**Calling all composers aged 16 – 25**

**Philip Bates Prize for Composers and Songwriters 2019**

**30th September 2019 deadline**

Entries from all over the UK are now invited for the 2019 Philip Bates Prize for Composers and Songwriters. Composers between the ages of 16 and 25 may submit works in any style by Monday 30th September 2019, this year’s application deadline. Shortlisted entries will be given a public performance at the final on Tuesday 26th November, when the winning pieces will be chosen. Shortlisted composers must supply their own pre-rehearsed performers at the final and the chosen winners will receive a cash prize.

This year the rules have been amended in several ways. Purely instrumental pieces are now allowed as well as those with a vocal element: the composition MUST be inspired by a text or texts in some way, however. Also, the composition can be for any number of performers and the minimum duration requirement has been dropped, although there is still a maximum duration of twelve minutes.

This exceptionally broad competition has recognised talent in a variety of genres in the past. It encourages entries in everything from classical, jazz and folk to singer-songwriter ballads, Asian music and rock, as long as the work is suitable for live performance and appealing to a wide range of concertgoers.

Philip Bates, a young man from Castle Bromwich with a promising musical future ahead of him, was tragically killed shortly after his nineteenth birthday in March 2000. To honour his memory, the Philip Bates Trust (founded to encourage young musicians like Philip) and leading music college Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (part of Birmingham City University) jointly run the annual Philip Bates Prize for Composers and Songwriters.

The competition offers three cash prizes, all donated by Philip Bates Trust. Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and Philip Bates Trust award one £400 prize each. There is also a £200 prize awarded by the audience. Only one entry may be submitted per composer and entries should be sent or delivered to the First Study Administrator (Jazz, Composition, Music Technology) at Birmingham Conservatoire. Two scores of the work are required, plus a live or computer-generated recording (sound file, CD or memory stick). Entrants should also enclose a signed letter stating their date of birth, contact details and whether they have permission to use the text if it’s still in copyright.

Finalists will be announced by Monday 11th October. An opportunity will be given for one of the prize winning works to be performed again at A Touch of Basil in September 2019, a concert organised by Philip Bates Trust.

All submissions should be addressed to:

Dr Michael Wolters, Deputy Head of Composition

c/o First Study Administrator (Jazz, Composition, Music Technology)

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Birmingham City University

Academic Services (Faculty of Arts, Design and Media)

Millennium Point, Level 2

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2017 competition winners

Maria Cortes-Monroy, Georgia Denham, Daniel Blanco Albert and Hugo Bell

