

RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra & Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland would like to invite composers to submit applications for Composer Lab 2020.

Composer Lab is a professional development initiative aimed at composers who have had limited opportunities to write for symphony orchestra or large scale ensemble. This project provides the participant composers with a creative and open environment in which to deepen their understanding of writing for the forces of a symphony orchestra. Now in its fifth year, Composer Lab 2020 marks a significant milestone in its development.

<https://www.cmc.ie/features/composer-lab-2019-public-workshop>

On the completion of the project, all works will receive a public performance by the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra in a radio and online broadcast on RTÉ lyric fm in **Autumn 2020**. In 2019, the new works developed through the Composer Lab project received their premiere performance in a live radio broadcast on RTÉ lyric fm's *Blue of the Night*, presented by Bernard Clarke. This radio event was awarded Silver in the category of Irish Music Programme or Initiative at the recent 2019 IMRO Awards.

All applicants for Composer Lab 2020 will receive equal opportunity irrespective of gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the traveller community.

What happens in Composer Lab?

- A maximum of four composers will be selected to take part with three places reserved for composers represented by CMC and the additional one place available for another composer who was born or is resident on the Island of Ireland.
- Selected composers will be expected to prepare a 6 – 8 minute work for symphony orchestra (3.3.3.3 / 4.3.3.1 / tmp+3 / hp / str). This may also include electronics. (The implementation of electronics will be the responsibility of the participant composer. Please ensure that you can provide any additional equipment necessary to facilitate the performance of your work).
- This work-in-progress will be the focus of a preparatory meeting with Composer Lab mentor David Fennessy at the Contemporary Music Centre in **February 2020**.
- This work-in-progress will then be the focus of a workshop with RTÉ NSO section principals (or section leaders) on **18 May 2020**.
- Following this, the work-in-progress will be the focus of an intensive public workshop with the RTÉ NSO, conductor Gavin Maloney and mentor David Fennessy **Late July 2020**.

- Revisions of the work-in-progress will be discussed in a further meeting with the mentor composer David Fennessy based on the learning from the public workshop with the RTÉ NSO.
- On subsequent completion of the revisions, the revised scores and parts will be due for submission by **Mid September 2020** (a delivery date to be advised).
- The new works developed through Composer Lab will be premiered by the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra in a radio broadcast on RTÉ lyric fm and streamed online in late **October 2020**.

Would you like to apply for Composer Lab?

The RTÉ NSO and CMC are now seeking applications for this initiative. In order to make a submission, composers must submit the following by email to **submissions@cmc.ie** by **5pm on Monday, 9th December 2019, with the subject heading 'Composer Lab 2020'**:

1. A short proposal outlining details of the piece you intend to write, how it relates to your existing working practice and how composer lab will enable you to realise your artistic intentions and develop your skills.
2. Two recent completed scores in pdf format (not excerpts).
3. A link to a recording of a performance or electronic realisation of each score.
4. C.V. to include details of past professional performances

Composers chosen to participate will be informed in mid-January 2020.

Selected participants will then be expected to:

- Confirm their availability to attend the preparatory meeting with David Fennessy in February 2020, the workshop with the section principals on 18 May 2020, the workshop with the RTÉ NSO in July 2020, plus the performance event in October 2020.
- Confirm that they will be able to submit the new work for symphony orchestra by September 2020.
- Provide a full score (in PDF format) and parts (in pdf and hard copy) of the completed work and, if possible, an electronic realisation of the piece to CMC by September 2020.

Eligibility

- There is no age restriction for applicants. **We encourage composers of all ages to apply.**
- If you have made an unsuccessful application to Composer Lab in 2016, 2017, 2018 and/or 2019, this does not preclude you from applying in 2020. Please take care to submit an updated application and, for Composer Lab 2020 applications that are based on previous applications, please take care to explain how you have developed your idea since last applying.
- Those who have participated in Composer Lab in 2016, 2017, 2018 or 2019 are not eligible to apply.
- Composer Lab 2020 is open to those born or permanently resident on the island of Ireland.
- Composer Lab is also open to those in full-time education at PhD level in the field of composition.

Notes for applicants:

- The selection panel will consist of the mentor composer along with representatives from the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, the Contemporary Music Centre and an independent performer/composer.
- Participating composers may apply for CMC travel bursaries and receive CMC score copying support.
- The decision of the selection panel is final.
- In the selection process, the panel will assess applications based on the following criteria:
 - **How the applicant's compositional practice will benefit from the mentorship and workshop process.**
 - **The artistic ambition of the proposal.**
 - **Where the composer is in his/her career as a composer at the current time.**
 - **How the applicant will develop as a composer by taking part in the Composer Lab project.**

For further information, please contact:

Keith Fennell, Production Coordinator at the Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland at kfennell@cmc.ie or on 01- 673 1922.