



Bright & Wild 2025 – Musician/Composer Callout

Lyra's Youth Music group are looking for an experienced Musician/Composer to collaborate with in the creation of an original live music performance for the 2025 Bright & Wild festival.

Music means different things to different people. We are open to all definitions! Applications might include sound design, vocal scores, interdisciplinary works 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](#).



Production shot of Warm, Cold and Inbetween by Tenzin Stephen and Youth Music, commissioned for Bright & Wild 2024.

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 £3,872
- A budget of £1,000 for materials and collaborators
- Free theatre, studio and hot desk space at Lyra
- A 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 and creative mentoring from Lyra's Music Consultant.
- Opportunities to share the progress of your work with invited audiences and industry professionals.



The Role

The successful Musician/Composer will be:

- able to compose original music in collaboration with Lyra's Young Artists and create a high-quality music performance for the 2025 Bright & Wild festival.
- inspired by the opportunity to collaborate with children and young people in the creation of an original music composition.
- able to work with a large group of young musicians with mixed abilities (mostly complete beginners, aged 8+)
- open to leading an accessible and inclusive process with support from Lyra's Engagement team and Music Consultant, Caitlin Mulgrew.
- Experienced in or open to non-traditional music making approaches, such as Figurenotes, Kodàly or Colour Strings.
- educated to a degree level in music or have equivalent professional experience.
- able to manage their commission budget (with support from Lyra's Engagement Producer)

Who can apply?

Artists from any music performance background are welcome to apply. Group/partner applications are also welcome, if you would like to work with a collaborator to deliver the commission.



Production shot of Warm, Cold and Inbetween by Tenzin Stephen and Youth Music, commissioned for Bright & Wild 2024.

The commission is suited to Artists who live in/close by to Edinburgh. We can subsidise travel costs up to a maximum of £350 per commission for applicants living outside of the City of Edinburgh.



The Group

The Youth Music group is a mixed ability group of 25 participants, aged 8-12. They do not need to have prior experience of music to join in. Most participants are therefore at complete beginner level. Historically, this group has worked with a band set-up using Lyra's music resources which include: keyboards, xylophones, boomwhackers, cajon, djeme, 1 drumkit, microphones, acoustic and electric guitars and a variety of hand percussion instruments.

The successful Musician/Composer will join the group halfway through the year of activity at Lyra. The first half of the year has primarily been spent learning rhythmic, vocal and musicality skills with a Music specialist. The Music Specialist will also introduce basic instrument skills, depending on the progress of participants.

When the successful Musician/Composer meets the group, we invite you to work with the skills the children have developed, meeting them where they are, to embark on an imaginative music-making process.

Weekly Sessions

The successful Artist(s) will deliver weekly sessions with the Music group on Saturdays from **January - June 2025**. The standard weekly call time is 12pm – 3pm. (including a briefing and debrief)

Additionally, there will be 2 induction days, and 4 days in production week. (22 sessions total at £176 per session including planning and travel time). The final performances will be presented in the **w/c 2 June 2025**. (See project schedule for detail)

Project Schedule

w/c 13 Jan – w/c 3 Feb 2025: Saturdays @ 12pm – 3pm (4 weeks)

February break

w/c 17 Feb - w/c 24 Mar 2025: Saturdays @ 12pm – 3pm (6 weeks)

Spring break

w/c 21 Apr – w/c 12 May: Saturdays @ 12pm – 3pm (4 weeks)

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



w/c 26 May: Trip to Edinburgh International Children's Festival (Time TBC)
w/c 3 June: Bright & Wild production weeks (schedule TBC)

Please Note: We understand that freelance Artists will be balancing a number of projects. Applicants should be available for the majority of the dates, however, cover can be arranged for weeks when the lead Artist is working elsewhere.

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 Friday 8 Nov at 5pm:

- 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 read/listened to/watched by the Young Artists (aged 8+) 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 your video.
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 (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 Saturday 23 November**

The selected Lead Artist is invited to an end of term studio sharing on Sat 30 November at 2pm.



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.