

PoppyHarp Composers Project

formally known as "the future blend project"

About:

The Future Blend Project launched in 2015.

It grew into an annual solo harp composition competition that brought together composers and harpists to create brand new music for the Harp.

Each year 8-10 finalists were chosen from anonymous scores, they then had 5 months to work with their harpist to create the best piece possible for the instrument. The harpists are some of the most exciting and experienced young professionals in the world. So far composers have had the chance to work with Eleanor Turner, Camilla Pay, Shelley Fairplay, Olivia Jaguers, Sophie Rocks, Erica Sinclair, Rosanna Moore, Fran Barsby and many many more!

The Hidden Gem Concert was held in the first few weeks of January and was the showcase and World Premier of the 10 new works.

The evolution of FBP to the PoppyHarp Composers Project.

FBP took a break over the pandemic but relaunched in 2024.

Please note that WWW.FUTUREBLENDPROJECT.COM is nothing to do with PoppyHarp, Fran Barsby OR the original Future Blend Project.

Please be cautious of scams online!

2025 Composers Project:

We are incredibly lucky to have 7 incredible resident harpists involved in the project:

These harpists will look over the submissions and meet to choose from the works submitted and 4 Harp Solo works will be chosen to work with one of the following harpists: Fran Barsby, Bethan Conway, Sophie Rocks, Erica Sinclair.

1 harp duet to work with the Chroma Harp duo.

1 harp ensemble to work with Dr Rosanna Moore and colleagues tbc.

Our aims:

1. To encourage composers to write more music for the harp.
2. To encourage music written for both lever and pedal harp
3. To allow each composers individual style to shine whilst producing music that is accessible to the instrument.
4. To nurture new and continued friendships and positive working relationships between harpists and composers around the world.
5. Promote all styles, genres and music from around the world.
6. To have fun and enjoy making music together!

Our values:

At PoppyHarp, our aim is to foster a diverse and inclusive community where composers from anywhere in the world can thrive. We encourage composers to explore the harp as a source of inspiration and express their unique musical styles with confidence. Inclusivity is central to our mission, and we welcome applicants worldwide. Our digital platform ensures that geographical

barriers are no obstacle to participation. If you're passionate about the harp, we'd love to hear from you, regardless of your location. Our project is open to anyone 18 years or above. The PoppyHarp Composers Project is free to enter, ensuring accessibility for composers at any stage of their journey. We're committed to enhancing inclusivity, selecting compositions with diverse musical backgrounds and styles each year. Language should not deter applicants, as translation tools like Google Translate can facilitate communication. We're constantly exploring ways to improve our global outreach, including the addition of chamber works for harp and other instruments for future projects.

Equal opportunities:

PoppyHarp is committed to providing equality of opportunity and treatment for all, and will not unlawfully or unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly on the basis of gender, age, ethnic origin, or disability.

Data protection:

Fran Barsby is registered as a Data Controller with the Information Commissioner's Office in the United Kingdom under data protection legislation. Please see our GDPR document for more information.

Applying to the PoppyHarp Composers Project

1. We accept submissions written for harp solo, harp duo and harp ensemble (exact instruments TBC)
2. You can be at any stage of your compositional journey but must be over 18 to participate.
3. Your work does not have to be finished but give a good impression of what you are trying to achieve.
4. We require a small write up about where you are in your compositional journey. We use this information to better understand what you hope to gain from the project and be able to pair you with the harpist most suited to you.
5. You do not have to have written for or worked with a harpist before.
6. You can submit a piece that has been looked at previously by a harpist and performed, however, **you must be willing to take advice and revisions on your music.** Please let us know in your application if your piece has previously been looked at by a harpist.
7. Your sheet music must not be on sale/published. If your sheet music has been published unfortunately we cannot accept your application. (Published = your sheet is available to the general public to be purchased online or in physical form. If your music is published as an audio file only, we can still accept your application. However, you must have full rights to take part in the music, hold sole copyright of your music and there must be no conflict of interests in any other projects, performances or grants you are a part of.)
8. Composers must hold the rights to their work. We ask that harpists are acknowledged for their input. Composers are liable for any copyright infringements/allegations. The composer retains the rights to their music throughout the entirety of the project.
9. To maximise the benefits of the project we suggest you try to "meet" with your harpist 5 times throughout the project. These can be zoom meetings, phone calls, email exchanges, WhatsApp messages... whatever suits you as a team. But please do touch base with each

other each month to ensure you continue to be on the same page with the music. Please be patient with one another as we all have busy working schedules.

10. During the project we ask composers to participate in some social media to promote your music, the composers, the harpists, the project and composing for the harp. The deadlines and requirements for these can be found on the next page.
11. Any form of abuse (behaviour or verbal) between any members of any project will not be tolerated and will result in immediate termination of the project.
12. Throughout the project if you post anything on social media please ensure you are tagging @poppyharp and your composer/harpist.

Exceptional circumstances:

The PoppyHarp Composers Project aims to run as seamlessly as possible. Sometimes exceptional circumstances arise as we are all working full time outside of the project, have families, are studying etc. Mental health and personal security whether that be health, financial or otherwise comes first. If a harpist or composer is unable to complete the project we will take steps to try to ensure that you are able to participate with another harpist or in a future project.

Successful Composers:

4 solo harp works, 1 harp duo and 1 harp ensemble will be chosen by our panel of harpists.

- Up to 5 sessions working with a harpist on your composition (May-October)
- Receive passionate and tailored advice on composing for the harp. Composers will learn about the instrument and how to ensure their piece reflects their unique style whilst complimenting the instrument.
- A video of the finished composition will be published on PoppyHarp Youtube (November).
- If the composer chooses, the sheet music can be sold on the PoppyHarp website or our partners website - [The Harp Studio](#).

FAQ's

What are the key dates of the project?

Apply from: 1st February 2025

Deadline: 31st March 2025 MIDNIGHT

RESULTS: 21st - 27th April - composers are emailed with the result

Successful composers are announced: May/ June

November: Videos are released

What happens to your music if you are unsuccessful?

If a harpist loves your music they may contact you outside of the project. Harpists are not allowed to use or perform any music submitted without prior consent of the composer.