



Call out: Bright & Wild Performing Arts Commission (ages 7-9) 2024/25

Lyra's Wednesday Young Artists group want to commission an experienced Lead Artist to create a new live performance work for the 2025 Bright & Wild festival.

The Lead Artist can be from any live performance background including dance, parkour, music, circus, installation, theatre, storytelling, live art, moving image and more.



Production shot of *How to Find a Dragon* by Katy Wilson, Kerry Cleland, Geraldine Heaney and the Wednesday Young Artists, commissioned for Bright & Wild 2024.

Bright & Wild is an annual festival with children and teens at its heart. It is a celebration of new work commissioned by, and created in collaboration with Lyra's Young Artists groups. Find out more about previous festivals [HERE](#).

Lyra's 2024/25 programming theme is 'Into the Night'. Artists are invited to be inspired by this provocation and pitch an idea for a new work that responds to the theme. (Read more about *Into the Night* in the 'How to Apply' section)

The Commission includes:

- Lead Artist fee of £5,280
- A budget of £1,500 for materials and collaborators
- Free theatre, studio and hot desk space at Lyra
- Facilitator and Youth Arts Worker to support the sessions and collaborate with.
- A Festival Designer to collaborate with and bring the work to life.
- Producer support, dramaturgical support and creative mentoring.
- Opportunities to share the progress of your work with invited audiences and industry professionals.



The Role

We're looking for an Artist(s) who is:

- able to present and realise an exciting, high-quality live artwork for Bright & Wild 2025.
- comfortable working with a large group of young children (aged 7-9) of mixed abilities.
- able to lead an inclusive and accessible process (with support from Lyra's Engagement team)
- passionate about creating a performance with children and teens.
- educated to a degree level in the performing arts or has equivalent professional experience.
- able to manage their commission budget (with support from Lyra's Engagement Producer)

Please Note: Due to the age of this group, our experience has shown that less traditional works are the most successful. We invite Artists to think about contemporary performance ideas that will play to the strengths and talents of the children, offering different avenues for their participation and contribution to the work. (e.g. promenade, installation, flash mobs, immersive/experiential works, happenings...)

Who can apply?

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 commission is suited to Artists who live in/close by to Edinburgh. We can subsidise travel costs up to a maximum of £500 per commission for applicants living outside of the City of Edinburgh.



The Group

The performing arts group is a mixed ability group in P4-P5, aged 7-9. They do not need to have prior experience of the performing arts to join in. Most participants are therefore at beginner level.

Weekly Sessions

The successful Artist(s) will deliver weekly sessions with the Performing Arts group after school on Wednesdays from **October 2024 - June 2025**. The standard weekly call time is 2.15pm – 6pm. (including briefing and debrief)

Additionally, there will be 2 induction days, 1 tech/dress day and 4 days in the festival week. (30 days total at £176 per day). The final performances will be presented in the **w/c 2 June 2025**. (See project schedule for detail)

Project Schedule

Mon 30 Sep 2024 – Lead Artist Induction (time TBC)

Tue 1 Oct 2024 – Performance Technique for Young Artists (time TBC)

w/c 30 Sep – w/c 7 Oct 2024: Wednesdays @ 2.15pm – 6pm (2 weeks)

October break

w/c 28 Oct - w/c 25 Nov 2024: Wednesdays @ 2.15pm – 6pm (5 weeks)

Winter break

w/c 13 Jan – w/c 3 Feb 2025: Wednesdays @ 2.15pm – 6pm (4 weeks)

February break

w/c 17 Feb - w/c 24 Mar 2025: Wednesdays @ 2.15pm – 6pm (6 weeks)

Spring break

w/c 21 Apr – w/c 12 May 2025: Wednesdays @ 2.15pm – 6pm (4 weeks)

w/c 19 May 2025: Bright & Wild Tech Week (1 day)

w/c 26 May 2025: Trip to Edinburgh International Children's Festival

w/c 3 June 2025: Bright & Wild production weeks (schedule TBC, 4 days)

Please Note: We understand that freelance Artists will be balancing several projects. Applicants should be available for the dates listed in the schedule, however, if schedule clashes can't be avoided cover can be arranged on occasion.



