

Aberdeenshire
Youth Music Initiative 2025/26

An invitation to

MUSICIANS/ ARTISTS

to deliver a
YOUTH LED
RICH MEDIA
PROJECT



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Intended Impact

Are you a creative musician who thrives on collaboration? Join us in Aberdeenshire to co-create with young people—bring your ideas, energy, and artistry to help them craft a powerful message they can share.

We are committed to Fair Work practices. The finer details of the project—such as content, structure, and final outcomes—will be agreed collaboratively once the musician is commissioned. This approach ensures the creative process is shaped together, respecting your expertise and the voices of the young people involved.

Background

This project is funded by Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative (YMI) programme which aims to create access to high quality music making opportunities for young people and support the development of the youth music sector.

Lead Artist's Role

Lead Artist will deliver the project according to details in this brief.

- Plan, deliver and evaluate the programme
- Work with a group of young people who have a message they want to share.
- Submit monthly updates and end of project report

Timescale

The project will take place during the academic year August 2025 - July 2026. Projects will be completed by the end of the Summer term, and final reports submitted by 31st July 2026

Musician's Fee

A full breakdown of project budget can be found on Pages 11 but you will be paid for delivery and planning at the M.U. hourly rate of £44. The budget allows for a lead practitioner and a second artist to work with them (e.g. Musician and Film-maker)

If you are interested, please continue reading for more information and how to apply.

Aberdeenshire Youth Music Initiative Programme is looking for a bold, creative musician to lead an exciting Youth Music Initiative project that puts young voices at the heart of the process.

This is a unique opportunity to collaborate with an established group of passionate young people who want to share an important message about the UNCRC Rights of the Child. You'll help them turn their ideas into something powerful—whether that's music, film, performance, or another creative expression that resonates and inspires.

Working alongside Aberdeenshire colleagues and community partners, you'll co-design and deliver a project that reflects the group's aspirations, amplifies their message, and creates a lasting impact. If you're dynamic, innovative, and ready to empower young people to explore their creativity and make their voices heard, we'd love to hear from you.



This project is funded by the Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative (YMI) programme which has the following purpose:

1. To meet the YMI Scottish Government commitment: every school pupil in Scotland should be offered a year of free music tuition by the time they leave primary school.
2. For projects delivered beyond the above commitment, the purpose is: to address inequity and contribute to Scottish Government's agenda in tackling child poverty by engaging children and young people most in need.

We also consider the following Scottish Government Priorities:

- **Tackling Child Poverty** – we are carefully considering the locations and groups we are working with.
- **Fair Work** – all musicians will be paid at the current Musicians Union rate and their ideas will be incorporated into planning their own projects and contributing to the programme. In addition, we also offer paid musicians development opportunities.
- **Sustainability** – we are keen to reduce our carbon footprint, however, Aberdeenshire is a large, rural area, so we invite artists to propose ways of offsetting this, and show us how they have considered sustainability within their programme of activity



Why This Project Matters

- In line with the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) being incorporated into Scottish law in February 2024, this project champions Article 12—every child has the right to express their views, feelings, and wishes in all matters affecting them—and Article 13—every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and access information within the law.

Our Approach

- We will work with partners who can support young people to express their voices through music in ways that are accessible, enjoyable, and meaningful. We're excited to explore innovative methods of engagement, especially for those who may never have engaged with music before. This could include contemporary genres such as R&B, Hip-Hop, Rock, Pop, or World Music, but most importantly, the content will be designed, written, and delivered by the young people themselves, sharing their message in their own style.

Project Timeline

- The project will run during the academic year August 2025 – July 2026, with schedules agreed collaboratively and respecting the needs and availability of young people. Sessions will primarily take place during the school day, but may also include evenings, weekends, or holiday periods where appropriate. The final report must be submitted no later than 31 July 2026.



Project Focus

The heart of this project is to engage young people and empower them to share their voice through music and creativity. The group you'll work with already has a clear message they want to share, inspired by the UNCRC Rights of the Child.

Inclusivity and Cultural Identity

Scots/Doric speakers will be supported to use their own words, and young people whose first language is not English will be encouraged to explore their heritage and connections to the local area. This is about making music that feels authentic and meaningful to them.

