



McNicol Ballet **Collective**

We are thrilled to announce
Compositions & Configurations

A paid creative residency for choreographers & composers to collaborate and develop ideas for new ballet-based works.

**UK-Based
Choreographers & Composers**

APPLY NOW!

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About Us

McNicol Ballet Collective (MBC), led by Artistic Director Andrew McNicol, creates extraordinary dance experiences that have the power to move and capacity to connect. Committed to creating new and collaborative work with an inspiring collective of artists, MBC commissions adventurous contemporary ballets, innovative dance films and meaningful education projects – strengthening our connection to dance and each other. Discover more [here](#).

Programme Details

Compositions & Configurations (C&C) is a paid creative residency programme fostering collaboration and pushing the boundaries of contemporary ballet and original music composition. Led by Andrew McNicol, this creative programme offers UK-based choreographers and composers focused studio time to experiment, test ideas and find a shared language, before embarking on the formal creation process.

The idea for C&C is born from the belief that the future of dance and specifically contemporary ballet is inherently linked with the future development of music. To ensure MBC and the wider dance and music sector has talented choreographers and composers with the knowledge, experience, and tenacity to shape the future of our artforms, MBC is committed to investing in artistic development and experimentation in an intentional way.

Networking opportunities, guest speakers and dramaturg Francesca Tennant will support artists throughout the creative process. Original music and choreographic concepts are prepared for further exploration during a one-week studio residency with MBC's professional dancers. The residency concludes with an informal showing to an invited audience and industry professionals.

MBC plans to commission at least one choreographer and composer to further develop their work for programming in the 24/25 season. We are looking to develop new works that will be able to tour to small/midscale venues with a maximum of 5 musicians. Don't miss this opportunity to experiment, defy conventions and shape the future of contemporary ballet and music composition.

Key Dates & Location

- **30th October 2023** – Applications open.
- **15th January 2024 at 12 noon** – Applications close.
- **February 2024** – Choreographers & Composers announced.
- **March – June 2024** – Creative meetings & preparatory work with dramaturg & MBC artistic team (online/in person, times to be mutually agreed. Approx. 3 meetings with dramaturg & independent preparation required.
- **15th– 20th July 2024** – One-week studio residency: 9.00am – 6.00pm, at DanceEast, Ipswich. Choreographers and composers must be available for the whole duration of the studio residency and committed to creative meetings and preparatory work prior to the residency.

Choreographers & Composers Receive

- A fee of £1,200 each for participating in the one-week studio residency and preparatory creative meetings/workshops/guest speaker sessions.
- A contribution towards return economy travel expenses to/from DanceEast, Ipswich.
- Accommodation in Ipswich, during the one-week studio residency at DanceEast.
- Per diems, during the residency at DanceEast.
- A budget of up to £1,500 towards recording, hiring musicians for sessions during the residency, equipment and/or instruments (to be mutually agreed in advance with MBC).
- Approximately four – six hours per day of rehearsal time in the studio with professional dancers from MBC.
- Dramaturg Francesca Tennant will support artists preparation and the development of the creative work and collaboration.
- Opportunity to engage and network with guest speakers and mentors from the worlds of music and dance.
- Archival filming and photography of the creative work.
- An informal showing of the artistic ideas for an invited audience.

Criteria for Selecting Choreographers & Composers

Choreographers & Composers are welcome to apply as individuals or applications can also be made together as a pair. MBC will pair those applying as individuals.

Choreographers

Selection will be based on creative talent, musicality, experience, and innovation in working with and further evolving the classical ballet idiom. We strongly encourage applications from choreographers interested in using pointe work, although this is not a requirement. Choreographers must:

- Have knowledge of classical ballet vocabulary through formal qualifications, professional training, or their own creative practice.
- Experience working with trained dancers outside a purely educational environment.
- Have created at least one work for public performance.
- Show distinctiveness in their choreographic voice.
- Demonstrate a creative drive to work collaboratively composers and live musicians.
- Be based in the UK and legally permitted to work in the UK.

Composers

Selection will be based on creative talent, innovation and the interior logic and expressive development of composer's works. Composers may be an early-career or established artist but must have some proven acumen for writing music of character and distinction for live instruments or singers. Composers must:

- Have experience working with a professional music ensemble or an instrumentalist outside a purely educational environment.
- Show distinctiveness in their artistic voice.
- Willingness to collaborate effectively with choreographers, musicians, and other creatives.
- Be based in the UK and legally permitted to work in the UK.
- We welcome and encourage applications from composers who have never composed for dance or worked with choreographers before, as well as those looking to build on previous experience.

Application

- Applications can be submitted via our [online form](#). This includes an anonymous equal opportunities form.
- Alternative applications can be submitted via video application [here](#).
- Application information available via audio [here](#).
- Please contact Rachel.birch@mcnicolballetcollective.co.uk for further information regarding access requirements.
- The closing date for applications is **15th January 2024 at 12 noon**. Applications received after this will not be considered.
- Selection will be made by Artistic Director Andrew McNicol, producer Rachel Birch and dramaturg Francesca Tennant.

We are committed and care deeply about inclusive working practices and diverse teams. We welcome and encourage applications from individuals from underrepresented backgrounds, including disabled, neurodivergent, ethnic minority groups, LGBTQIA+ and all marginalised genders, people with primary caring responsibilities, and people from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

Requirements

- Participants are required to sign an agreement with McNicol Ballet Collective committing to the course guidelines, participating in informal presentations and the documentation of work produced.
- All choreography and musical compositions are original and created specifically for MBC's Compositions & Configurations residency. All choreography and music created during this time will remain the property of the choreographer and composer.
- For any future use of the artistic ideas, you agree to provide credit to MBC as follows: The initial development of (Title of Ballet/Music) was supported by the McNicol Ballet Collective during its Compositions & Configurations residency in July 2024.
- Participants are required to contribute to the evaluation process.
- McNicol Ballet Collective reserves the right to use video recordings and photographs for promotional, educational, and fundraising purposes.

Our Commitment to You

- We will notify every applicant of the outcome of their application.
- We are committed to fairness and accessibility for all.
- We respect your time and resources. We will only request more information if it is important for your application.
- We strive to keep application guidelines clear and remain committed to continually improving our processes.

Supported by

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