



***Mother India – Version 2.***  
**Musician – Commission Opportunities (x2)**

January 2022

Kala Phool has seen notable artistic success with their internationally successful Mother India project (see 'Context & Background' further below). The organisation is now embarking on a new phase of research and development of creative ideas in collaboration with a range of artists and musicians supported by Arts Council England funding.

In partnership with Birmingham City University (BCU), Kala Phool are excited to bring a range of artists together for two unique opportunities focussed around creative growth. The project is led by Indy Hunjan (Kala Phool Artistic Director) and Professor Rajinder Dudrah (Professor of Cultural and Creative Industries, BCU).

Already working with poets, photographers, jewellers, visual artists and designers on this project, Kala Phool is now offering **two** unique commissioning opportunities for musicians, composers, researchers and producers to create exciting new pieces of work. The project will form a body of work inspired by the unique stories from the Mother India film.

Many of the existing creative collaborators on this project were unaware of the film in the first place. The project seeks out excellence from individual interpretation of the film – so in short, you do not need to know the film intimately, but to study and understand it is of cultural importance.

## **The two music commissions are:**

### **Commission 1 – Score of Mother India.**

For the score of the film in its current musical format to be researched in the context of standard musical notation.

To have a written score will enable future potential plans of working with other domestic and international musicians and orchestras. It will place this project in a unique position of opening up the possibilities of collaboration in a way never seen and heard before.

### **The Brief:**

The film is over three hours long and is full of musical content, along with background musical content. There is a range of opportunities to research and document the score throughout the film. Our ultimate aim is to score each of these layers, and in order to do so we would like to commission an experienced musician, composer, music researcher or producer to explore and research the scoring via musical notation.

Leaving out the vocals of each of the songs throughout the film, our focus is firstly to look at the musical imprint of the film, this includes both the main and background musical identity of the film. Each layer exists for the other and therefore the importance of the relationship between musical layers is paramount to the explanation of emotions throughout the film.

There is no clear and concise notation of the score currently anywhere. The ambition of this commission is to research and explore the scoring and recording in order to provide a blueprint for the future. To study the soundtrack and extract the information needed to work on the full scoring would include (not exhaustive):

- Familiarise yourself with the themes, melodies, nuances of the film.
- Understand the musical narrative.
- Focus on the instrumental elements only.
- Secure your sound palette.
- Your final work to be presented professionally in 'short score' with detailed recommendations of the 'full score' ambition. This to include your text interpretation of the film.

Kala Phool is open to exploring other elements deemed important from the successful applicant/s.

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to also spend time with Indy Hunjan and Rajinder Dudrah to benefit from their experience and skills to ensure all are on the same page.

**The Fee:** The fee of £2500.00 is fully inclusive of all work, delivered within the timescale (noted further below).

## **Commission 2 – Reimagine Mother India.**

The film has a variety of storylines, each unique to each character in the film. The musical leaning of each is an individual interpretation and such Kala Phool seeks an artist, or group of artists, to reimagine the Mother India storyline chosen in collaboration with the team.

**The Brief:** The artistic brief is to create an imaginative and high quality series or piece of work totalling 90 minutes using sound. The artist/s will be asked to take the Mother India film as the inspiration.

If you are a group of musicians interested in applying, a lead applicant must be identified who also is the liaison for the project.

They will have the opportunity to also spend time with Indy Hunjan and Rajinder Dudrah to benefit from their experience and skills to ensure all are on the same page.

**The Fee:** The fee of £2500.00 is fully inclusive of all work, delivered within the timescale (noted further below).

### **Timescale:**

Closing date for applications – 12:00, Friday 28 January 2022.

Decision – Friday 4 February 2022.

First meeting – Week commencing 7 February 2022 – time/venue tbc but will be in the Midlands area or online.

First draft of work – Friday 25 February 2022.

Final draft of work – Friday 4 April 2022.

**How to apply:**

**If you are keen to apply for both commissions, we are open to joint or combined applications as long as there is a nominated point of contact.**

**Ownership of work:** The work will be co-owned by the creator and the Kala Phool project team, with the agreement that Kala Phool is given consent to broadcast, perform, adapt, transmit the work for explicitly the Mother India project. All and full ownership crediting will be given across all platforms Kala Phool uses.

