

The successful track record of five national organisations has been recognised by Arts Council England (ACE) with a grant award of up to £1.172 million:

- British Music Information Centre
- Contemporary Music Network
- NMC Recordings
- Society for the Promotion of New Music
- Sonic Arts Network.

The organisations applied for funds to create a new, single entity with the capacity to provide a higher profile, larger scale platform for new music and sonic art in the UK. Its ambition will be to increase the visibility of this sector to the same levels of recognition enjoyed by other contemporary art forms.

The five partners identified that a single, national, sector-wide organisation, dedicated to the advancement and dissemination of new music and sonic art and acting as an advocate for the sector, does not exist. It is the vision to create such an organisation that has been rewarded by ACE.

Each of the partners has a long history of successful delivery and together they make a sustained impact on the advancement and dissemination of new music and sonic art. Their work currently supports composers, artists and producers by delivering touring, information provision, recordings and award winning education projects. All of the current activity will be brought together in the projected new organisation, allowing it to develop so as to meet the considerable demand from both music sector and audiences. It is this combination of track record and ambitious plan that has levered one of the largest investments in organisational development the sector has seen.

The partner organisations will now manage a process to develop their proposal. Over the next six months, a proportion of the grant will be spent on testing the vision for the new organisation, creating a final blueprint and business plan. The resulting plan will be robust, providing an organisation fit for purpose and responsive to the needs and creative aspirations of the new music and sonic art communities.

If each of the partners is certain that the proposal provides the very best future for their organisation and the needs of their members or community, a merger will take place to form the new organisation. Once this is agreed, the remainder of the grant from Arts Council England can be accessed, in order that all the legal and organisational aspects of a complex merger can progress quickly.

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All media enquiries:

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Request to be part of a consultation about the new organisation by e-mailing:
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Notes:

The grant has been awarded by Arts Council England (ACE) via the Grants for the Arts Programme. www.artscouncil.org.uk

The grant is available to the partner organisations in phases, with stringent evaluation conditions attached to each phase. The project is being managed by a Project Management Team made up of the Chief Executives of each organisation in consultation with ACE's Organisations Development team and the Head of Music at ACE London.

The project is overseen by a Steering Group made up of the Chairs and CEO's of each partner organisation which will be augmented by external, specialist expertise and a dedicated project co-ordinator.

Information about the partner organisations can be found at:

www.bmic.co.uk

www.cmntours.org.uk

www.nmcrec.co.uk

www.spm.org.uk

www.sonicartsnetwork.org