



British Youth Music Theatre

Submissions are invited for the

2021 New Music Theatre Award
In memory of theatre director Vernon Mound

The award is held on a biennial basis in memory of opera and musical theatre director Vernon Mound who was a founding Associate Director of British Youth Music Theatre and who died in 2010. The award is supported by friends of Vernon and associated trusts and foundations.

The Award

The Award offers a commission worth £6,000 to the winner(s), mentoring from established writers and composers, dramaturgical support from the director and a staged production at a UK regional venue. Full terms and conditions below.

Eligibility

- The award is intended to support young writers and composers both aged 30 or under on the deadline for submission (16 November 2020).
- Writing teams need to be based in Great Britain or Ireland.
- Submissions can be made by one writer/lyricist/composer or by a team of any combination of those elements.

Deadlines

- **The deadline for submissions is 6.00 am on Monday 16 November 2020**
- Long list for interview selected by Friday 27 November 2020
- Interviews 8-10 December 2020
- Selection of four finalists will take place on Friday 11 December 2020
- Presentations to the judges will take place at Mountview on *Friday 15 January 2021*
- The award will be announced on Friday 22 February 2021
- The performance company of young people will be selected by 1 March 2021
- Rehearsal and production Summer 2021

The Production

The winning submission will be produced with a company of 35 young people whose age will range between 11 and 21 although the final decisions on age range will be decided on the basis of the appropriateness of the material. The performers will be drawn from the company's national auditions in January/February 2021. Many will be advancing to drama school or conservatoire within a year or two of being a member of BYMT. The work can therefore be complex and challenging if the material requires that. The 2019 production was mounted at the New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich. The venue for 2021 has not yet been finalised.

Note that 65-70% of successful participants at audition are female. Each year the company encourages and produces at least one all female production; it encourages gender fluid casting on other productions. Average gender balance on mixed gender productions is about 60% female and 40% male. Each year the company also produces one production for children solely in the 11-15 age bracket and another solely for young people in the 16-21 age bracket.

Music theatre is a wide-ranging art form and submissions are encouraged in the form of mainstream musical theatre, opera (in so far as it can be sung by young people), staged oratorio, a play with songs, song cycles with a narrative, dance theatre, alternative, physical, political and experimental theatre.

Musically, the work can be within any genre – orchestral (classical, modernist, post-modernist, contemporary), jazz, traditional or contemporary folk, electronica, pop/rock, West End or Broadway musical or any combination thereof. The assessors will be looking for a distinctive musical 'voice' within any of those genres.

The work does not have to be 'commercial' although it could be. If it is, the work could be subsequently licensed for performance by amateurs or reducible for performance by professionals. (BYMT's 2009 production **Loserville** went on to a professional West End production and is now published by MTI.) On the other hand it might instead be challenging, innovative, difficult to access. It could be suitable for performance site-specific and /or be a one-off event or experience. The intention of the award is to support the artist/creators in their chosen path.

The initial production must provide satisfying performance opportunities for a large company.

The narrative/story could be totally original or based on an existing other work - book, film, event, true life; if the latter then it is important that the rights to the original work are obtained in advance, at least in principal.

Submission Requirements

Submissions should be made using the application form downloaded from the company website supported by the following:

- Synopsis or outline or concept of between 1,000 and 3,000 words
- 2 recorded songs or pieces of music supported by sheet music if available from the proposed show if available, if not:
- Links to soundcloud or other samples of the composer's work
- Samples of writing/dialogue up to 6 pages in length from the proposed work or other work by the writer(s)
- Samples of lyrics or libretto up to 2 pages in length from the proposed work or other work by the lyricist
- References from 2 creative professionals at least one of whom should be a composer. Referees can be from outside the UK but please ensure that their qualifications and status are clearly shown.

If you have any questions or concerns about the submission or need any advice as to your material, please call the BYMT office on 020 8563 7725.

Applications can be submitted via Google Forms on the company website or entered onto a Word document from the website and emailed to mail@bymt.org

Selection of candidates

Submissions will be reviewed by a team of five readers and will be assessed on

- Music
- Concept
- Writing quality
- Lyric content
- Appropriateness

Every piece will be read and scored by two members of the team. Long list will be announced on 27 November and a round of interviews arranged before Christmas. Four of the eight long list applicants will be offered the opportunity to present their submissions at

Mountview, 120 Peckham Hill Street, London SE15 5JT

Friday 15 January tbc

FINAL PRODUCTION PROCESS

BYMT will appoint the creative team for the production in consultation with the writer and composer. The award winners will be expected to attend at least one YMT audition in January/February 2021. They will receive two mentoring meetings in March and June 2019 with experienced bookwriter and composer. The production will receive a casting weekend in May 2021 when the company will be brought together to workshop the piece and for roles to be allocated. The writers will have the opportunity to continue working on the script following the casting weekend with a final rehearsal ready script and score to be provided by 30 June 2019. The production will go into rehearsals in July/August 2021 with performances at a regional venue in August/September 2021.

APPLICATIONS

To apply, please complete the application form at:

<https://britishyouthmusictheatre.org/new-music-theatre-award-2021>