



Collected Music & Tales of Coigach and Assynt:

The Soil Beneath Our Feet

Open Call for a Composer or Composers

...a fantastic opportunity to create a new piece of music, inspired by the landscapes and heritage of Coigach and Assynt, on Scotland's stunning far North West coast...

Background

Music and Tales of Coigach and Assynt is one of the projects of the Coigach & Assynt Living Landscape Partnership (CALLP) Scheme, which comprises 14 organisations working together to deliver 28 projects over a 5 year period, with principle funding secured from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF).

Music and Tales of Coigach and Assynt is a 5 year long project, started in 2016, which aims to preserve the rich cultural heritage of this area. Coigach Community Development Company (CCDC), a partner in the CALLP Scheme is leading this project, and the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) is the financial lead. The overall objectives of the *Music and Tales of Coigach and Assynt* project are:

- to research, collate and capture for posterity the traditional stories, music and songs of Coigach and Assynt;
- to create a new piece of music inspired by the living landscape;
- to encourage our talented young musicians to promote our area through their music.



The deliverable output of this brief is to create a unique piece of music which will mark this moment in time in the Coigach and Assynt living landscape: this element of the *Music and Tales of Coigach and Assynt* project aims to provide context and depth to the wider project vision by creating a piece of cultural heritage to be appreciated by local people, visitors and the wider world.

Musically, the North West of Scotland punches way above its weight: world class musicians from different genres have been born and raised here or have come to live and work in this beautiful area. The oral tradition is strong here: Gaelic songs have been passed down the generations; pipes, fiddles and accordions have been played at house ceilidhs and for dances for as long as anyone can remember.

The following themes and quotations have come out of a recently completed piece of oral history research, also a part of the *Music and Tales of Coigach and Assynt* project, and could inform the composition:

- “that lean toward home”
- a celebration of Gaelic song and language
- the townships
- the Highland diaspora
- ceilidh houses
- “Big landscape...Big sound”
- “She [Ishbel Macaskill] was quite happy being the messenger and just carrying the songs that other people had written”

The brief

We are looking to commission a composer or composers to write an original piece of music (either one piece or a suite of compositions) with a total play time of at least 45 minutes which illustrates the interconnection between the music, language, history and landscapes of Coigach and Assynt. We particularly welcome joint applications. In Year 5 of the *Music and Tales* project, the composition will be recorded as an album and then performed in the summer of 2021. (There will be a separate budget for this).

You will...

- have proven experience of working on similar projects;
- have the ability to work on your own initiative and to work to deadlines;
- have the ability to co-ordinate and work with other musicians;



- have an understanding of the wider *Music and Tales* project and of its vision;
- have a knowledge and understanding of Coigach and Assynt, of the area's history and heritage, or of a similar environment in Scotland or further afield;
- be happy to work in this remote, rural area;
- have access to your own transport.

Scope of Work

Scope of Composition: the composer/composers will agree with the CCDC Local Development Officer (herself a musician) the theme and content of the composition and take into consideration the estimated budget for the composition recording and performance.

Submitted composition: the composition shall be submitted both in staff notation and as a digital demo recording.

Commissioned Output

The composition must be:

- unique;
- suitable for performing in Coigach and Assynt within the budget;
- demonstrate that it marks this moment in time in the Coigach and Assynt living landscape;
- in a format/genre that will attract 500 or more people to attend its performances in the summer of 2021;
- in a format/genre that will see 250 CDs/downloads purchased in the first year.

Copyright

The copyright for the work produced by the project (including but not limited to lyrics, musical score, arrangement) will belong to the composer. However as required by the funder, National Lottery Heritage Fund will be granted an irrevocable, perpetual and royalty-free licence to use, copy, keep and disseminate as they see fit and to grant sub-licences of the same kind on any Digital Outputs resulting from the *Music and Tales of Coigach and Assynt* project. The CCDC and Scottish Wildlife Trust will be granted the same licence. The music recording copyright from the resulting recording will belong to CCDC.



Budget and Timescales

A fee of £10,000 (inclusive of VAT if applicable) to cover composers' time, office materials and costs, as well as any mileage, has been allocated for completion of the composition. (There is an additional budget for the recording and performance of the piece.) The composition part of the project will be undertaken within the following timescales:

- By January 20th 2020: composer(s) appointed
- By September 30th 2020: composition written, transcribed and a demo recording made

And looking to the following year...

- By December 31st 2020: CD recorded, mixed and mastered
- By March 31st 2021: CD produced and pressed for sale
- By August 31st 2021: Composition performed in Coigach, Assynt and Ullapool

Commission Management

The commission will be governed by a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the day to day management of the commission will be by the LDO designated by CCDC. A payment schedule based on agreed outputs will be incorporated into the MOA and all payments will be dependent on the confirmation of submission of agreed outputs by CCDC.

To apply

Interested? Please send a no more than 500 word pitch describing your ideas for this project, attaching a CV of relevant experience and links to recordings of your work to Ann Marie Firth-Bernard: info@coigachcommunity.org.uk.

The closing date for applications is January 12th 2020.

Criteria for selection will be as follows:

Attribute	Scoring
Musical composition skills	60%
Musical documentation and recording skills	20%
Experience of co-ordinating and working with other musicians	10%
Evidence of the ability to work to deadlines	10%



