

Press Release

Embargoed until 10AM, 3 April 2024

RUMBI TAURO, J.CHAMBERS, SPACE AFRIKA AND RENZNIRO AMONGST MUSIC ARTISTS SUPPORTED THROUGH FACTORY INTERNATIONAL'S TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Factory Sounds images can be downloaded at the [Factory International media page](#).
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Factory International announces some of the artists benefitting from a selection of grants and development opportunities, as it looks to support the emerging music sector in Manchester.

Factory Sounds is an annual programme designed to support and raise the profile of musicians and the music industry in Greater Manchester. The 2024 programme will provide solo artists, bands, producers, DJs, a queer electronic night and a radio station with a variety of support as they create new music, mix and master albums, invest in recording and studio equipment, and run workshops and spaces that will help Manchester's scene even further.

The successful applicants will receive £1,000 of financial support towards the creation of a new project, peer-to-peer support, a series of regular masterclasses in artist management, promotion and fundraising demystifying the industry – plus access to Factory International's talent development programmes and networking opportunities.

- **RenzNiro**, an artist and producer, will be creating a new music project that explores class, blackness, the diasporic experience and friendship. The Factory Sounds support will go towards RenzNiro's studio costs, the mixing, mastering and PR around the release of the project later this year.
- **STEAM Radio MCR** is a community station that provides a platform for emerging hosts to hone their skills, and for emerging artists to platform their music. Through Factory Sounds they will upgrade the studio equipment to radio industry standard, not only for their roster of 70 resident hosts, but also to run radio production workshops aimed at people from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **Rumbi Tauro** is a soulful R&B performer from Zimbabwe. The Factory Sounds support will help in the creation of an independently released EP.
- **J.Chambers** is a DJ, Reggae rap artist and spoken word poet, whose upcoming album *Homecoming* explores his Jamaican roots. Alongside the album he'll release a documentary around his visit to the country and the creation of the album. Through these projects he hopes to encourage other young black people of the diaspora to discover their heritage.



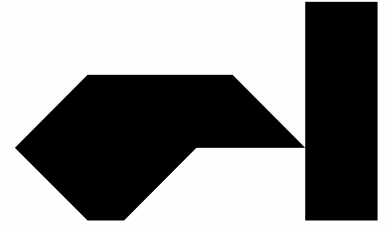
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- **Caitlin LM**, an electronic producer, vocalist and multi-instrumentalist will use the support to give themselves creative space to write and create more music.
- **Algernon Cornelius**, a rapper and producer involved in the UK DIY music scene will create a collaborative album featuring a curated selection of local electronic artists as producers, alongside a film that will be released alongside the record.
- **Thraa** have recently recorded their second album. The drone band will create a limited run of vinyl albums to sell at their upcoming live shows.
- **CHARMS** is a DJ and Radio host who will invest in home recording equipment and software so they can create music alongside their full-time job. They will also use the support to create a live streamed show platforming women and non-binary artists within sound system culture.
- **Saint Harmony's** debut EP *Solace* will be created through the Factory Sounds process. From studio and rehearsal time, collaborations artists and instrumentalists, and promotional artwork, the singer-songwriter's EP will follow a journey of healing.
- **Danny H** is an artist, producer, composer, sound engineer, guitarist, drummer, vocalist and director of record label 'On the Beats' which aims to empower and support South Asian musicians. Factory Sounds will help him create, release and promote a new body of work, exploring his queer background, as well as themes of love, trust and betrayal.
- **FLUFF** is a regular queer electronica night set up by the artists **Norrisette** and **Industries**. Through Factory Sounds they want to find more accessible and disability-friendly venues, so they can continue their work offering a warm and inviting space for LGBT+ electronic music producers in Manchester to perform and test out original music with a live audience.

Factory International's Head of Music **Rivca Burns** says *"We've had such an incredible amount of applications to this year's callout and the quality was unbelievable proving that Greater Manchester is brimming with talent. The cohort for this year's Factory Sounds is such an eclectic blend of genre and musicianship that really reflects the region and with such a variety of projects that they hope to achieve, it's truly exciting to be with them on this journey."*

To date, Factory Sounds has supported over 36 musicians to bands, producers, rappers, singers, collectives, record labels, recording studios and artists to create music management companies, finance the release of singles, EPs and albums, fit out recording studios, run production workshops, and support in their tours.

