

Re-ImagineKernow Choral Project at Eden

Supporting each other in finding creative solutions

Re-ImagineKernow is a Cornwall-based voluntary group. It has an explicit aim of supporting individuals and local communities in managing small ecological changes. We believe that small changes added together can make a difference to the health of the planet. A key focus is to encourage the **younger generation** - those who will inherit the dubious legacy of their forbears - to grapple with the challenges of environmental well-being. Our methodology is to be educational, creative and constructive - **and to give young people a voice.**

In this project the power of collective singing is to be used to explore deep, nuanced issues and engage a new generation with an understanding of art's ability to inspire and persuade. We are commissioning songs to be performed by a range of Cornwall's finest choirs at The Eden Project in September 2020. There is a particular focus on encouraging young composers. We are also commissioning some professional and established composers to write themselves, and to act both as mentors for budding composers, and to assist in arranging music for wider forces.

Compositions for Choirs

The Arts for the Environment Festival at Eden in September 2020 is featuring a range of choirs all with a commitment to convey their strong passion for a bright, optimistic and hopeful vision for our environmental future.

We have received funding from Eden, Feast Cornwall, Cornwall Education Music Hub and The Arts Council to support choral composition for this major festival. There are four ways in which you can write for this project:

Category 1 Young People

As a young person of school age (aged 5 - 16 on August 31st 2020)

Category 2 Emerging Composers

As someone who can or wants to write for choirs but who would need support in turning their ideas into choral works

Category 3 Amateur Choral Composers

As someone who has written or arranged for choirs and would feel confident to write in their own right

Category 4 Professional or Experienced Choral Composers

As someone with a proven track record who could take on a paid commission. This is likely to be by invitation, but anyone should feel free to apply for this, showing some evidence of previous work

Types of choir include:

Mixed Choir (SATB, can be divisi)

Youth Choir (SATB)

Girls Choir (SSAA)

Boys Choir (SAC)

Male Voice Choir (TTBB)

Community Choir (SABar)

Category 1 Schools and Home Educated Children

We are able to support work with primary and secondary schools. In collaboration with the Cornwall Music Education Hub we will run training sessions for your staff, or with staff from a group of schools, to support class song-writing. We will also provide input to stimulate further a passion for the environment. Additional sessions can be organised by arrangement for specialist musicians to undertake group or class work in primary schools, or with home-educated groups. We are also able to support tailored sessions at KS3 and advice and support for KS4 (Category 2). Suitable songs written in Category 1 will be selected and the writers mentored into crafting their songs as choral arrangements.

Category 2 Emerging Composers

This category, which has no age limit, is for private individuals and more proficient school students alike. We can support people who are writing for their personal expression, who may already have an outlet for their music in bands, solo work, school ensembles, and who would like to gain insight into writing for choirs. We would work with the writer and assist with some of the necessary conventions of choral writing. It may be suitable for those with an academic interest in music at KS 3 or 4, or an adult kindling their musical interest. We would be pleased to support existing work in school music departments.

Category 3 and 4 Experienced and Professional Composers

Please see the attached brief.

For any clarification please contact:

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eden project

**Cornwall Music
Education Hub**

Category 1

The brief is to write a song which could be arranged for a choir to sing.

We are inviting **young people** to write a song which conveys a **passion for the environment with a positive, hopeful and pro-active approach**. This category will be led by experienced professional practitioners and will normally take place within organised settings, including home-schooling.

We will be aiming to create compositions which have musical and narrative strength. If your piece is chosen we will work with you to arrange it for a choir to sing.

Types of choir include:

Mixed Choir (SATB, can be divisi)

Youth Choir (SATB)

Girls Choir (SSAA)

Boys Choir (SAC)

Male Voice Choir (TTBB)

Community Choir (SABar)

S = Soprano

A = Alto

C = Cambiata (a mid range voice used when voices are changing during puberty)

T = Tenor

B = Baritone

B = Bass

divisi = can be further divided, eg SSAATTBB

Category 2

The brief is to write a composition which could be arranged for a choir to sing.

We are inviting you to ***write a piece*** of between two and a half minutes to five minutes in length, which conveys a ***passion for the environment with a positive, hopeful and pro-active approach***. We will be looking for musical and narrative strength and for a work which you can imagine being sung by a choir.

If you have not written for a choir before our project aims to support you with a team of professional musicians to act as mentors. The mentor will work with your ideas and assist with some of the necessary conventions of choral writing.

Types of choir include:

Mixed Choir (SATB, can be divisi)

Youth Choir (SATB)

Girls Choir (SSAA)

Boys Choir (SAC)

Male Voice Choir (TTBB)

Community Choir (SABar)

S = Soprano

A = Alto

C = Cambiata (a mid range voice used when voices are changing during puberty)

T = Tenor

B = Baritone

B = Bass

divisi = can be further divided, eg SSAATTBB

Category 3 and 4

Brief for Composers writing an original choral work.

We are inviting you to write a ***choral composition*** of between two and a half minutes to five minutes in length, which conveys a ***passion for the environment with a positive, hopeful and pro-active approach***. You may suggest any shape or style for your piece, but please bear in mind that the performers will be enthusiastic amateurs. The work can be unaccompanied or accompanied, or a mixture of both. Accompaniment should be either for piano or for simple ensemble (e.g. piano, bass, drums).

Types of ensembles include:

Mixed Choir (SATB, can be divisi)

Youth Choir (SATB)

Girls Choir (SSAA)

Boys Choir (SAC)

Male Voice Choir (TTBB)

Community Choir (SABar)

The choral arrangements can include solos or duets if desired, though advice should be taken as to availability of suitable voices. ***Please email or call me to talk through the options.***

Songs with a theme of environmental well-being

This is potentially vast. It is easy to dwell on the negative, but we would like to encourage a sense of optimism and possibility, of our enormous potential for problem solving, and of empowering emerging generations to own the issues. Humour, passion, evangelism, inspiration are all very welcome, as well as some hard realities.

Here are some ideas that could spark an idea for song. Feel free to talk it through at anytime.

Reimagining an optimistic future

My pledge to the planet

We are all connected

This is my community

These are the changes I am making

What's the point of me doing anything?

I believe I can

These are the things I want to see

I'm part of the solution and less of a problem

My mental and physical health is aligned with my planet's health

Fuel, Fashion, Fishing and Farming

Sustainability - it's just a word?

Climate change, Global heating, melting ice caps - not in my back yard

Plastic - it lasts even longer than love

reuse, recycle, reclaim, repair, regenerate

The bio-diversity - what can I do on my own?

Threatened species - is it me you're thinking about?

Extinction - how a species dies or what it needs to save itself

A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step

We are looking for:

Songs with strong narrative and powerful emotional intent

Melodic content which holds joy and pleasure for singer and audience

Harmonies which are challenging but within amateur singers' vocal and technical capabilities

Dynamic variation, and thoughtful use of tempo, rhythm and harmonic structure

Interest spread across all the choir voices

A sense of authenticity and taste, avoiding cliché, schmalz, cheesiness, the 'naff'

Lyrics which are singable and not too wordy

Timescale

Compositions should be submitted by January 31st 2020