

## TIMELINE: ALAN EDWARD WILLIAMS THE ARSONISTS

Dates	Action
June 2014	Ian McMillan writes text 1 “ <b>Like Me Dad</b> ”. Alan Williams sets this.
July 2014	Session 1, workshopping “ <b>Like Me Dad</b> ” with baritone Richard Strivens, with Philip Tipton (University of Salford), Ian McMillan, and establishing the methods for moving on. We agree: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That a “general northern” accent isn’t specific enough</li> <li>2. That the poet’s own voice needs to be the guide (and therefore we need to record the poet speaking his/her own text</li> <li>3. That we should try using the International Phonetic Alphabet in order to stabilize the pronunciation of the singer</li> </ol> <p><i>Listen to <b>Audio Summary of Session 1.</b></i></p>
August 2014	Ian McMillan writes two more texts: “ <b>Bow Tie</b> ” and “ <b>Tears Like a Bust Pipe</b> ”, and these are recorded in Huddersfield
September 2014	Philip Tipton transcribes these texts into the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)
	Using the recordings, the composer sets these two new texts
	Session 2. Soprano Zoe Milton Brown, baritone Richard Strivens workshop “Bow Tie”, with advice from Omar Ibrahim (who premiered the role of “Northern Shepherd” in Birtwistle’s <i>Yan Tan Tethera</i> )
December 2014	Session 3. Tenor Nick Sales workshops “Tears Like a Bust Pipe”. Advice from Conrad Nelson of Northern Broadsides Theatre Company
January 2015	Ian McMillan writes “ <b>Smoke Drifts at Shift Change</b> ” and “ <b>Concrete Poetry</b> ” The first is transcribed into IPA (Philip Tipton), recorded by Ian McMillan, and set by Alan Williams.
February 2015	Session 4: soprano Sarah Helsby Hughes, Tenor Nick Sales, Baritone Tom Eaglen workshop all material and work with Choreographer Sarie Mairs Slee on embodying characters who labour physically. All work on rhythms in “ <b>Concrete Poetry</b> ”. <i>See “<b>Summary Video of Northern Opera Project First Phase</b>” and “<b>IM Concrete Poetry</b>”</i>
March 2015	Session 5: demonstration of work in Peel Hall Salford (see <i><b>Scores of Northern Voices Opera Project songs</b></i> , and <i><b>Links to Videos of Northern Opera Songs</b></i> )
March 2015 – December 2016	Ian McMillan writes libretto to <i>The Arsonists</i> . Advice given variously by TV writer Ian Kershaw, and TV Producer Justine Potter, and continuous restructurings are suggested by Alan Williams. Ian McMillan records entire libretto. <i>See <b>The Arsonists – Sample audio file of the author reading his own libretto</b></i>

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<b>January 2017 - September 2017</b>	Alan Williams composes the score to <i>The Arsonists</i> . See <b><i>The Arsonists chamber opera full orchestral score</i></b>
<b>September 2017- October 2017</b>	Rehearsal process involving Philip Tipton (sociolinguist) as accent coach – see <b><i>Accent Notes</i></b> .
<b>November 2017</b>	Heritage Opera and an ensemble from the BBC Philharmonic rehearse and perform <i>The Arsonists</i> . See <b><i>The Arsonists Short Taster Video</i></b> and <b><i>“Me Emergency Exit is Blocked”</i></b> and <b><i>“The Arsonists audio”</i></b>