How to Apply

Into the Night – Lyra’s programming theme for 2024/25

For the 2025 Bright & Wild Festival, Lyra’s Young Artists have chosen to bravely step ‘Into the Night’, exploring possibilities for adventure after the lights go out. Traditionally a time when all good children are safely tucked up in bed, the after-hours offer a rich playground for artistic enquiry.

We are excited about real life sleepovers, midnight feasts, bedtime stories by campfire and the monster under the bed. We dream of pop-up pillow fights, taking audiences to the moon, all night concerts, the terror of ghost stories and staying up until dawn. We see lantern trails through Craigmillar, shadows by torchlight and an entire audience gazing up at the stars.

The children and teenagers at Lyra love different styles of performance from installation, promenade and gig-theatre to dance-theatre, plays and more. However, whatever the form or idea, we are looking for proposals that push the boundaries of performance made with children, that push the possibilities of our theme and that tap into the thrill of staying up past your bedtime.

Stage One: Tell Us About You and Outline Your Idea

Please submit the following to lyra@lyra.co.uk by Wednesday 28 August at 12 midday:

- your CV
- 3 examples of your work to date (we welcome you to include images/web links)
- Your commission proposal. This should be in a video or audio format and no more than 5 minutes long. Please send a link to a file transfer service or online video sharing website (let us know if you need help with this). Written applications are discouraged as they are less accessible to young children. However, if video or audio format does not suit your own access requirements, then please contact us to discuss a written application (anna@lyra.co.uk).



Top Tips for your Application:

1. **Lyra is a child-led organisation.** Remember that your proposal will be listened to/watched by the Young Artists (aged 7-9) and **they will make the shortlisting decisions.** Please take care to ensure that your proposal is child-friendly and addresses them directly.
2. In our experience, the best proposals are centred on an artistically strong idea that will inspire and challenge the Young Artists. Think about how you can help the Young Artists to visualise, imagine and get excited about the work... feel free to include a short task/exercise in your video that our Young Artists could carry out after they watch/listen/read your proposal.
3. If you would like to have a chat about your idea before applying, don't hesitate to contact Lyra's Engagement Producer, Anna Plasberg-Hill on anna@lyra.co.uk

Stage Two: Pitch Your Idea to the Young Artists

Applicants shortlisted by the young people in Stage One, will be invited to lead a **practical workshop** with the Young Artists, where they will have the opportunity to pitch their idea. Applicants will be paid for this workshop.

The Young Artists will vote for their preferred idea after the practical workshops. **Workshops will take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 18 September.**



Production shot of *Learning to Dance in the Rain* by Niamh O'Loughlin and Youth Dance, commissioned for Bright & Wild 2024.

We are also currently advertising for our upper primary (ages 9-11) Performing Arts Commission – for more information about these roles click here: www.lyra.co.uk/workwithus

Diversity and Inclusion

Lyra is an Equal Opportunities employer and welcomes applicants from diverse backgrounds. We recognise there are barriers to working in performance and that these challenges are experienced more acutely by some people. We are committed to increasing the diversity of practitioners working in our sector and especially welcome applications from those who identify as having characteristics currently under-represented in our sector. This includes people with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010 across age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation alongside those with chronic illness, neurodiversity, parental/caring responsibilities, experience of the immigration system and people from working-class backgrounds.



We are especially keen to hear from applicants who identify as part of the global majority, especially welcoming applicants from the African and Caribbean diaspora, Latinx, the East Asian diaspora, from the South East Asian Diaspora, from the South Asian Diaspora, West Asian (includes Middle East) Diaspora, Indigenous people, bi-racial/ mixed heritage, or who self-identifies as a Person of Colour or Black. We invite you to tell us if you identify as sharing one or more of the prioritised characteristics outlined above.

To tackle underrepresentation, applicants who identify as part of the global majority and meet the requirements of the role will automatically be taken to stage 2 of the recruitment process.

Application Support

If you would like any of this information in a different format or require further support in making an application, please contact us directly on lyra@lyra.co.uk. Please also tell us about any access requirements you may have to support you to undertake this project.