

BOOM 2020-21

Application Information

Boom is OCM's annual professional development scheme for artists/producers working with sound and music. We want to work with creators who are interested in making inspiring new music and sound experiences for audiences in unconventional spaces (i.e. outside the concert hall or gallery.) We want to help artists to develop their skills to work in new places (including digital), with a focus on making music and sound for diverse audiences.

Boom will run for 6 months (Oct 2020 – March 2021) and aims to help artists and producers at a developmental point in their career to make a creative leap. Boom is not a commissioning scheme - you may produce work during the scheme, but our primary goal is your artistic development, whether this results in the production of work or not.

Why we Boom

We recognise that new, imaginative work needs support at an early stage. If you are used to working in conventional arts venues, you might need new specific knowledge, training and skills to begin working outdoors, in unconventional spaces, or in the digital realm. Our aims for Boom are to offer artists and producers support to do the research, training, and experimentation that will lay the foundations for them to create work outside of the concert hall or gallery.

On Boom, you will lead your own development, research or training programme over 6 months, with our support. We have no expectation of specific outputs (including any public presentation of a performance/installation), we just want to see evidence of real and effective learning in your creative practice.

Boom is open to early and mid-career artists, as well as more established practitioners looking to make a real and exciting change in their work.

Coronavirus Impact

The next 12 months are uncertain at present, so we are asking you to make sure that your Boom plan could be achieved safely and effectively in the context of a lockdown and social distancing if necessary.

We encourage applications from digital practitioners and as always we welcome applications from practitioners who are creating work presented in front of a live audience (not in the digital realm).

About OCM

OCM's programme of musical and sonic encounters aims to lure and captivate the (often unsuspecting) listener. We work with artists to create sound and music with the listener experience at their heart.

OCM is particularly interested in artists who find powerful ways to communicate in public spaces (real or virtual); performances or installations that create memorable and meaningful moments for audience members. We focus on placing inspiring music and sound-based work in places that will reach wide audiences. We work in spaces outside of concert halls and galleries, and with creators beyond the conventional form of performers on a stage.

What OCM can offer

Our support within Boom is a combination of the following things to suit your needs:

- Cash contribution of £1500 towards ideas, research or skills development.
- Advice and help with tasks such as fundraising, promotion, business planning, production.
- Contacts and introductions to other organisations e.g. potential partners for future research or projects.
- Mentoring or coaching.
- Networking events with other artists and arts organisations.
- Free and discounted tickets to OCM events.

What we are looking for

Artists who are:

- from any artistic background (you might not have always worked in music) who want to develop/create new auditory experiences for audiences;
- interested in creating audience experiences outside of traditional performance spaces;
- at a developmental stage - you should be trying something that's new for you;
- proactive, and able to be self-directed in your learning.

We are interested in artists whose work resonates with our own. This could include work that:

- is socially engaged/reflects the interests and concerns of your communities;
- makes everyday spaces feel different or extraordinary for people;
- is playful, intriguing, or unusual.

You do not necessarily need to aim to create a finished piece of work as part of the programme. You can spend the time on research, developing practice and exploring ideas.

Who can apply?

- You may apply as a solo artist, composer, band, group, producer or a combination of these.
- You may be at any stage of your career (early, mid- or established) but you will be making a developmental leap through this programme.
- Your primary focus is music or sound.
- We will choose people who we feel we can assist most effectively through the skills and expertise, and resources available to us at OCM.
- International practitioners are welcome to apply. If you are not based in the UK you will need to demonstrate how you can fully participate in the scheme and how your work will benefit UK audiences in the future.

We very much hope that our relationship with Boom participants will continue beyond the scheme, and will therefore look to select artists with whom there is synergy between their work and ours.

Oxford Contemporary Music actively strives towards equal opportunities for all and diversity in all areas of its activity, and positively welcomes applications from disabled people and people of any ethnicity, age, belief, sexuality, and gender.

Your commitment

The scheme consists of 6 months of guidance and mentorship from the OCM team on your development work, and 3 gatherings with the rest of the scheme participants. It is crucial that you are available for full day gatherings on the following dates:

Fri 23rd Oct 2020
Mon 18th Jan 2021
Wed 24th Mar 2021

How to apply

OCM is now accepting applications for Boom 2020-21. If you would like to apply, please send us your application as a document or a video/audio file. Your application can be up to 2 A4 sides (font no smaller than 11pt please), or up to 6 minutes long.

Please include:

- Your full name.
- Your contact details (telephone number and email address).
- Links to previous and current work (up to 3 links).
- A short biography.
- Name and contact details (telephone number and email address) for two referees who know you and your work well.

Please tell us:

- About the developmental or pivotal point that you have reached in your career.
- How Boom will help you to make a creative leap into working outdoors/in unusual spaces/in the digital realm.
- What you would like to explore and/or build upon during the year.
- Why you would like to work with OCM in particular.
- How your work engages audiences in unconventional or alternative ways.
- What you would use the £1,500 for during the scheme.
Previous Boom participants have used this for residencies, research trips, training, paying for your time to experiment, hardware/software, workshop/rehearsal space hire, materials, work in progress presentations.
- What areas of advice and help would be most useful to you.
- What kind of training you might be interested in undertaking.
- Your availability for an interview during late September 2020 on video call.
- If you have any access needs, tell us how we can support them.

**Applications should be submitted by
10am on Monday 21st September 2020.**

Please email your application to victoria@ocmevents.org.
Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview online in w/c 28th Sept 2020.
The specific date will be confirmed nearer the time.

Please feel free to contact Victoria Larkin at OCM if you have any questions or queries about Boom:
victoria@ocmevents.org.



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