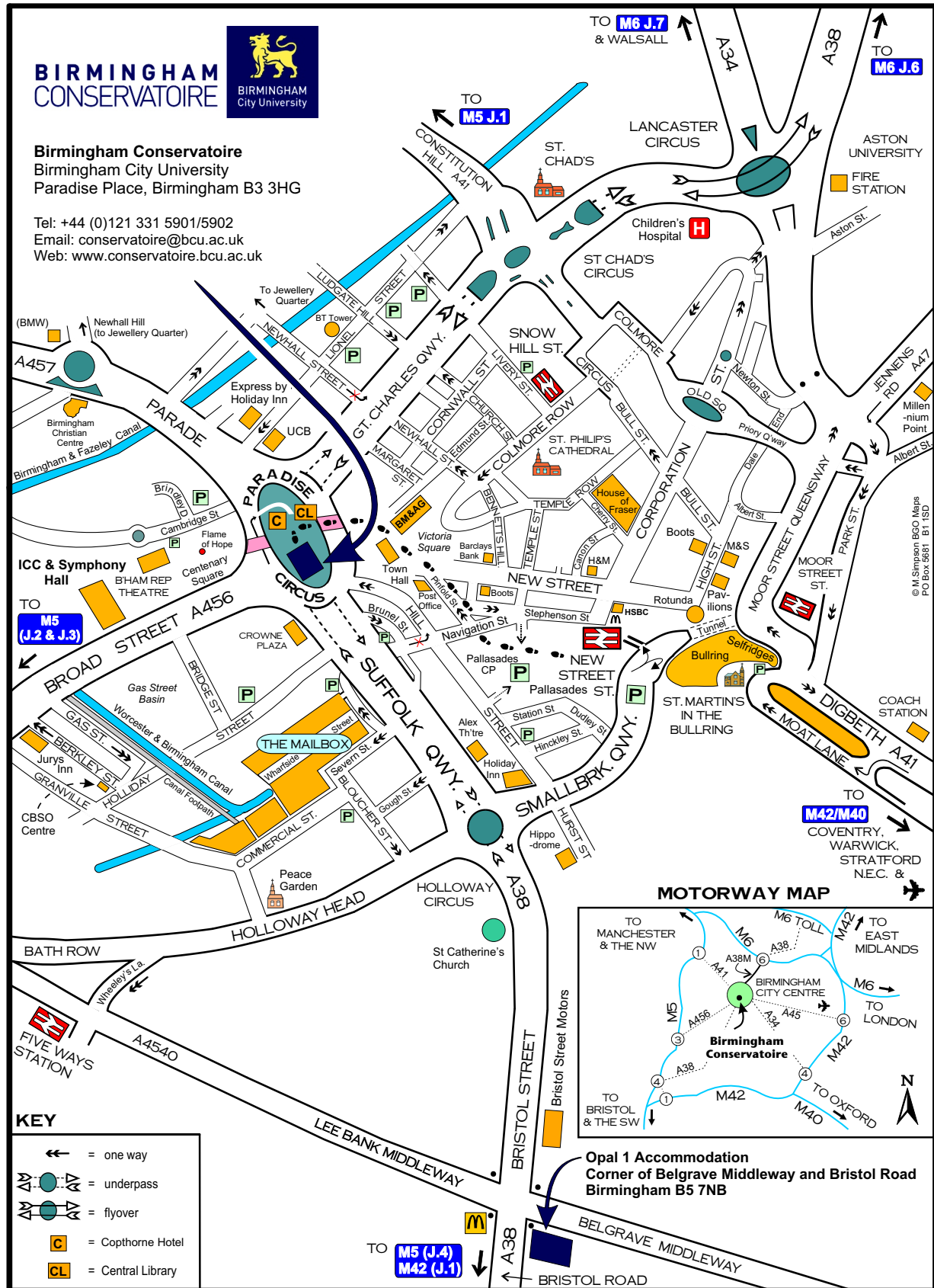
“I like the way that nothing is deemed as 'bad'. It's really great to be in an environment where you can compose whatever you like without fear of people not liking it. It's nice to be able to work with students already at the conservatoire, as they are really helpful at giving advice and feedback. It's also nice to be able to socialize with students from other schools in the area.”

