



## **BREAKING BARRIERS – SOUTH ASIAN MUSIC COMMISSIONS**

### ***EMERGE PROGRAMME***

***Are you a South Asian musician, artist, singer-songwriter, or record producer or looking to build a career in the music industry? Do you want to develop your music skills, receive specialist training, and be awarded a bursary to fund your professional development?***

***You could be a part of our Breaking Barriers Programme, Emerge.***

The final strand of the Asian Arts Agency Breaking Barriers programme will provide individuals with new opportunities and a platform to support emerging musical talent. Following the first two strands of the commissioning programme, we are delighted to announce the third strand of Breaking Barriers, the **Emerge** programme for developing musicians.

#### **What is Asian Arts Agency?**

[Asian Arts Agency](#) (Bristol) is a dynamic arts development agency; we work to develop and support contemporary and traditional South Asian music and arts in the UK and internationally. As one of the UK's premier Asian music development agencies, we commission, produce and promote a range of contemporary Asian music events and touring productions; programme festivals; and coordinate international showcases to support artists.

Support for UK-based South Asian artists is at the heart of our work. We work to break down barriers by mainstreaming high quality South Asian music in the UK and internationally working with audiences from all communities and age groups and playing a national role in promoting creative diversity in the UK.

#### **What is Breaking Barriers?**

Breaking Barriers is a pioneering project conceived and developed by Asian Arts Agency and funded by Arts Council England to create opportunities for South Asian musicians/individuals to try out new approaches to performance. The project aims to increase skills and confidence in using online platforms and finding new ways to approach the live music/recording industry.

#### **What we're offering?**

We are offering 10 bursaries of £1,000 each to entry level musicians, artists, record producers and to those who are thinking of starting music companies but have limited information about how the industry works. The agency has established relationships with WOMAD, BPI and Real-World Studios.

The programme will include:

- A £1,000 bursary award for each participant.
- Music industry-related training sessions.
- Bespoke digital and social media training.
- Talks and webinars with music industry programmers and festival organisers.
- A tour and demonstration of an industry level music studio providing insight into the workings of a professional recording studio.



## Timeline and Bursary

The programme will run between **March - April 2023**. Each participant will receive a £1,000 bursary plus additional access support where needed (if applicable). In addition, the Agency will cover studio hire/use costs.

## Who is this Programme for?

The project is open to England based South Asian Musicians of all types, traditional and contemporary. We want to maintain a strong focus on gender balance; and to strive to reach and encourage disabled artists and artists from disadvantaged backgrounds including deaf artists. In selecting the group of successful applicants we will therefore ensure that there is balance and a fair representation of key factors, in particular:

- Diversity (including race, gender, and other protected characteristics).
- Geography to ensure the targeted areas are represented esp. Southwest.
- Different aspects of the music industry (e.g., musicians, singer-songwriters, record producers, etc.).

Applications are open to all entry level individuals/artists who identify as ethnically diverse; Deaf; disabled; neurodiverse; LGBTQ+; and/or who are from working-class/low-income backgrounds, or who have identified as such in the past. We are seeking applications from individuals regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality, religion and/or belief.

## How to Apply:

Each applicant must complete an online application form. Applications should be accompanied (where relevant) by an example of the artist's work (e.g. via YouTube or video link)

Please email your proposal, along with the monitoring form and video link (if relevant) to Jaswinder Singh at [music@asianartsagency.co.uk](mailto:music@asianartsagency.co.uk) You can download the application pack [here](#).

## The application should include the following:

- A brief plan of what you aim to do in the next 12 months. This should include a written or video statement of up to 3 minutes (video is optional) outlining why you wish to be supported and how the programme will contribute to your creative and career development.
- Your track record in creating and performing South Asian music.
- One or two online audio or video samples of original work by you.
- Letters of support from two referees with experience of your work and who can recommend you to undertake the commission.
- Confirmation that you do not have funding from other sources or a funder for this work.
- Completed Equal Opportunities Monitoring form.

*If you feel you have any barriers in applying, require additional support to apply or/and have any questions relating to the project, please email us at [music@asianartsagency.co.uk](mailto:music@asianartsagency.co.uk)*



### **Selection process and application dates:**

Decisions will be made by a selection panel which includes of the Agency's Creative Director and Board members. Applications will be considered against the following criteria:

- Strength and imagination of the creative vision
- Reasons for applying
- Track record of the musicians
- Future potential as per your application
- Likely impact of the commission on the musicians' careers
- Availability to undertake the commission during the timeline (March- April 2023)
- Potential to engage with wider audiences both digitally and live
- Letters of support.

Closing date for application: **Thursday 2nd March 2023, 9.30am.**

Notification of decisions: All applications will be notified whether they have been successful or not by email by **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023.** *We are sorry that we cannot offer individual feedback.*

### **Tax and N.I**

Successful applicants will be responsible for their own tax and National Insurance liabilities and contributions.