

# PIPEWORK

## Colchester Moot Hall Organ Composition Call for Scores

Colchester Borough Council is delighted to be working with Colchester New Music to launch a unique opportunity for East Anglian composers to create a new piece of music for the majestic Edwardian Moot Hall Organ in Colchester's Town Hall.

Colchester Borough Council was recently awarded a significant grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, which has enabled the historic organ to be removed for restoration by Durham-based organ builders Harrison and Harrison. The organ was removed from the Moot Hall in July 2014, and will be returned in early 2015.

We are inviting submissions of new compositions, no less than 5 of which will be selected for public performance on the Moot Hall Organ following its re-opening celebration events in Summer 2015. One winning piece will also receive a prize of £250, with a second runner up award of £150.

**The deadline for submissions is 5pm on Monday 23rd March 2015**

### **Eligibility**

Applications submitted to this call should meet the following criteria:

- Composers should be living or working in East Anglia OR have a strong connection to the region eg. were born or have family ties here. East Anglia includes the counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.
- There are no entry restrictions by age or nationality.
- We welcome applications from composers at all stages of their education or career.
- The piece should be written for solo organ. Please see the website to download the full specification for the Moot Hall Organ.
- The piece should last for no more than 10 minutes.
- The competition looks for contemporary and innovative works, and all pieces submitted to the competition should be original and previously unperformed.
- Each composer is permitted to submit no more than 1 piece.
- Composers should submit 1 electronic PDF copy, and 2 hard copies of their score. Please see details in 'How to Apply' below.

### **Writing for the organ**

We welcome submissions from composers at all levels of experience, including those for whom this is their first experience of writing for this unique instrument.

Your piece may be inspired by or written for one of the civic occasions for which the organ is traditionally used: the Mayor Making Ceremony, or the Oyster Feast. The aim of this Call for Scores is to develop a repertoire, for use in recitals and civic occasions, which makes full use of the Moot Hall Organ.



## **Writing for the Organ workshop: Saturday 14 February 2015**

In order to support composers writing for the organ for the first time, and to introduce ideas to expand the writing of those who do have past experience, we will be hosting a free 1-day workshop on *Writing for the Organ*, led by Organist Tom Bell [www.tombell-organist.net](http://www.tombell-organist.net). The workshop will take place from 12noon to 4pm on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at St Botolph's Church, Church Walk, Colchester, CO2 7EE. At the end of the day there will be an opportunity to have 1-to-1 conversations for advice on any questions you have about developing your piece.

The 'Writing for the Organ' workshop is open to anyone interested in entering the competition, or simply keen to expand their knowledge and approach to writing and performing on the organ. The event is free but booking is essential. To book a space on the workshop please go to the Eventbrite page: [www.pipeworkscall.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.pipeworkscall.eventbrite.co.uk)

### **How to enter**

1. All composers must submit 1 digital copy and 2 hard copies of their score, accompanied by the Application Form as follows:
  - a. Email a PDF version of your score and a copy of this Application Form with the subject line 'Pipework Call for Scores' to [info@moothallorgan.co.uk](mailto:info@moothallorgan.co.uk). Please note that we only accept PDF versions of scores. Please do not send Sibelius files.
  - b. Post 2 printed hard copies of your score with a copy of the Application Form to:  
Pipeworks Composition Call  
c/o Cllr Nigel Chapman  
Holly Cottage  
Straight Road  
Boxted  
COLCHESTER  
CO4 5QN

Please ensure that your name does not appear anywhere on the score. Scores should be anonymous for selection by the selection panel.

2. The deadline for applications is **5pm on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015.** Late submissions will not be considered.
3. Not less than 5 pieces will be selected by the judging panel. Composers of selected pieces will be notified by email before the start of April 2015.

### **Advice**

If you have any queries or seek advice on writing your piece, it is possible for us to put you in contact with mentors to advise up to 2 weeks before the deadline. Please direct any enquiries or requests for mentoring to [info@moothallorgan.co.uk](mailto:info@moothallorgan.co.uk) with the subject line 'Pipework Call for Scores'.

### **About the Organ**

Colchester's Moot Hall Organ was first played at its official opening on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1902. For much of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the organ was at the heart of Colchester's civic life, playing a key role in Mayor Making ceremonies and the annual Oyster Feast. However, by the early 21<sup>st</sup> Century the organ had fallen into



disrepair. In July 2014, thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the organ was removed from the Moot Hall for restoration that will return it to its former glory. More information about the organ can be found at [www.moothallorgan.co.uk](http://www.moothallorgan.co.uk)

The restoration is accompanied by a series of exciting outreach and performance activities taking place from Autumn 2014 to Summer 2015, involving local schools, musicians and residents. This programme includes 'Build an Organ' and composition workshops with school children; a composition competition to create new pieces for the organ; talks and lectures; and a new score for the organ to be played at its inauguration ceremony by a specially commissioned local composer. These activities will culminate in celebrations around the reinstatement of the organ at the end of May 2015.

### **About Colchester New Music**

Colchester New Music is a collaborative of composers based in east Anglia. We aim to develop artistically and professionally, coming together to support members, share technical knowledge, and innovative creative practice. Where funding permits, we run concerts, Calls for Scores, workshops and other events, that benefit ourselves other composers, public audiences and the wider artistic community.

[www.colchesternewmusic.com](http://www.colchesternewmusic.com)

