

OPEN CALL FOR MUSICIANS AND SPOKEN WORD ARTISTS

We are launching two opportunities to perform at 2017's Bascule Chamber Concerts, which will take place inside Tower Bridge's cavernous Bascule Chamber during the Totally Thames in September. We'd particularly like to showcase the work of Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic artists (BAME). These opportunities are open to all artists regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability.

Performers need to be available during the afternoon and evening of Thursday 21 and Friday 22 September and all day on Saturday 23 - Sunday 24 September.

All-inclusive performance and commission fee: £1,500

MUSICIANS BRIEF

The Bascule Chambers team want to hear your ideas for creating and performing a new 4-6 minute work that responds to this atmospheric underground space inside Tower Bridge.

Your piece will be the closing music of all 14 concerts, performed from the floor of the Accumulator Chamber, with audience members getting the unique perspective of viewing the performance from a spiral staircase above, so this is an artist opportunity not to be missed!

Please note:

- This cylindrical space has a good natural acoustic. The performance will need to be self-contained - there will be no PA available, but performers can use their own portable amplifier if necessary.
- Due to the tight confines of the space, this opportunity suits music with no more than 1-2 performers.

Your music should complement the rest of the programme without duplicating it – the concerts will feature music by [Steve Reich](#) and [Langham Research Centre](#). Ideas responding to the Bascule Chamber space in some way, for example the surrounding water of the River Thames, bridges, subterranean spaces, etc. are especially encouraged.

SPOKEN WORD/ PERFORMANCE POET BRIEF

This is an opportunity for you to create new spoken word work to perform in the 14 Bascule Chamber Concerts. These would be 2 x 2-3 minute long spoken word pieces performed live, in between the music repertoire.

It is also an opportunity to create a short pre-recorded spoken word text, to be played as audiences climb down the 100 steps from street level to the Bascule Chamber before concerts. The descent takes a few minutes, and this is aiming to be a creative way to tell audiences about the space they're entering, so they are engaged as early as possible.

HOW TO APPLY

If you want to be considered for these opportunities, the team would like to know more about your work, and what you would bring to these concerts by performing it live.

1. Send a video or audio recording describing who you are, what music/poetry you have made in the past, what your early ideas are for the brief, and how this will work live. This could be as simple as a video recorded on your phone, and should be no more than 5 minutes long.
2. Submit a link to a video or audio recording of you performing existing work.

If you need any help with your application, or you have any questions email the team on: basculechambers@gmail.com. Successful entries will be chosen by Thursday 15 June.

This should be sent to basculechambers@gmail.com

Deadline for both opportunities is Friday 26 May, 5pm
Successful entries will be chosen by Thursday 15 June.

If you need any help with your application, or you have any questions about the call, please email at basculechambers@gmail.com

Further information

The Bascule Chamber Concerts take place in the South Bascule Chamber of Tower Bridge in London: a huge underground brick-lined space beneath the Thames. The Bascule Chambers are where Tower Bridge's huge counterweights swing down as the bridge above ascends. These giant chambers are built into the river itself, beneath the line of the Thames with the underside of the road forming the chambers' ceiling.

The concerts are part of Totally Thames, which runs throughout September. Last year the concerts received widespread attention in national and social media, including features on BBC One, and a live stream through Facebook Live.

This year's concerts will feature new work by Langham Research Centre alongside music by Steve Reich. Langham Research Centre make new music from an instrumentarium of vintage equipment, such as reel-to-reel tape machines.

Iain Chambers and the Bascule Chamber Concerts are supported by PRS for Music Foundation, and using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