Factory International's Artist Development Manager **Punam Ramchurn** states *"It's so exciting to see so much music talent in the region - we were overwhelmed by the response and struggled to finalise the last eleven! I'm sure it'll just be the beginning of their journey for these talented creatives and I look forward to supporting them and watching them progress and become part of the Factory International Family"*



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Artist Takeover

Another of Factory International's talent development programmes is **Artist Takeover** inviting creatives who are ready to scale-up their practice to develop work in the vast Warehouse space of Aviva Studios.

Space Afrika's Joshua Inyang and Joshua Tarelle will create a new immersive audio installation as part of **54: Manchester**, a collective of Black multidisciplinary artists from the North West founded by curator and producer **Jaqhira Henry** that also includes visual artist, poet and film maker **Tibyan Mahawah Sanoh**. The collective will use archive film materials, sound and material design to present a contemporary and authentic representation of the Black British experience in the North West. The artists will be offered financial support to explore and realise their idea as well as dedicated guidance from industry experts within the Factory International team.

Kee Hong Low, Creative Director of Factory International, adds "*At Factory International we create spaces for artists to do extraordinary things, things they always dreamed of doing, things they might not be able to do anywhere else. It's so exciting to see the range of artistry from the North supported by Factory International initiatives this year and I can't wait to see all these brilliant artists take their practice to the next level.*"

Building on the organisation's track record of commissioning artists to make new work, Factory International is a training ground for the next generation of creators. The focus is on creating opportunities for artists from the North of England, particularly those most underrepresented in the sector, to develop work at scale, to be interdisciplinary and support the development of new international networks to export talent from the region.

Further opportunities span a new annual *Factory International Fellowship* in which six artists from the North shadow the creation of major new work at Factory International and Manchester International Festival, and a new writers series that runs alongside the premiere of a new production from **Maxine Peake**, with music from **Gazelle Twin**.

For more information on Factory International's artist development programmes visit factoryinternational.org.

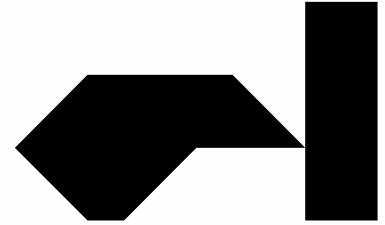
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Artist bios and high-resolution images available [HERE](#) Password: F@ctoryIntPR355

Factory Sounds alumni

Alumni from the Factory Sounds programme includes: All Hands on Deck, Balraj Singh Samrai, Bitez, Chris Massey, Dirty Freud, Edane Ng, Fixed Abode, Foxglove, FREQUENCY3, Gibbon, Huřguf, is33n, Jacob Connor, James Holt, Jasmin Issaka, Ku'umba, Lavender Rodriguez, Lone Taxidermist, Loose Articles, Magpahi, Mali Hayes, Maryanne Royle, Meduulla, Obeka, OneDa, PRIDO, Rohaan, SAF-S2E, Sam Malik, SHAR, Sophie Cooper, Sprechen, STNLY, Test Card Girl and Vzion.

QUOTES

Caitlin LM

"I'm so excited to be a part of Factory Sounds! This opportunity means I will be able to dedicate time to properly work on my own music, which can be hard to do around other music work. I'm also so excited to learn and grow alongside the rest of the cohort and be inspired by their work too!"

CHARMS

"I cannot describe how happy I am to have been selected for Factory Sounds. I am very grateful for the opportunity. At the start of 2024 I set out some goals and aspirations for the year and this fund will really help to bring some of my creative ideas into fruition."

Danny H

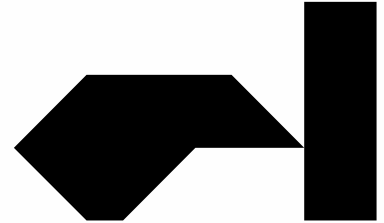
"I am so grateful to have been selected for Factory Sounds! This programme will allow me to showcase my talent and allow me to represent people like me all over the world. Not to mention the guidance, support and connections an organisation like this provides! My goal has always been to empower people through music and this is an incremental step in helping me to do exactly that!"

