

Writing for Music Education

ABRSM composer mentoring programme 2024-25 (UK)

ABRSM's composer mentoring programme, [Writing for Music Education](#), is a six-month programme for UK-based emerging composers looking to explore the world of composing for music education.

The following overview gives a flavour of what the programme will cover, including opportunities to join us behind the scenes at ABRSM, to develop skills in writing to a brief and to work alongside some of our partner organisations.

The programme will run from September 2024 to February 2025.

Programme outline

<i>When</i>	<i>Where</i>	<i>What</i>
Thu 5 Sept 2024 2pm - 3.30pm	Online	Meet and greet: <i>welcome, introductions and programme overview</i>
Thu 12 Sept 2024 2pm - 3.30pm	Online	Intro to ABRSM: <i>an overview of ABRSM's activities as both an exam board and a global music charity</i>
Thu 26 Sep 2024 9.30am - 4.30pm	ABRSM office	Getting to know ABRSM <i>A day with colleagues and teams from across ABRSM, taking a deep dive into how ABRSM commissions and selects music for exam syllabuses and publications.</i> <i>At the end of the day we will set Compositional Task 1, which will relate to an ABRSM syllabus.</i>
Sep - Nov 2024 (various dates)		Getting to know our partners <i>We work with a range of partner organisations on the composer programme, and composers will choose to work with one of these partners to write a piece of music from a specific brief (Compositional Task 2).</i>

<i>When</i>	<i>Where</i>	<i>What</i>
Oct 2024	Online	<p>1:1 mentoring sessions with Sarah Watts</p> <p><i>Sarah will be in touch with composers individually to arrange 1:1s. Composers can use these sessions to discuss anything relating to the programme, the briefs they're working on or their careers more broadly.</i></p>
Wed 9 Oct 2024 3pm - 4.30pm	Online	<p>Meet a graduate programme mentee!</p>
Tue 15 Oct 2024 12pm - 1.30pm	Online	<p>Examining: <i>understanding the ABRSM marking criteria</i></p>
Early Nov 2024	Online	<p>1:1 feedback: <i>Compositional Task 1</i></p> <p><i>The mentor for this task will be in touch with composers individually to arrange 1:1s, specifically to review and discuss initial submissions relating to Compositional Task 1.</i></p>
Nov 2024	Various exam venues	<p>Half day ABRSM exams</p> <p><i>We will be in touch with composers individually to confirm venue and timings.</i></p>
Wed 6 Nov 2024 10am - 11.30am	Online	<p>Teacher Development: <i>how does ABRSM support music teachers around the world?</i></p>
Thu 21 Nov 2024 9.30am - 4pm	ABRSM office	<p>Filming and music workshop ABRSM</p> <p><i>In the morning we will do some filming relating to the programme, which will include some content for social media, as well as more conversational pieces.</i></p> <p><i>In the afternoon we will workshop the pieces that composers have been working on so far, providing an opportunity to share, learn and feedback together. At the end of the day we will set Compositional Task 3, which will relate to an ABRSM syllabus.</i></p>

<i>When</i>	<i>Where</i>	<i>What</i>
Late Nov 2024 - Early Jan 2025	Online	1:1 feedback: <i>Compositional Task 2 (partner organisations)</i> <i>Mentors will be in touch with composers individually to arrange 1:1s, specifically to review and discuss initial submissions relating to Compositional Task 2 (partner organisations). The timing of this will depend on the task chosen and when the brief was set.</i>
Jan 2025	Online	1:1 mentoring sessions with Sarah Watts <i>Sarah will be in touch with composers individually to arrange 1:1s. Composers can use these sessions to discuss anything relating to the programme, the briefs they're working on or their careers more broadly.</i>
Jan 2025	Online	1:1 feedback: <i>Compositional Task 3</i> <i>Alan Bullard will be in touch with composers individually to arrange 1:1s, specifically to review and discuss initial submissions relating to Compositional Task 3.</i>
Feb 2025 <i>Dates to be confirmed</i>	Online	Meet a composer: <i>2 sessions with well-known composers in the education space</i>
Fri 28 Feb 2025 (afternoon)	ABRSM office (4 th floor)	Celebration event: <i>musical performances, congratulatory speeches, drinks and nibbles, networking opportunities</i>