What Participants Will Learn

Participants will gain foundational music skills in their chosen genre, which may include:

- Songwriting and composition
- Using a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) to create beats, write, rap/sing, and record lyrics
- Sound technology: field recordings, sound manipulation, and creating soundscapes
- Techniques such as sampling, beat-matching, MIDI programming, audio capture, editing, mixing, and mastering
- How to combine their music with video and/or other visual art forms to create a powerful, shareable film that amplifies their message.
- Home recording essentials: mic placement, setting levels, and mic selection
- Awareness of career paths and opportunities in the Creative Industries.

Impact

This project will evidence Paragraph Four of our Intended Impact Statement: ***“Through our programme, we strive to develop skills, boost confidence, and support children and young people in having a voice and shaping their future.”***

We will appoint a lead artist with a budget to employ a second artist. Both should have experience in working in a team to collaboratively design and deliver engaging music projects with young people. Working with partners, artists will ensure young people are supported in any challenges they face to enable participation.

Partner staff will always be present to support young people at all sessions throughout the duration of the project.

Projects will take place at a time and place agreed with the young people themselves. This may be in school hours, or outwith school hours during evenings, weekends and holidays, and it may be appropriate to deliver some aspects online, though face to face delivery is preferred.



All artists will be approachable, empathetic and understand the challenges faced by working with this group of young people, their individual needs and circumstances. They will work collaboratively with young people, partners and school staff.

The lead practitioner will

- Produce a timetabled plan, including all supporting activities.
- Deliver all sessions according to the plan and “Financial & Contractual” (page 12/13)
- At an appropriate level, raise awareness of career paths in the creative industries.
- Produce evidence of those sessions with photos, films, recordings, performances, art work and any other associated products.
- Maintain contact with the YMI co-ordinator throughout giving regular updates
- Deliver an appropriate end of project presentation (this could be a performance, film, recording, exhibition etc)
- Complete a short evaluation report including qualitative and quantitative evidence.

We also ask that you would consider including an element of awareness around climate change in line with Aberdeenshire’s Climate Change Declaration included at the end of this brief.

The YMI Co-ordinator is available to support and advise on any of the above.



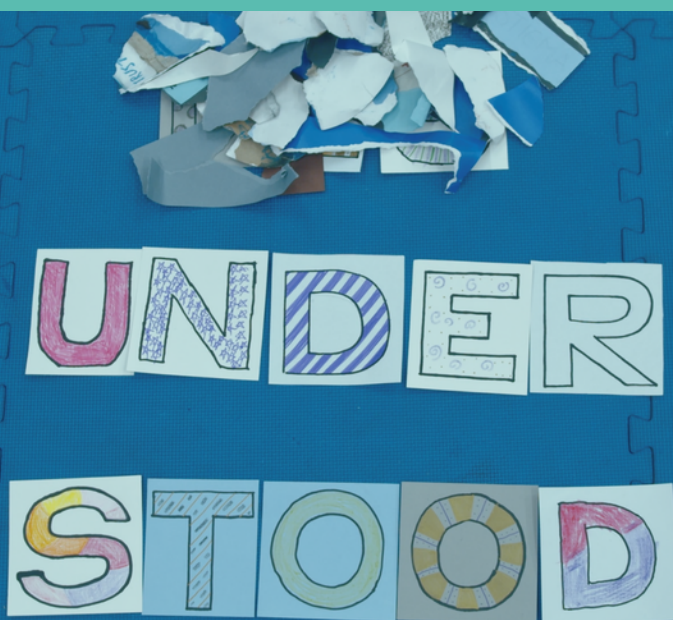
The final structure of the project will be agreed between the musician and the YMI Co-ordinator.

The lead practitioner will supply updates at key stages of the project addressing:

- Opportunities and challenges found.
- Ideas, suggestions, recommendations, and/or changes.
- Monthly recording of outcomes being achieved and statistical information, including photos with appropriate permissions sought.
- Final report and evaluation, including personal feedback from young people and adults who support them, against Aberdeenshire's Intended Impact
- Musician(s) will share news appropriately on social media using the guidelines provided in their contract.

