**Media release: Thursday 19th May 2022**

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**Alex Ho, Ben Lunn and Laura Reid among seven talented composers to receive PRS Foundation’s Composers’ Fund**

**PRS Foundation**, the UK’s leading charitable funder of new music and talent development, together with **Jerwood Arts**, the leading independent funder for early-career UK artists, curators and producers, announce today (*Thursday 19th May 2022*) the latest talented composers to receive the ground-breaking **Composers’ Fund** are:

**Alex Ho** – Expanding the “Ye Xian: A Story Untold” (anti-)opera
**Alex Mills** – Recording and production of debut album
**Ben Lunn** – Composing partner pieces to accompany “Vox Clamantis”, to create a large orchestral symphonic work
**Laura Reid** – Recordings of new work for vocals, instruments and sounds and a sound walk fusing geo-located software
**Seckou Keita** – Writing first concerto for Kora
**The Venus Bushfires** – New work telling British stories from trending topics on Twitter (UK), from a Nigerian perspective expressed through indigenous, African and Western classical instruments
**William Mival** – A major new work for the Philharmonia Orchestra

**Elizabeth Sills, Grants & Programmes Manager at PRS Foundation** said. “*Congratulations to each of the seven exceptional composers in this round of funding. We’re delighted that through The Composers’ Fund we are able to support talented composers at crucial stages in their careers to take that next step in their development. Together with our friends at Jerwood Arts, we are very much looking forward to seeing the impact of this support for their respective projects on each of their careers moving forward.”*

**Jon Opie, Deputy Director, Jerwood Arts** said *“We’re delighted that our funding can unlock critical financial support for two exceptional composers with bold ideas for their projects and future careers. The prospect of Alex Mills’ debut album is a very exciting one, giving him a timely opportunity to consolidate following so many successful commissions in recent years. Ben Lunn’s proposal to scale up and build on his recent work created at Royal Scottish National Orchestra is exactly the step-change support this fund can accelerate so well. Congratulations to all the composers!”*

**The Composers’ Fund** supports the creative and professional development of talented composers with a strong track record and at pivotal stages in their career. Launched by PRS Foundation in 2016 the fund offers grants of up to £10,000 to support and enable composers to realise projects and ambitions that may not be possible through traditional commissioning models.

Since its launch the fund has supported projects such as recordings, the promotion and performance of existing works, international co-commissions and development, performer collaboration, residencies, sabbaticals or childcare costs and project or promotional support.

This round is the fourth in partnership with Jerwood Arts, which since 2020 has enabled increased support to those composers that meet the fund’s criteria and whose activities take place in the UK and who are less than 10 years into their career.

Both organisations recognise the impact the COVID-19 crisis has had and is still having on composer careers’ and this has been reflected in the criteria and decision-making processes.

**The next deadline** to apply for Composers’ Fund support will be announced **on the PRS Foundation website** [**here**](https://prsfoundation.com/funding-support/funding-music-creators/next-steps/the-composers-fund/)

**Ends.**

For further information please contact:

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**Notes to Editors**

**Creation of The Composers’ Fund**
The Composers’ Fund was created in 2016 following PRS Foundation’s research in 2014 exploring the challenges composers met when controlling their career direction. The research highlighted that composers faced limited access to funding, low commission fees, lack of any support structure, pressurised working conditions and for established and mid-career composers in particular, a decrease in commissioning opportunities.

**About PRS Foundation:**

Since 2000 PRS Foundation has given more than £41 million to over 8,100 new music initiatives. 8 out of 12 Mercury Prize 2021 nominees had received PRS Foundation support and the charity has supported BRITS, RPS, AIM and Ivors Award-winners.

PRS Foundation supports outstanding talent from all backgrounds, covering the whole of the UK and all genres, with grantee success stories including Little Simz, Wolf Alice, Dave, Sam Fender, Years & Years, AJ Tracey, Anna Meredith, Yola, Glass Animals, Ezra Collective, Jade Bird, Ghetts, Shiva Feshareki, Sarathy Korwar, Floating Points, Nadine Shah, The Fanatix, Imogen Heap, IDLES, Kae Tempest, Kojey Radical and Emily Burns.

Widely respected as an inclusive, collaborative and proactive funding body, PRS Foundation supports an exceptional range of new music activity through direct grants to music creators and through support for pioneering organisations, including venues, festivals, promoters and other talent development organisations. PRS Foundation founded the Women Make Music fund, co-founded global gender equality initiative, Keychange and most recently launched the POWER UP initiative to tackle anti-Black racism in music. [www.prsfoundation.com](http://www.prsfoundation.com)

**About Jerwood Arts**
Jerwood Arts is the leading independent funder dedicated to supporting UK artists, curators and producers to develop and thrive. We enable transformative opportunities for individuals across art forms, supporting imaginative awards, bursaries, fellowships, projects, programmes and commissions. We are committed to supporting artistic freedom of expression and being as inclusive as possible across all our work. We present new work and bring people from across the arts together through our exhibitions and events at Jerwood Space, London, as well as across the UK and online. [www.jerwoodarts.org](http://www.jerwoodarts.org)