

Jerwood Jazz Encounters Programme Brief

About Cheltenham Jazz Festival

Since 2015 CJF has been at the forefront of presenting jazz in new formats and unusual spaces. Harnessing the skills of creative producers and the recent explosion in ‘experiential events’, CJF has been playing with the concert hall paradigm which has existed in contemporary jazz for decades. This is achieved by commissioning jazz musicians and sound artists to create new and existing work for outdoors, unusual spaces and the digital realm, such as Mike Blow & Alison Ballard’s Colony installation and Empirical’s Pop-Up Jazz Lounge. These works engage new and different audiences with the music, allowing the artists to offer a different perspective on what they do, and offer the artists a much greater audience reach.

CJF has seen an appetite from early career jazz artists to create this work, but with little opportunity for them to gain experience or access expertise in making it.

What is the Jerwood Jazz Encounters programme?

The programme provides a professional development opportunity for early-career jazz artists to develop creatively risky projects for presentation outdoors, in unusual spaces and the digital realm.

During the 18-month programme, artists will conceive and deliver an **outdoor, site-specific or digital work** to be hosted by one of the co-producing partners, as well as benefitting from a range of additional support and training. Artists will also be introduced to the wider ‘outdoor and digital arts’ sectors as part of the programme, ensuring they are able to continue developing and touring the work after the programme ends.

What does it involve?

The bespoke programme for up to 4 artists will include:

- An 18-month programme beginning in February 2022 and ending with the delivery of a commission in Summer/Autumn 2023
- A £1,500 bursary for mentoring, research and ideas development time
- A fee of £3,500 per commission for the new work to be presented in 2023 at either Cheltenham Jazz Festival or one of our co-producing partners: Manchester Jazz Festival, Oxford Contemporary Music and Sage Gateshead
- A fixed amount of £2,000 to cover the costs of creating the commission eg materials, equipment, rehearsals etc
- Travel expenses for training/action learning sessions
- Group Training Sessions with guest speakers discussing specific topics
- Action Learning Sessions for peer support and development (in person or by video call – further information on how this works [here](#))
- Participation in a Creative Lab: a 2 day event as part of the 2022 Cheltenham Jazz Festival bringing together a range of artists, technologists and cross discipline producers to generate ideas, develop new collaborations and network, in partnership with Birmingham City University
- Producing support from CJF and partners for the commission, including digital skills support and training from digital partner The Space

- Up to £2,000 from the host partner will cover costs associated with presenting the work to the public, eg site fees, technical production and equipment costs and staffing
- Package of documentation on your final piece plus contacts for potential touring or future funding
- Appropriate work will be considered for a Snape residency with Britten Pears Arts and / or a residency with 101 Outdoor Arts

What Skills and Experience do I need to apply?

We welcome applications from artists who:

- Have been working professionally as a musician/composer/artist for at least 3 and not more than 10 years
- Make music or sound rooted in, or connected to, jazz.
- Are living and working in the UK
- Are not currently in formal education
- Are willing to take risks and looking to develop an exciting new side to their work
- Have experience of self-managing and leading projects or tours
- Have an interest in - or experience of - presenting their music in unusual spaces, new formats, outdoors, the digital realm, or collaborating with other artistic disciplines. Examples of this work might include installations, site-specific performances, immersive performances or use of new technology. This does not include performances which take place on a stage.
- Are available for project dates listed below, including 3 face-to-face Group Training Sessions (locations tbc), plus 5 action learning sessions (in person / by video call) and the Creative Lab

Key Dates

24 Jan 2022	Applications Deadline
End of Jan – mid Feb 2022	Artist selection
Mid to late Feb 2022	Initial artist 1 to 1s, R&D and mentoring period starts
March 2022	Group Training Session 1 / Action Learning Session 1
28 – 29 April 2022	Attend Cheltenham Jazz Festival and participate in the Creative Lab
June 2022	Group Training 2 / Action Learning Session 2
July – Oct 2022	Continue development of project ideas, start to identify host organisations
September 2022	Action Learning Session 3 Artists present project summary to CJF/host venues
November 2022	Group Training 3 / Action Learning Session 4
December 2022 – March 2023	Creation/construction of work
February 2022	Action Learning Session 5
March – October 2023	Presentation of work with one of the 4 host organisations

How to apply

If you feel your skills and experience fit the brief for the programme, please complete an application form on the Cheltenham Festivals website [here](#).

To apply you will be asked to provide:

- Contact information
- CV / short biography (up to 1 side of A4) or a video (up to 3mins) which refers to the Skills and Experience section above in the Programme Brief
- Up to 3 links to examples of your work
- A statement (up to 1 side of A4) or a video (up to 3mins) including answers to the following questions:

1. What interests you about the opportunity to present your work outdoors, in unusual spaces or digitally?
2. What ideas would you like to explore or build upon during the year? (We are not looking for a final idea at this stage)
3. What areas of advice and training would be useful?

Application Making Advice and Support

If you require an alternative format of the programme brief or application form, eg audio recording or large print, please contact jazzfestival@cheltenhamfestivals.com

We are happy to receive questions about the opportunity or application process. Please contact jazzfestival@cheltenhamfestivals.com

We also offer the opportunity to speak with a member of the Cheltenham Jazz Festival Programming team for a ten-minute advice session on:

- Tuesday 14 December 2021, 12pm – 1pm
- Wednesday 15 December 2021, 4 – 5pm
- Friday 7 January 2022, 12 – 1pm
- Thursday 13 January 2022, 4 - 5pm

In these sessions, we can discuss your specific ideas for applications and guide you as to how you might strengthen these in the application. We are unable to read draft applications or examples of your previous writing. Please email jazzfestival@cheltenhamfestivals.com with the areas of your application you would like to discuss and your phone number to book an advice session and we will confirm the process for your advice session over email.

Please note that the advice we give on making an application is around eligibility and suitability of your application to the programme and will have no bearing on its assessment. You do not need to have had an advice session with a member of the Cheltenham Jazz Festival Programming team before submitting an application.

Selection Process

Artists will be shortlisted and selected based on their application by a panel consisting of representatives from Britten Pears Arts, Cheltenham Jazz Festival, Manchester Jazz Festival, Oxford Contemporary Music and Sage Gateshead.

The assessors will consider applications based on the following criteria:

- The quality of the applicant's practice, as evidenced in examples of their work
- How the applicant intends to approach the programme, the mentoring they feel would help them to do so and their willingness to learn, take risks and collaborate
- The experience of the applicant in leading their own projects and presenting work in more unusual ways
- How pivotal a career moment the applicant has articulated in their application, and the impact that a focused research and development opportunity would have on the direction of their practice

Successful applicants will be contacted at the beginning of February. Unsuccessful candidates will be informed by mid-February and feedback will be available on request.

Cheltenham Festivals is committed to inclusion and strives to achieve equal opportunities in our recruitment procedure, actively encouraging applications from those who are currently underrepresented or under-supported within the arts sector to apply (including, but not limited to under-represented Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, LGBTQ+ identities, gender identities, low socioeconomic backgrounds, those with disabilities and/or caring responsibilities) Applications are also actively encouraged from artists living/working in the north of England.

Jerwood Jazz Encounters is supported by



Keith Norton and
Louise Hewett

In partnership with