**To apply please submit via email by 12:00, Friday 28 January 2022:**

- examples of at least three pieces of work (music) – sent by WeTransfer or similar
- two references from previous commissioner/collaborator/producer
- a one page, or video outlining your proposed artistic idea
- three examples of written and/or printed material showcasing your work
- links to all relevant social media used for your work

**Application:** All applications will be reviewed by Indy Hunjan and Professor Rajinder Dudrah. If successful we will contact you by 12:00, Friday 4 February 2022. Please note that we are unable to respond to all unsuccessful applicants.

Email applications, and any WeTransfer (or similar) to include your name, email, and which commission you are applying for, be addressed to [info@kalaphool.com](mailto:info@kalaphool.com)

**Further information:**

The project and its creative collaborators will be given a design treatment to tie all the work together. The successful applicant may be asked to collaborate with the project designer on elements, to ensure good communication and sharing of the work.

## **Mother India – Kala Phool’s first project Context & Background.**

Mother India 21st Century Remix (also known as ‘MI21’) is a live music-to-film project that re-scores, re-visualizes and re-presents the iconic ‘tour-de-force’ of Indian cinema; ‘Mother India’.

Directed by the great Mehboob Khan, the original three-hour early Bollywood epic was first screened in 1957 and was nominated for an Oscar as ‘Best Foreign Language Film’.

Lauded for its stunning cinematography, dynamic soundtrack, compelling storyline and powerful performances; the film came to symbolize the post-colonial Indian psyche interpreted through the ambitions, struggles, compassion and endurance of the main character Radha, the metaphorical ‘Mother India’ of the story, played by legendary Indian actress Nargis.

Whilst profoundly influential on Indian cinema and despite its native popularity, Mother India remains largely unknown and unseen outside the older South Asian community even though it’s universal themes of poverty and exploitation, courage and integrity, abuse and the role of women in society are arguably as relevant today as ever.

Kala Phool’s mission has been to bring this classic film to new, wider and more diverse global audiences in a way that both celebrates the original and drives new audiences to it, whilst also offering a fresh new experience to those already familiar with it.

Kala Phool’s first iteration of MI21 created a new, live electronic and classical music score set to a 45 minute silent re-edit of the original film, designed to portray the main narrative, articulate the metaphorical beauty of the cinematography and to forefront the key philosophical questions posed by the film.

Removing the dialogue, subtitles and any spoken narrative meant that we could remove any language and cultural barriers to experiencing the film. This would also mean that the piece would communicate solely through the stunning, operatic performances, the mastery of Mehboob Khan’s(1) metaphorical cinematography and how we selected and edited scenes in order to emphasis key parts of the narrative; and how the instrumental composition would be used to underscore, enhance and accentuate the emotional, dramatic and philosophical impact of the film.

The audience to MI21 (version 1) was fantastic, selling out two UK and international tours, to extremely diverse audiences, playing to over 50,000 people, filling venues and festivals in New York, Singapore, Australia, including London’s South Bank Centre and Sydney’s Royal Opera House.

The critical response was equally as effusive, with the Guardian, among others saying; "MI21 is a powerful and moving glimpse of a challenging, unwieldy masterpiece".

Mother India's lead character has been seen as a metonymic representation of a Hindu woman who reflects high moral values and the concept of what it means to be a mother to society through self-sacrifice. *Mother India* metaphorically represents India as a nation in the aftermath of its independence in 1947, and alludes to a strong sense of nationalism and nation-building. While some authors treat Radha as the symbol of women empowerment, others see her cast in female stereotypes.

The music by Naushad(2) introduced global music, including Western classical music and orchestra, to Hindi cinema.

The film has inspired many in later years to build its ambition of the shared experience.

You can view the entire 1957 Mother India film via Youtube:

<https://youtu.be/T1xTqCNTGT8>

Find out more of the work via [www.kalaphool.com](http://www.kalaphool.com) //

<https://youtu.be/BQNHjrZ2I3k>

(1) Mehboob Khan – [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mehboob\\_Khan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mehboob_Khan)

(2) Naushad – <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naushad>

## **Thank You**

Kala Phool and our partners do not underestimate the effort that goes into putting yourself forward for an opportunity like this, and we want to thank you for your time in considering this call.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Website – [www.kalaphool.com](http://www.kalaphool.com)  
Email – [info@kalaphool.com](mailto:info@kalaphool.com)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/kalaphool>  
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