**Brief for Film-maker, February 2021**

**Invitation to apply for a short-term contract with W&BA to create a film based on a song production already in progress, called “Spell Songs in the Green”.**

**Background**

Waveney & Blyth Arts has been working with choir Director Janet Koralambe, to create a public performance originally planned to be held on the Millennium Green in Halesworth in June 2021. <https://millenniumgreen.halesworth.net> . However, due to coronavirus restrictions, this public performance has been shelved and instead, we want to create a visual representation of the performance. Not a documentary, but an art film in its own right.

The production, called Spell Songs in the Green, is based on the book The Lost Words, written by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris <https://www.thelostwords.org> and the Spell Songs performed by Folk by The Oak <https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=spell+songs>

Janet Koralambe, as choir Director of Halesworth Community Choir and Hoxne Village Voices, has brought approximately 50 singers together to learn specially commissioned songs using the words and compositions from The Lost Words and Spell Songs books. Some 40 children from two local schools plus 10 adult dancers are taking part, working with experienced dance, movement and drama tutors. Waveney & Blyth Arts is working with Janet to produce the performance and involve the Halesworth community.

**Outline**

We are seeking a **film-maker** with **sound-recording/engineering** experience, who will work closely with Janet Koralambe and the team to create a film that captures all the elements of the performance of Spell Songs in the Green, and powerfully expresses its messages about the wonder of, but threats to, indigenous flora and fauna. We are looking for a creative response incorporating visual effects rather than a documentary-style film or straightforward recording of a performance. The creative team already have clear ideas about the shape and imagery of the film which they can share with shortlisted applicants.

The soundtrack for the film will be seven of the original songs from the project that the choirs have been rehearsing: *Ivy, Skylark, Dandelion, Heartwood, Bramble, Starling and The Lost Words Blessing.*

We envisage the singers will be able to record themselves using their mobile phones. These multiple voice recordings would then need to be uploaded as song tracks. Therefore, we are seeking a film maker who has experience and knowledge of mixing multiple sound tracks, or help locate an appropriate sound recorder and engineer to be part of the team.

The film will last between 15 and 30 minutes. We plan to shown it at a public event in the autumn at The Cut, Halesworth, it will be used by our collaborators as a show-piece and be published on the W&BA website, YouTube and across our social media sites.

Filming will need to take place at a variety of settings and will require some drone shots. Locations will include:

* The Millennium Green, Halesworth
* Edgar Sewter Primary school, Halesworth
* Wenhaston Primary school
* New Cut Arts centre and other relevant sites in Halesworth

We would also want to include shots of the singers woven into the visual imagery.

**Financial arrangements**

Waveney & Blyth Arts is adapting the budget for this community project to incorporate the costs of recording, filming, editing and post production costs to create a high-quality short film. We can offer a fee of £3,000 with the possibility that this could be increased if the film aspects require it and further grants are awarded. We are not registered for VAT so this figure should be seen as gross (ie VAT included).

20% payment of £600 will be paid on signing of a contract and first invoice. The remaining 80%, £2,400, will be paid on completion of the project and receipt of the finished film, as signed-off by us, and final invoice. Any additional costs have to be agreed in advance by Waveney & Blyth Arts.

**Production time line:**

* Singers to start on their voice recording in March
* Film storyboard and process outline agreed by end of April
* Workshops and filming to take place in schools on Monday afternoons (Wenhaston) and Wednesday afternoons (Edgar Sewter) after Easter
* Dancers to be filmed in June/July
* Editing, finishing and completed by 31st August 2021
* Presentation at The Cut, Halesworth in September

**Appointment time line:**

* Invitations sent out to local film-makers 8th February 2021
* Expression of interest and examples of work to be received back by 22nd February
* Interviews early March
* Appointment end of March

**We ask that applicants have the following equipment, skills and experience:**

* Access to a fully equipped sound and film recording studio
* Creative film-making skills and proven experience
* Knowledge of music recording and integrating this with images
* Ability to communicate and collaborate with a wide group of people
* Experience of working in sound/film/video with people of different ages
* Insight to the relevance of the concept of “lost words” and “spell songs”

**Invitation to submit an application**

To apply, please submit a written proposal (up to 500 words) or a video proposal (maximum 3 minutes).

**Please outline in your application your experience of:**

* working in community settings
* creative film/video making
* recording live music, mixing music tracks
* collaborating with a wide group of people
* meeting project deadlines

We would also welcome a straightforward overview of your work, a brief CV together with examples of your own films.

Please email your application to info@waveneyandblytharts.com with the subject heading ‘Application for film maker’

***The deadline for submitting your application is 5pm February 22nd.***

Ann Follows

Chair – Waveney & Blyth Arts

February 2021