FLUFF

"We are so happy to be a part of this recent artistic venture for Manchester. It will be amazing to meet local innovators and to receive mentorship for our work promoting and supporting the music of upcoming LGBTQ+ artists through FLUFF. We hope that being part of this year's Factory Sounds cohort will provide us with a platform for our work as performers, music producers and promoters and that we will be able to connect with likeminded musicians for future collaborations both in the studio and on stage."

J.Chambers

"I'm really happy to be chosen for Factory Sounds, its great to see a big space with lots of collaborators pour into the local scene with programmes like this and their continued focus on booking"



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local talent. Factory Sounds will help me extend my network both regionally and hopefully nationally which will assist me with the finalising, marketing and roll out of my next body of work 'Homecoming'."

Rumbi Tauro

"I'm incredibly excited to be part of this programme. I feel like this is the perfect year for me to be mentored at the stage I'm at and to be receiving this support. I hope that these next few months are filled with many creative collaborations. From this I hope to strengthen existing creative networks and for doors of new opportunities to open wide."

Sally from Thraa

"It's a great honour to have been selected for Factory Sounds. I've never applied for funding before, application forms terrify me, but I found this one very accessible. Getting this funding has given me a massive confidence boost that I'm not just my day job! Not only will the funding go towards getting music project Thraa off the ground, but I'm mostly looking forward to getting to know the people at Factory Sounds / hoping to get an insight into how to operate better as an artist."

STEAM Radio

"We're really pleased to be a part of this cohort – everyone's work sounds so interesting, and we can't wait to get going with the mentorship scheme. It's a tricky time for grassroots arts projects, but the Factory Sounds grant will allow us to upgrade our studio and to improve the experience for everyone that uses it. We're really grateful for the opportunity!"

About Factory International

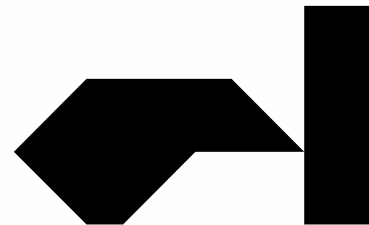
Factory International commissions, produces and presents a year-round programme of original creative work and special events at Aviva Studios, its landmark new home in Manchester, online, and internationally through its network of co-commissioners and partners. It also stages the city-wide Manchester International Festival every other year.

The design of Aviva Studios is led by **Ellen van Loon** of the world-leading practice Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA). Built with flexibility in mind, the building is based around large, open, adaptable spaces that can be constantly reconfigured, enabling artists to develop and create large-scale work of invention and ambition of a kind not seen anywhere else in the world.

A unique canvas to make, explore and experiment, audiences can enjoy the broadest range of art forms from major exhibitions and concerts to intimate performances and immersive experiences. The venue's development is led by Manchester City Council, with backing of £99.05m from **HM Government** and £7m **National Lottery** funding from **Arts Council England**.

Factory International builds on the legacy of Manchester International Festival, one of the world's leading arts festivals, and the first to be entirely focused on the commissioning and producing of ambitious new work. Staged every two years in Manchester since 2007, world-renowned artists from different art forms and backgrounds create dynamic, innovative and forward-thinking new work in venues and spaces across Greater Manchester.

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Factory International plays an important role in the lives of Greater Manchester residents, bringing jobs, skills, training and creative opportunities. Through the Factory Academy, Factory International is training the creative workforce of the future, while its pioneering creative engagement and artist development programmes create year-round opportunities for local people to get involved, from participating in flagship commissions to shaping the organisation through involvement in its public forums.

Factory International runs a development programme for those in Manchester's music scene called Factory Sounds. Successful applicants are offered £1,000 of financial support towards the creation of a new project and also benefit from peer-to-peer support, access to Factory International's talent development programmes and networking opportunities. With no restrictions on what the project can be, previous Sounds alumni have created music management companies, financed the release of singles, EPs and albums, fitted out recording studios, run production workshops, and supported artists to tour. Currently open for applications, the next cohort will be selected in February 2024.

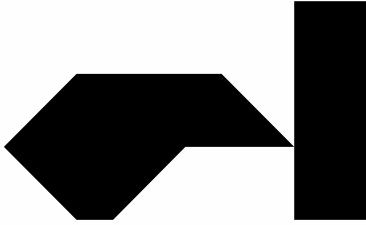
Factory International is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.
factoryinternational.org

About Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. From 2023 to 2026 we will invest over £467 million of public money from Government and an estimated £250 million from The National Lottery each year to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

www.artscouncil.org.uk

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