

## Rushworth Composition Prize 2023

# Application Pack



# What is Liverpool Philharmonic?

Liverpool Philharmonic enhances and transforms lives through music.

At the heart of our work is the critically-acclaimed Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra (the UK's oldest) and Choir; an extensive programme of participatory work with young people and others across our community; and presentation of almost 400 concerts and events each year at our home, Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.

- Over 350,000 people attend Liverpool Philharmonic concerts each year.
- 73,000 young people participate in our Youth Company and associated ensembles, attend concerts or take part in our In Harmony programme.
- Over 700,000 people in more than 170 countries listen to Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra recordings each month on Spotify, more than any UK orchestra outside London.
- We deliver 13 concerts for schools each year, attended by 18,000 children from 300 schools from Liverpool, across the region and beyond, as far afield as Wales and Yorkshire.
- Over 17,000 people have benefitted from our Music and Health Programme over the last 15 years.

## **Liverpool Philharmonic is rooted in our city**

We are central to Liverpool's cultural offering, being the largest music organisation and one of the largest cultural organisations in the city, employing over 240 people. As well as our work in Liverpool, our Orchestra represent the city with performances and broadcasts across the UK and around the world.

The city's young people are a central focus of our work. Our In Harmony programme provides an intensive, daily music-making programme for over 1500 children in Everton and Anfield, North Liverpool, and we run more than 5,000 workshops and events in community settings for all ages across the city. The Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Company provides a range of opportunities for music making for young people, including the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Choir, Children's Choirs, and Rushworth Young Composers programme.

Our Music and Health Programme works in partnership with NHS Trusts, including Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust, The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust and Improving Me; using music to benefit health and wellbeing. The Music and Health programme has been running continuously since 2008 and has worked to benefit over 17,000 individuals across the Liverpool City Region.

## **Liverpool Philharmonic is committed to diversity and inclusion**

We work hard to reach right across our community through our learning work, and concert programme.

We attract world class artists to perform at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and our small venue, Music Room, with a diverse programme of performances ranging from classical, contemporary, rock, pop, folk, roots, and jazz to comedy, film and spoken word. We work with many organisations and cultural partners in the city to ensure that the artists and performances we put on stage, and the audiences we attract, truly represent our community.

And we are working hard to ensure that our workforce is as diverse as possible.

### **Ensemble 10:10**

Ensemble 10:10 was founded in 1997 by members of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. It soon became integrated into the regular concert giving of Liverpool Philharmonic, able to draw on the talents of the whole orchestra as required. It is central to Liverpool Philharmonic's commitment to new writing and, in particular, supporting composers from Liverpool and the North-West region.

As part of Liverpool Philharmonic's ground-breaking collaboration with the University of Liverpool, in April 2022, Ensemble 10:10 started a new era as it became resident at the Tung Auditorium within the University's Yoko Ono Centre.

## **What is the Rushworth Composition Prize?**

A funded year-long opportunity for an early-career composer to build a collaborative and creative relationship with Liverpool Philharmonic and Ensemble 10:10.

In the 2023-24 Season, Liverpool Philharmonic will welcome an early career composer as the winner of the Rushworth Composition Prize.

The Rushworth Composition Prize, in association with the Rushworth Foundation, provides an exceptional range of opportunities for an early-career composer aged 18+ with no upper age limit.

The prize winner will have access to a range of bespoke practical workshops, mentoring, networking and career support during the duration of the Prize, and beyond. A prize of £1,000 is awarded to the winner and the prize culminates in writing a new work for Ensemble 10:10, which is performed as part of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra season 2024/25. Travel expenses are paid for the duration of the prize.

We connect music creators working across North West England and Nationwide through the alumni of the prize. To find out more about previous winners please follow [this link](#). Previous winners have worked with us after their year has ended, and benefited from continued support, guidance, and commission opportunities.

The winner will:

- Be partnered with a mentor either of their choice or one suggested by Liverpool Philharmonic
- Meet regularly with their mentor throughout the year for sessions to support the commission and career development.
- Receive bespoke instrument workshops with Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra Musicians
- Observe rehearsal visits with Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra
- Have access to free tickets to Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra performances.
- Be supported by Liverpool Philharmonic staff in the commissioning process, through regular check-ins, meetings, and a tailored package of support for the winner.
- The winner will have a readthrough of their piece with Ensemble 10:10 in a workshop ahead of submitting the final commission. This will also be an opportunity to meet with the conductor before the premiere.
- The composer will also receive one year's complimentary membership of [Ivors Academy](#) the UK's leading professional association for music creators. As part of the membership to the Ivors Academy the winner will be part of a National Network of Music Creators, Legal Referral and Tax Advice, reduced administration fee on Copydan Income and discounted tickets to Ivors events.

