

Call out: Bright & Wild Performing Arts Commission (ages 9-11) 2025/26

Lyra's Thursday Young Artists group want to commission an experienced Lead Artist to create a new live performance work for the 2026 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.

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](#).



Way Past My Bedtime by Sally Charlton at the Thursday Young Artists, 2025. Image by Eoin Carey

The Commission includes:

- Lead Artist fee of £5365 (£185 per day)
- A budget of £1,500 for materials and collaborators
- Free theatre, studio and hot desk space at Lyra
- Facilitator and Youth Arts Workers to support the sessions and collaborate with.
- A Festival Designer to collaborate with and bring the work to life.
- Producer support, creative mentoring and dramaturgical input.
- Opportunities to share the progress of your work with invited audiences and industry professionals.

The Role

The successful Artist(s) will be:

- able to present and realise an exciting, high-quality live artwork for Bright & Wild 2026.
- comfortable working with a large group (up to 25) of young performers (aged 9-11) of mixed abilities.
- open to leading an inclusive and accessible process with the support of Lyra's Engagement team.
- passionate about creating performance with children and teens.
- educated to a degree level in the performing arts or have equivalent professional experience.
- able to manage their commission budget (with support from Lyra's Engagement Producer)

Please Note: The successful candidate will be required to undergo a PVG and reference check before any offers of employment can be confirmed.



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 as all sessions take place at Artspace, 11 Harewood Road, Edinburgh EH16 4NT. 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 P6-P7 (ages 9-11). 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 Thursdays from **October 2025 - June 2026**. The standard weekly call time is 2.15pm – 6pm. (including briefing and debrief)

Additionally, there will be 2 training days, 1 tech/dress day and 4 days during the festival week. (30 days total, at £185 per day). The final performances will be presented in the **w/c 8 June 2026**.

Project Schedule

Lead Artist Induction: Thursday 2 October (time TBC)

Training: Performance Technique for Young Artists (date/time TBC)

w/c 6 October – w/c 6 October, Thursdays @ 2.15pm – 6pm – 1 session

October holidays – 2 weeks off

w/c 27 October – w/c 24 November, Thursdays @ 2.15pm – 6pm – 5 sessions

Winter break – 4 weeks off

w/c 12 January – w/c 9 February, Thursdays @ 2.15pm – 6pm – 5 sessions

February break – 1 week off

w/c 23 February – w/c 23 March, Thursdays @ 2.15pm – 6pm – 5 sessions

Spring break – 3 weeks off

w/c 20 April – w/c 18 May, Thursdays @ 2.15pm – 6pm – 5 sessions

w/c 25 May 2026: Bright & Wild Tech Week (1 day)

w/c 1 June 2026: Trip to Edinburgh International Children's Festival (1 day)

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

Please Note: We understand that freelance Artists will be balancing a number of 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

- **Stage One: Submit your Expression of Interest to lyra@lyra.co.uk by Monday 1 September, 5pm**

Your Expression of interest should include the following:

- your CV
- a link to your website (if you have one) or 3 examples of your work.
- A short Biography (no more than half a page)

- **Stage Two: Shortlisted Artists to submit a Commission Proposal to the Young Artists by Monday 15 September at 5pm.**

Candidates will be informed whether they've been invited to Stage Two by Thursday 4 September.

If you have been shortlisted, you'll be invited to prepare a commission proposal, responding to the Bright & Wild 26 programming theme. Proposals should be in video or audio format and no more than 5 minutes. The Young Artists will then review and shortlist their favourite proposals.

[We ask for a video/audio proposal as this is the most accessible for our participants. However, if video or audio format does not suit your own access requirements, then we will be happy to discuss a written application]

- **Stage Three: Pitch Your Idea to the Young Artists on Thursday 25 September**

Applicants shortlisted by the children in Stage Two, 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 Thursday 25 September.**

Summary of Application Process:

- Deadline for Expression of Interest: Monday 1 September, 5pm
- Shortlisted Candidates invited to Prepare a Commission Proposal: Thursday 4 September
- Deadline for Commission Proposals: Monday 15 September, 5pm
- Shortlisted Candidates invited to Pitch their Idea: Friday 19 September
- Practical Workshops: Thursday 25 September

If you have any questions about the process, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Engagement Producer (anna@lyra.co.uk) for an informal conversation about your application.



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.