



THE SOCIETY  
*OF*  
STRANGE AND ANCIENT INSTRUMENTS



## SSAI Commission – The Trumpet Marine Project

### Terms & Conditions

#### Outline

The Society of Strange and Ancient Instruments ([strangeandancientinstruments.com](http://strangeandancientinstruments.com)), working in partnership with the NCEM, invites former finalists of the NCEM Young Composers Award to apply for a new commission for trumpet marine quartet.

The Society of Strange and Ancient Instruments is reviving the trumpet marine, a towering, single-stringed bowed instrument that sounds like a trumpet. The project will not only provide fresh information about the sights and sounds of late 17th century England, but the instrument's idiosyncratic tuning and extraordinary sonic textures also provide a rich source of creative material for making new music.

The successful candidate will be awarded a commission fee of £900 (to include travel and accommodation for a workshop in London and performance in York), plus two complimentary tickets to the first performance, in York on Thursday 9 July 2020 as part of the York Early Music Festival.

#### The Brief

In the first instance, SSAI would like you to submit a proposal for a 3-minute piece for trumpet marine quartet. Your proposal might include a description of:

- The overall concept;
- The over-arching structure;
- Textures or techniques to be explored.

Your application should also include a sample section (up to a minute long) in full score. The purpose is to provide an example of how the ideas presented in your proposal might be expressed, rather than a finished section of the final piece, as the Society wish to workshop your ideas with you **prior to completing the score**. The sample section should include a title, and the name of the composer.

**The score:** SSAI is happy to work with different types of score (notated or graphic) though the practical implications for performance should be taken into consideration. Opportunities for improvisation within the piece are welcome but not mandatory.

**Technique:** SSAI is interested in extending trumpet marine technique. The investigation of 17<sup>th</sup> century playing techniques is central to their project, but they also want to develop new techniques for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Proposals should provide opportunities for extending trumpet marine playing techniques.

### How to enter

Entry is open to all composers who have been shortlisted in the NCEM Young Composers Award since its inception in 2008.

Entrants must register their interest in entering the award by emailing [janet.cromartie@ncem.co.uk](mailto:janet.cromartie@ncem.co.uk) by 5.00pm on Friday 21 February 2020.

On registering, composers will receive the link to a demonstration video of the trumpet marine. The link and video must not be shared with others outside the project.

Following registration, a completed application form, along with your proposal and both a digital and hard copy of the sample piece, must be received by the NCEM no later than **5.00pm on Friday 6th March 2020**.

The named hard copy of the sample score in an A4 format, together with a completed application form should be sent to: The Music Administrator, National Centre for Early Music, St. Margaret's Church, Walmgate, York YO1 9TL. Application forms can be downloaded from [www.ncem.co.uk/ssai-commission](http://www.ncem.co.uk/ssai-commission). The proposal and digital copy of the sample score should be emailed to [janet.cromartie@ncem.co.uk](mailto:janet.cromartie@ncem.co.uk).

The successful candidate will be invited to attend a workshop with the players in London on Monday 27 April 2020 as well as the premiere in York on Thursday 9 July 2020.

### Selection and commission

The successful candidate will be selected by The Society of Strange and Ancient Instruments based on the criteria in the brief. SSAI's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

The successful candidate will be notified by 5.00pm on Friday 20 March. Should the selected composer not be available after reasonable attempts to contact them, SSAI reserve the right to award the commission to another.

SSAI will commission the selected composer and will handle all contractual, IP and copyright issues.

The commissioned composer must attend the workshop in London on Monday 27 April 2020, 5pm – 7pm. They will meet the four members of the ensemble and will have an opportunity to try the instruments, hear the performers play them, and try out suggestions, techniques or ideas they might include in their piece.

**The finished piece must be submitted in both hard and digital format direct to Clare Salaman of SSAI by Wednesday 29 May 2020.**

The commissioned composer must attend the premiere in York at 6.30pm on Thursday 9 July 2020. They will receive two complimentary tickets for the performance.

All travel and accommodation expenses for the events in London and York are the responsibility of the selected composer.

If the selected composer is under the age of 18, they must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at the workshop and performance.

SSAI will make a professional recording of the commissioned piece, which may be included on a CD to be distributed alongside performances. The selected composer will also benefit from nationwide print and broadcast media publicity for the project.