June 2024

The Alan James Creative Bursary and Residency Programme

The English Folk Dance and Song Society (EFDSS) Creative Bursary and Residency Programme aims to support artists in exploring new creative ideas inspired by and sourced from traditional folk music relating to England. This programme provides artists with an opportunity to undertake creative exploration without the pressure of a final product.

We will be awarding four bursaries and this year we are delighted to be partnering with Black Lives in Music, Drake Music, and the Glasshouse International Centre for Music (Gateshead) to offer at least one bursary to a global majority artist led project, Disabled artist led project, and a project to be based at the Glasshouse.

The partner organisations will offer additional in-kind support to the bursary holder as appropriate.

The award offers

- a bursary of up to £2,000
- research facilities at the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library (online and in person)
- up to five days of rehearsal space at Cecil Sharp House (London) or the Glasshouse International (applicants that wish to work elsewhere will be considered but no additional funding will be available).
- additional funding for Access needs (Disabled artists led projects only)

What are we looking for?

Alan James was the former Chair of EFDSS who died suddenly in April 2019. In the spirit of Alan’s eclectic musical tastes and his ability to foster exciting artistic collaborations, we are particularly interested in receiving applications which explore folk music in the context of cross-genre or cross-art form collaborations.

The award is aimed at artists with a track-record as professional creative artists. An application can be from one artist or a group of artists, and from existing groups/bands or new collaborations. While applications can be for cross-genre or cross-art form projects, the primary art form must be music and the project should be taking its inspiration from folk music.

What can the bursary fund?

The bursary may be used to fund anything that is required for the R & D to take place eg artists’ fees, travel and accommodation, hire of equipment. Artists should be seeking research and development funding rather than additional funding for an existing project. Artists will have the opportunity to informally share the outcomes of the research and development at the end of their residency if they wish to EFDSS and partner staff and invited guests in person or through audio/video recordings.

Previous bursary awardees have gone on to develop their R & D work further to produce material
for recording and performance. Recent examples are albums from You Are Wolf ‘Hare//Hunter//Moth//Ghost’; Tamsin Elliott and Tarek Elazhary ‘So Far We Have Come’; Angeline Morrisons ‘The Sorrow Songs: Folk Songs of Black British Experience’. For past recipients go to https://www.efdss.org/artist-development/artists/bursaries

How to Apply
Applicants may apply by completing the application form or providing an audio or video application. If audio or video, please ensure your provide answers to all the questions on the application form.

Closing date for completed applications: Tuesday 2 July 2024, midnight. Applicants will be informed by Friday 2 August 2024. Bursaries projects to be completed by 31 March 2025.

Access
Additional funding will be available for Disabled artists led projects with additional access needs.

Cecil Sharp House is step free with a lift from street level to all floors and has a car park. There are gender neutral accessible toilets on the foyer and lower ground floors. A portable hearing loop is available as there are no integrated hearing loops in the spaces used for residencies. Assistance dogs are welcomed. English Folk Dance and Song Society - Access (efdss.org)

The Glasshouse International is step free with lifts to all floors and to the car park. It has gender neutral accessible toilets and a Changing Places toilet. Assistance dogs are welcomed. Access information | The Glasshouse (theglasshouseicm.org)

Please contact Zoe Nicol (zoe@efdss.org) or Katy Spicer (katy@efdss.org) with any questions.

Partners

Funders

English Folk Dance and Song Society, 2 Regent’s Park Road, London, NW1 7AY
020 7485 2206 : www.efdss.org
Registered Charity 305999; Company Limited by Guarantee 297142; VAT No. 233 8664 49