“I think I've become open to lots of new ideas due to exposure to innovative new ways of composing. We all learned about things we'd never even considered before, such as graphic scores. I've become more confident and reassured in my ability, and have met some fantastic people.”

“I got to know so many wonderful people”



Map to Birmingham Conservatoire





2014 - 2015 Emergency Contact Information

NAME OF STUDENT	
AGE	

Do you have medical issues we should know about (e.g. diabetes, allergies):

Any other information we should know about:

EMERGENCY CONTACT 1

Name:	
Relationship to student:	
Contact Number:	

EMERGENCY CONTACT 2

Name:	
Relationship to student:	
Contact Number:	

CONSENT FORM TO TAKE/USE PHOTOGRAPH AND VIDEO MATERIAL

Dear Parent/Guardian

You/ Your child has been involved in the Birmingham Conservatoire Young Composers Project.

Aspects of this project and performance will be filmed and photographed. Therefore, under the data protection act, Birmingham Conservatoire and LAITO Media are asking for your permission to use the photographs and video material for the publicity purposes stated.

- Please complete the form attached to let us know whether you give your consent for us to use the photographs and video material taken for the purposes detailed.
- Please return the form to Kirsty Devaney who will send a copy to Birmingham Conservatoire and LAITO.
- Should your consent not be given for any reason then pictures/ video material of your child will not be used and will be destroyed at the end of the project.

Thank you for your time and for your support. If you have any queries then please do not hesitate to call on 07977175692

Yours sincerely,

Kirsty Devaney
Project co-ordinator and tutor
Birmingham Conservatoire

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PHOTOGRAPH AND VIDEO CONSENT FORM:

(ONLY TO BE COMPLETED IF STUDENT IS UNDER 18)

Name of student:

Age:

Description of material:

- Photographs and video showing participants working in the 'Young Composers Project'
- Project sessions with freelance musicians employed by Birmingham Conservatoire.
- Photographs and video of project participants during the rehearsals, recordings and performances
- Photographs of each student to be used in programme
- Videos of interviews with participants, where applicable

How the material will be used:

A) Photographs and video material will be used by Birmingham Conservatoire on leaflets, posters, CD covers, displays, and evaluation reports specifically related to this project. This information may be sent to funders and key contacts.

B) Photographs and video material may be used in future publicity material produced by Birmingham Conservatoire and LAITO and funders in relation to our musical activities in general.

C) Images and video material may appear on the internet on websites for Birmingham Conservatoire, LAITO and for the Young Composers Project blog, and on related arts/ funders websites.

D) Images may appear in regional, national and international publicity, for example: magazines, flyers, newspapers (e.g., such as the Birmingham Post.)

• I give my permission for photographs and video material taken to be used in the publication/ promotional material described in (A) above

• I give my permission for photographs and video material taken to be used as described in (B) above

• I give my permission for photographs and video material taken to be used as described in (C) above

• I give my permission for photographs and video material taken to be used as described in (D) above

I, signing as participant/ parent or guardian of the student, give my consent to the above:

Signature:Name printed.....

Date:.....

Your contact telephone number:.....

Your contact address:.....

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TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Name (Teacher):

School:

Name of student:

School Year:

1. Please can you give a brief overview of the student's musical background (instruments & composing experience)

2. What composing has the student engaged with in school? What stage of composing would you say they were at?

(1 - Complete beginner, 2 - Basic knowledge, 3 - Composing regularly, 4 - advanced skills.)

3. Why have you recommended this student to take part?

4. What do you hope the student will learn from the project?

5. What strengths and weaknesses does the student have?

*Please return application to Kirsty at Birminghamyoungcomposers@gmail.com
by 14th September 2014*

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STUDENT APPLICATION

Name of student:

School Year:

Age:

School:

Music teacher:

1. Tell us a bit about you as a musician, including any instruments played, any ensembles you play in and any previous composing experience.

2. Why do you want to take part in the Young Composers Project? What do you hope to learn?

3. Tell us about the last piece of music you composed. What did you like about it and what would you like to improve upon?

4. If you had no limitations (including unlimited time, any set of musicians and set resources) what would you like to compose?