

**CAL Undergraduate Research Scholarships Scheme 2017
Project Proposal Form**

Project Proposer/s:	Prof. Helen Abbott (h.abbott@bham.ac.uk), Dr Caroline Ardrey (c.ardrey@bham.ac.uk)
School/Dept:	LCAHM, Modern Languages (French)
Project Title:	The Baudelaire Song Project
Project Summary	
<p>The Baudelaire Song Project is a four-year research project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, which began in summer 2015. Rooted in French literature, music and culture, the Project is led by Professor Helen Abbott with Research Associate Dr Caroline Ardrey, both based in the Department of Modern Languages.</p> <p>The Baudelaire Song Project examines how the poetry of Charles Baudelaire has been set to music, across different time periods, musical genres and even different languages. There are two key elements to the Baudelaire Song Project: firstly, the Project is in the process of establishing a database of song settings (currently standing at c. 1,100 songs), secondly, the project uses digital humanities methodologies to annotate and analyse songs, using computer programs Sonic Visualiser and Audacity. The analysis aims to show the changes wrought upon poetic texts when they are set to music, and to explore the many different readings of Baudelaire's poetry through song. In compiling a database of the many song settings of Baudelaire's poetry, and in analysing individual songs, and groups of songs, the project underscores the continued relevance of poetry in a range of social and cultural environments, including, of course, our own.</p>	
What the researcher will do	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use specially-developed database to input poem and song data • Analyse data relating to song genre and language (timing, accentual stresses, performance trends) • Develop a familiarity with the poetry of Baudelaire and song settings of his work • Gain skills in innovative Digital Humanities methodologies, in particular sound analysis • Develop skills in writing up findings, through a variety of outputs including social media and blog posts, and scholarly articles, as appropriate • Particular corpus/focus will be established at the start of the project in conjunction with the project team, e.g. death metal song settings, song settings in translation, prose poetry, according to expertise and project needs • Contribute to public-facing event planning (SongMakers workshops and masterclasses) 	
Skills required by the Scholarship holder	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good level of French, excellent comprehension skills • Excellent written English, with ability to write for a variety of audiences (e.g. general interest / academic) • Ability to read music and an interest in song / music of any genre • Confident with technology (in particular working knowledge of Excel and some knowledge of html / xml desirable) 	
How will your Project benefit the Scholarship holder?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to work in a cutting-edge field of word and music studies • Hands-on experience of using Digital Humanities tools for research including database inputting / management, using social media for research and digital music analysis • Chance to work closely with French poetry, developing analytic and academic writing skills, supported by a team of academics at different levels (Professor / ECR) • Opportunity to select own research area within the corpus of song settings, and produce a scholarly article on that topic (e.g. a particular composer / genre / song translation) • Excellent grounding for undergraduate research projects and possible postgraduate study 	
How will the Scholarship benefit your Project?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scholarship will bring in the insight of another researcher, who may have different interests to the 	

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Project team, within the scope of the Project, and enable them to address areas of our corpus of songs that may not otherwise be selected for detailed analysis during the project lifecycle (ends 2019).

- The Scholarship is a vital opportunity to engage undergraduates in our research and share the relevance of Baudelaire's poetry with other audiences.