## Previous Winners Testimonials

### **Nneka Cummins (2021 winner)**

“Liverpool is where my passion for music was nurtured and as a teenager, I played in venues across the city as part of Saturday Morning Music Centre’s Liverpool Youth Orchestra. I’m Grateful to Liverpool Philharmonic for this opportunity and very much look forward to working with Ensemble 10/10. It’s great to be deepening my musical connection to Liverpool.”



### **Alex Papp (2020 winner)**

“The Rushworth Composition Prize allowed me to write my best piece to date and have an incredible recording of it. Just on that alone, it has had a massive impact on my compositional output as it’s allowed me to take the risk to write music in a way I had not previously considered before. Having the workshop with the players was extremely useful in making adjustments to my piece, and the mentorship with Stephen was really insightful - I learnt a great deal from him. Having a piece performed on the stage of the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall was something I had always dreamed of, so to be given that opportunity through this prize is something that will stay with me forever.”

## Grace Evangeline-Mason (2017 winner)

“The Christopher Brooks Prize was a wonderful introduction to the Liverpool Philharmonic and I was elated to have been given the opportunity to write for such fantastic and supportive musicians. My ongoing relationship with the orchestra has been a highlight of my career so far and it is a true privilege to make music with them; a relationship I continue to value immensely.”



## Eligibility Criteria – what are we looking for?

Applicants should demonstrate that they are:

- Be at least 18 years old on 1st October 2023, **there is no upper age limit for applicants**
- Currently live, work, or have been born in the North West of England (Merseyside, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cumbria), or be a registered student at a Northwest-based Higher Education institution. be at an early stage of their career as a composer
- Be at an early stage of their career. There are no minimum qualification requirements for applicants.
- Have an understanding of writing for contemporary classical ensembles and orchestral instruments.

## What is the time commitment?

The Rushworth Composition Prize is a 12-month commitment. The winner of the prize should adhere to the deadlines set by Liverpool Philharmonic. They must also ensure they are available for the Ensemble 10:10 workshop and premiere dates.

### Timeline:

Applications Open	19 April 2023
Applications Close	11.59pm on 7 June 2023
Contacting all shortlisted and unsuccessful applicants	1 September 2023
Panel Meeting	4 September 2023
2023 winner contacted	15 September 2023
Public Announcement of 2023 Prize winner	11 October 2023
Premiere	October/ November 2024

## How to apply

Please provide the following materials on the [application form](#)

1. A supporting statement, outlining why you have applied, what you would hope to gain from this prize and from developing a relationship with Liverpool Philharmonic, and how you would describe your personal composition style and approach. The supporting statement can also be provided in an alternative format including video.
2. A CV, including a list of works.
3. Audio recordings and scores of two examples of original works for orchestral instruments, alongside a short explanation of why you have chosen to submit these works.
  1. Scores must be submitted electronically in PDF format only.
  2. Audio recordings should be submitted as a digital file or link to an online version e.g. Soundcloud or similar. Digital recordings of works which have not had a live performance are acceptable.

As part of the Application we would kindly ask that you complete an Equal Opportunities and Monitoring form. Liverpool Philharmonic is committed to ensuring that everyone can access our Learning programmes and that we better understand the communities that we work with. All information collected will be anonymised and may be shared with funders and project partners, meeting the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Applications close at **11:59pm on Wednesday 7 June 2023**. Late applications will not be accepted. Liverpool Philharmonic accepts no responsibility for applications not received.

Liverpool Philharmonic are signatories to Sound and Music's [Fair Access Principles](#), designed to act as a code of best practice for running successful, open and inclusive artist development programmes, competitions and awards for composers.

If you have any questions about the application, or should you have any access requirements and additional support needs in completing your application please contact Nikita Richmond: [learning@liverpoolphil.com](mailto:learning@liverpoolphil.com) or 07977 164 794.