Location

- The group meets at various locations across Aberdeenshire. We recognise that the area is geographically large and public transport options are limited, so applicants should be prepared to travel by car. We aim to select venues that are as accessible as possible for all participants. Mileage will be reimbursed at £0.45 per mile.



Budget

Estimated budget not to exceed £5000

A fixed budget has been allocated for the work to be undertaken by the musician(s) using the following as a guideline:

- Delivery 3 hrs introductory sessions and 20hrs Delivery @£44ph x 2 musicians **£2,288**
- Musician planning & evaluation 20hrs @£44 **£880**
- Admin 10 hrs @£16.44 **£164.40**
- Per diems 10 days @£10 x 2 **£200**
- Production & event costs (e.g. equipment, editing, resources)
- Travel will be paid for each musician up to 120 miles per day@45p per mile. We encourage mindful planning to keep this to a minimum and reduce our carbon footprint
- The fees will be paid in stages according to the programme of work and completion of key milestones to the satisfaction of the commissioning team.
- The schedule of payments will be drawn up and agreed by the musician and the YMI Co-ordinator following appointment.

Copyright of all works produced will belong to Aberdeenshire Council.



We welcome applications from new and experienced YMI Aberdeenshire musicians.

All musicians should send:

1. An outline schedule of work within the stated time, showing method, approach, key milestones and time you will give to this project.
2. An outline budget breakdown.

Musicians who did not deliver an Aberdeenshire YMI Project last year (2024/5) should also include:

3. A Curriculum Vitae showing your skills with clear links to this brief
4. Documentation of previous work relevant to this commission, including links to websites, Bandcamp, SoundCloud, YouTube etc.
5. An email address for someone we can contact as a referee

If you are successful, you will also need to provide:

6. A copy of your public liability insurance (If you are a full member of the Musicians Union, this includes Public Liability Cover)
7. A Level 2 disclosure with PVG or equivalent.



Applications and informal enquiries are welcome and should be directed to Kate James, YMI Co-ordinator at kate.james@aberdeenshire.gov.uk or telephone 01467 539048



Additional Information

Applicants may find the following websites useful:

<https://www.creativescotland.com/>

<https://www.livelifeberdeenshire.org.uk/arts/youth-music-initiative>



Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



From mountain to sea

Climate Change Declaration

Our sustainable future

We, Aberdeenshire Council, recognise that the world faces a climate challenge and our responsibility is to provide leadership in order to move to a more sustainable and low carbon future.

We commit to working towards a carbon free society by reducing our emissions by 75% (against our 2010/11 baseline) by 2030 and become Net Zero by 2045.

We will provide support and leadership to empower our communities to also take action and be resilient to the impacts of climate change.

We accept that this will mean challenging choices and tough decisions and we need to act now.

To do this, we will:

- Significantly cut our own emissions by reducing our dependence and use of fossil fuels, avoiding waste, and promoting biodiversity;
- Offset all residual emissions generated which we cannot eliminate by 2045;
- Work with others across the region to ensure that Aberdeenshire reaches Net Zero by 2045, by promoting energy transition and a circular economy;
- We will make sure our work lines up with the relevant [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#), and encourage our partners to also adopt these principles;
- Update our relevant policies, to ensure they meet this declaration;
- We will support a transition that is socially fair and just and will communicate reasons for change and the potential effects on service delivery to our communities and staff.
- We will all adopt a positive, genuine and collaborative spirit to working towards tackling the climate crisis.

Information on Aberdeenshire Council's Climate Change "Route Map to 2030 and Beyond" can be found by [clicking here](#)

We want our programme to ensure all children and young people receive high-quality, engaging music-making opportunities that are meaningful to their own life experiences and culture.

Our goal is to expand opportunities for those most in need, fostering their skills for life, learning, and work, whilst highlighting pathways for progression.

We aim to broaden horizons by demonstrating the viability of careers in the creative industries.

Through our programme, we strive to develop skills, boost confidence, and support children and young people in having a voice and shaping their future.

