



Artist Call out Lyra Commissions

Lyra are offering four commissions to develop four new live performance pieces in collaboration with children and young people from Greater Craigmillar in Edinburgh (Lyra's Young Artists). The Commissions are part of our exciting, new project, *Connections* funded by a National Lottery Community Fund Young Start Grant. The available Commissions are:

- Performing Arts X 2
- Dance X 1
- Music X 1

Each Commission includes:

- £4500 fee for the successful artist/company
- £1000 for materials
- £2500 for additional artists
- Free theatre and studio space
- Free hot desk office space
- Youth Arts Worker to support the sessions
- Producer support
- Opportunities to share the progress of the work with audiences and industry professionals

The Commissions

Lyra are looking for exciting, high quality proposals with a clear and strong idea. Each artist will lead weekly sessions for a group of young people between May 2019 and March 2020 to develop the work. The successful artists will be educated to degree level or equivalent in the arts and have a passion for creating work with, for and by children and young people.

Proposals should outline how the artist intends to collaborate with the Young Artists on a weekly basis, as well as the idea for the creation of a final work. The Young Artists must have a central role in the presentation of the final piece.

The Young Artists will be involved in every aspect of the Commissions process. They have prepared a letter for applicants, which includes their manifesto, and what they are looking for from the Proposals. (This can be downloaded on our website). The Proposals will be shortlisted and selected by the Lyra Young Artists.



Artists from any live performance background are welcome to apply including dance, parkour, music, circus, installation, theatre, storytelling, live art, moving image and more. Cross-disciplinary Proposals from independent artists, collectives or companies are also welcome.

The Weekly Sessions

Each commissioned artist will work weekly with a dedicated group, out-of-school time, over the course of a year to develop the work. The sessions run in line with the school calendar. Additional rehearsals and development time can also be arranged.

Dates:

w/c 20th May – w/c 17th June 2019

w/c 19th August – w/c 25th November 2019

w/c 12th Jan – w/c 2nd March 2020

Groups:

Wednesdays: Performing Arts (P3-5)

Thursdays: Performing Arts (P6-7)

Saturdays: Dance (age 8+)

Saturdays: Music (age 8+)

To be eligible, applicants must be available for the majority of the dates for your chosen group.

How to Apply

To apply, please send the following to lyra@lyra.co.uk by **12 noon on Friday 26th of April 2019**: CV, Application Form, No more than 5 examples of previous work, your Proposal (no more than one A4 page or 3 minutes of video / audio footage). All application documents can be downloaded on our website.

Please state in the email subject line which group/s you are submitting your Proposal for (e.g. Wednesday Performing Arts Commission). Lyra recognises the positive value of diversity, promotes equality and challenges discrimination. We welcome and encourage applicants from people of all backgrounds. If you wish to apply in a different format, please contact Lyra on 0131 659 4725 or lyra@lyra.co.uk

Interviews will be held on Wednesday 1st of May 2019. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to lead a practical session with children on the 2nd of May. Applicants must be available on both of these dates.



Supporting Information

Lyra's Young Artists

The Young Artists are the children and young people who take part in the regular arts activity at Lyra, through our [Watch, Learn, Create](#) framework. They live locally in Greater Craigmillar and are aged 8 – 18. The majority of our Young Artists are referred to us by teachers, social workers and agencies, because of their curiosity and passion for the performing arts.

Through their participation in our free programmes, the Young Artists develop a range of skills across art-forms and are supported to watch at least one professional performance per year. The Young Artists also learn to be collaborators and creators – always playing a central role from the outset of the creative process to the finished work.

About Lyra

Lyra's vision is to have a positive impact on the lives of children and young people in the community of Greater Craigmillar (Edinburgh) through engagement with a broad, rich world-class programme of performing arts, regardless of age, race/ ethnicity or socio-economic factors.

We run Artspace, a vibrant venue in the heart of Craigmillar which houses a 116-seat theatre, a flexible studio and foyer space. We work with arts professionals from Scotland and abroad to inspire young people, whilst attending to individual pastoral needs (such as behavioural support or home pick-ups) to enable participants to focus on their cultural engagement.

All of our work, from our regular groups to our events and productions, is focused on the best practitioners from around the world working side-by-side with the youngest members of one of Scotland's most deprived, diverse and exciting communities. Since 2012, we have been building a community of children, young people and artists and have created 15 artworks and performed more than 145 times at home and abroad. Over 2000 children and young people have taken part and accessed a range of opportunities and events at Lyra. Learn more about Lyra [here](#).

Lyra is led by founder and Artistic Director, Jo Timmins with Creative Producer, Tony Reekie, Operations Manager, Laura Wraight, Projects and Engagement Manager, Anna Plasberg-Hill and Arts Facilitator, Natalia Barua.



The Project - Connections

Connections is a new and exciting, young person-led project at Lyra that will engage existing and new participants in a range of arts projects and events. The project focuses on placing our participants at the centre of decision-making processes at Lyra, enabling children and young people to be even more at the heart of what we do.

There are two strands to the project – the Commissions and Culture Crew. The Commissions will see the development of four brand-new artworks per year, over the next 3 years. The focus of this strand is for the commissioned artists to create one-of-a-kind performance pieces in collaboration with the four regular groups at Lyra. The Young Artists will be involved in every aspect of the process from the recruitment process to the creation of the work itself.

Culture Crew will be a new regular group at Lyra, based on the successful Danish project KulturCrew by Denmark's Teatercentrum. The project will engage a group of young people as cultural curators of Artspace, and will support them to programme, promote and host 3 professional performance pieces per year as well as in-house events at Artspace, for the next 3 years.



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