

Live Music Performances for Schools 2022

Commission Opportunity

Summary:

Wiltshire Music Connect is seeking to commission a number of organisations, or groups of individuals, to develop and deliver high quality live music performances for young people aged 5-18 years across Wiltshire. We will prioritise our Associates for this commission, but we will also consider proposals from non-Associates, especially if they focus on digital performance opportunities and diverse music genres / styles.

Why are we doing this?

We know from our annual programme of school visits that there is demand for high-quality music performances that schools can access in their local area, at reasonable and accessible cost. This need has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic which has limited opportunities for pupils to experience live music. The geographic sprawl of Wiltshire, which can make it time-consuming and expensive for schools to travel to a central location to see a performance, also causes barriers for schools.

These commissions support two of our roles as a [Music Education Hub](#): *the provision of inspirational experiences and School Music Education Plans*.

Key Parameters:

- We have a total of £6,000 to invest in 2-5 different projects led by Associates or other organisations.
- We expect to award funds of between £500 and £2,500 depending on the size of the project.
- Each funded project must lever a minimum of 20% cash match funding or earned income (i.e. not made up of support in kind). We expect at least some of this to come from the schools that benefit.
- All performances will need to take place between April and December 2022.
- We expect at least one of the projects we fund to be digital in nature.

Each project must (essential):

1. Include at least one high-quality large-scale performance OR a number of high-quality smaller performances (please see the [Quality](#) and [Inspirational Experiences](#) pages on our website for further information)
2. Reach an audience of at least 150 young people from more than one school (although some projects may reach many more than 150 young people)
3. Engage with at least one of the [14 musical clusters](#) in Wiltshire
4. Be inclusive and accessible;
5. Provide appropriate safeguarding for all young people, including consents for any photography / audio/ video recording

Projects might also (desirable):

1. Include some element of participation / active musical learning that schools can link to their own curriculum / ensembles
2. Be supported by resources that can be used by schools / teachers / tutors before or after the events and leave some tangible legacy in participating schools.
3. Provide an opportunity for other local tutors / providers to showcase their offers to schools

Additional Information:

Geography - We are not expecting these projects to cover the whole of Wiltshire, however, we would like a balanced spread of opportunities across the county. We will not, therefore, commission two projects in the same location.

Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) – Wiltshire Music Connect is committed to encouraging schools and providers of musical opportunities to consider EDI across their musical work. We are particularly interested in projects that can broaden / extend understanding of different (musical) cultures and / or reach out to young people who may not be currently engaged in music education.

Genre – We want to widen the range and ‘mix’ of different genres through these commissions and so, when assessing applications, we will be looking for contrasting ideas that complement each other and create a more diverse collective offering (rather than projects that all focus on the same genre.) Again, we will be keen to support genres / styles / approaches not covered in the previous year.

Audience Numbers – The number of young people that benefit from each project will vary depending on the kind of performance and the location. We will not select projects simply because they reach a large number of young people - we will want to see that careful consideration has been given to estimating realistic audience numbers for the type of performance/activity and the location(s).

Age Range – The performance projects must target young people aged between 5-18 years. Projects might target just one particular year group within this range or may appeal to a broad range of year groups. Ideally, we will commission projects that provide a balance of opportunities for different ages across the county.

Unit Cost – You will need to give some thought to the unit cost for your project. How much is it going to cost per child / per school and how much of this cost will you be asking the schools to cover? What will be the additional costs to schools? (e.g. travel, cover teaching etc.) Reach and accessibility is key, so you will need to balance the need to make economies of scale with the need to reduce travel time / distance for schools.

Recruiting Schools – You will need to have a clear idea of which schools / clusters you intend to work with. We won't be expecting you to have schools signed up yet, but if successful, you will need to work with the relevant Cluster Co-ordinator to recruit schools and ensure a fair distribution of performances. Once commission decisions have been made, we will ask successful organisations to confirm arrangements with target schools by a specified date (see below) and each participating school will need to complete a [School Participation Agreement](#).

Digital Performances – At least one of the projects we commission will be digital in nature – for example, live-streamed or recorded performances

Monitoring:

Commissioned organisations will be required to measure/capture the following information for each project:

- The number and location of Wiltshire Schools engaging / participating in the project
- The number of young people from each of the above attending as audiences by year groups and gender
- The number of young people participating in music making (if appropriate) by year group and gender
- School teaching staff attendance / participation (including any CPD) – names, numbers, teaching role
- Qualitative evaluation feedback from schools to measure how effectively the aims of the event were reached and their inclusivity / accessibility.

Timeline for applications:

1. We recommend that you arrange to have an informal chat with us about this opportunity before you apply. Please email sophie.amstell@wiltshiremusicconnect.org.uk to arrange this.
2. Completed *Project Proposal Forms* will need to be submitted by 12 noon on Monday 13th December 2021.
3. We hope to make final decisions on commissions by Friday 17 December 2021. Decisions will be made by a panel including Music Cluster Coordinators.
4. Successful applicants will then need to agree arrangements (and get signed School Participation Agreements) with target schools by the end of March 2022.