

Aberdeenshire  
Youth Music Initiative 2025/26

An invitation to  
**MUSICIANS**

to deliver

**CLASS BASED  
MUSIC TECH  
PROJECT**



**CLOSING DATE SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2025 11PM**



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Climate Change Declaration

Live Life Aberdeenshire's Youth Music Initiative is appointing a musician with experience in delivering Music Tech class-based projects in an innovative, fun and engaging way. The aim is for children to have fun and experience the joy of taking part in music and music making using music technology. We have a supply of iPads so we are particularly keen to incorporate installed software including Garageband and iMovie. We are also keen to include other accessible music apps, particularly free apps that children could learn to use on their own devices at home.

Considering Fair Work practices, the finer details for these projects will be confirmed once the musician has been commissioned as we want to plan the content and final outcomes with them.

## 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.

## Musician's Role

The musician will deliver to eight primary school groups with a minimum of 12 hours face to face input per group. Four schools will be identified by the YMI Co-ordinator and two groups per school will be agreed between the head teacher and the musician.

The musician will

- Plan, deliver and evaluate the programme
- Support pupils at an appropriate level to learn and have a fun, hands-on experience of music making
- 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 2nd July 2026 and final reports submitted by 10th July 2026

## Fee

Artist Fee - 96 hrs delivery @ MU Hourly Rate of £44: **£4,224**

**Plus planning & evaluation time, admin, travel, per diems, and resources.**

- A full breakdown of project budget can be found on Page 10

**If you would like to join Aberdeenshire's YMI Team and deliver this project, please continue reading for more information and how to apply.**

Live Life Aberdeenshire's Youth Music Initiative is appointing a musician with experience in delivering school-based music projects in an innovative, fun and engaging way. All YMI provision is inclusive and involves all children at an appropriate level to their experience with no need for musical ability or prior knowledge to take part. Neither testing nor streaming will take place.

The aim is to have fun and engage children in the joy of taking part in music and music making using music technology. We have a supply of iPads so we are particularly keen to incorporate these using the installed software which includes Garageband and iMovie. Knowledge and experience of using other accessible music apps, such as 'thumbjam' would be an advantage. We are also keen to include other accessible music apps, particularly free apps that children could learn to use on their own devices at home.

Considering Fair Work practices, the finer details for these projects will be confirmed once the musician has been commissioned as we want to plan the content and final outcomes with them. However, the musician will work in four primary schools delivering to eight groups (two groups in each of the four schools).

You will deliver 12 hours with each group to meet the government commitment that every school pupil in Scotland should be offered a year of free music tuition by the time they leave primary school.

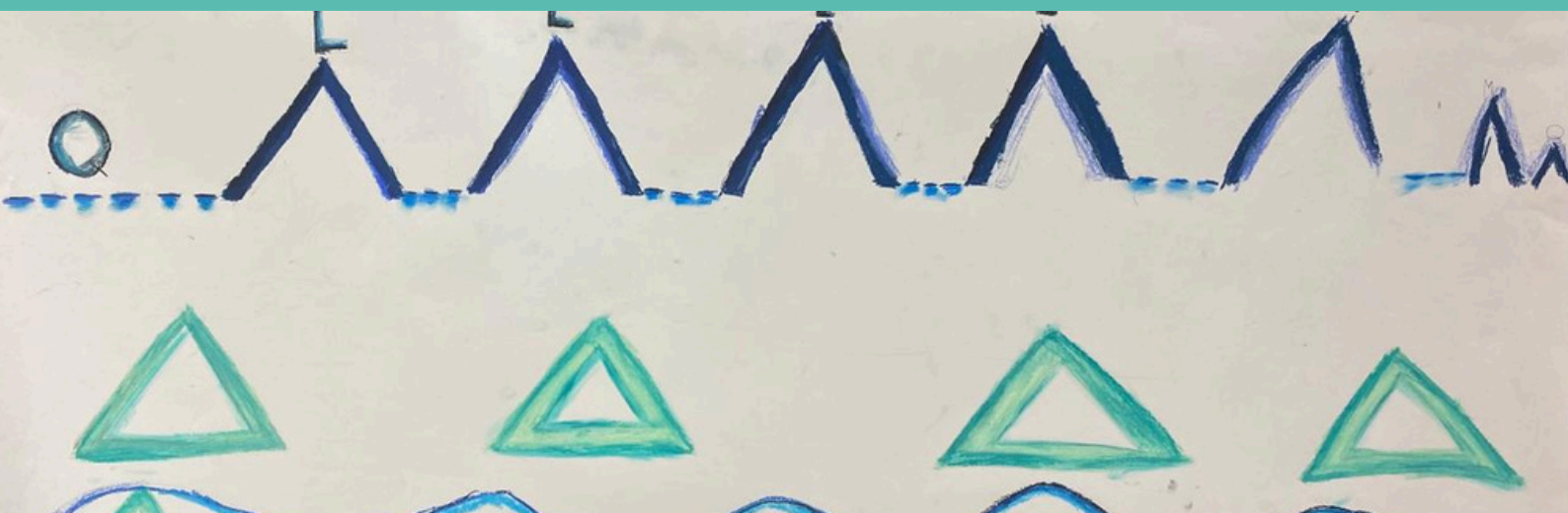


This project is funded by the Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative (YMI) programme which has the following purpose:

- 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.

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.





Aberdeenshire YMI programme aims to deliver the best, high quality, whole class music provision possible. We have developed a broad, inclusive programme spanning various genres using traditional and world instruments including guitar, percussion (tuned and untuned), chanter, ukulele, voice, and compositional projects using electric/electronic instruments and digital sound technology.

Each year, projects are offered to around 60 schools and community groups, delivering to approximately 10,000 children and young people in Aberdeenshire. Musicians work with all primary school year groups (these can often be composite classes and in some cases whole school groups) and include a minimum of 12 hours tuition per group in total.

All projects culminate in an event, celebration, or product – often all three! The Aberdeenshire YMI Programme already has a focus on tackling child poverty and fair work. In response to Creative Scotland's YMI Guidelines, we want to challenge our existing programme to continue best practice whilst also addressing issues around sustainability.

## The Intended Impact of Aberdeenshire's YMI Programme

**“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”**

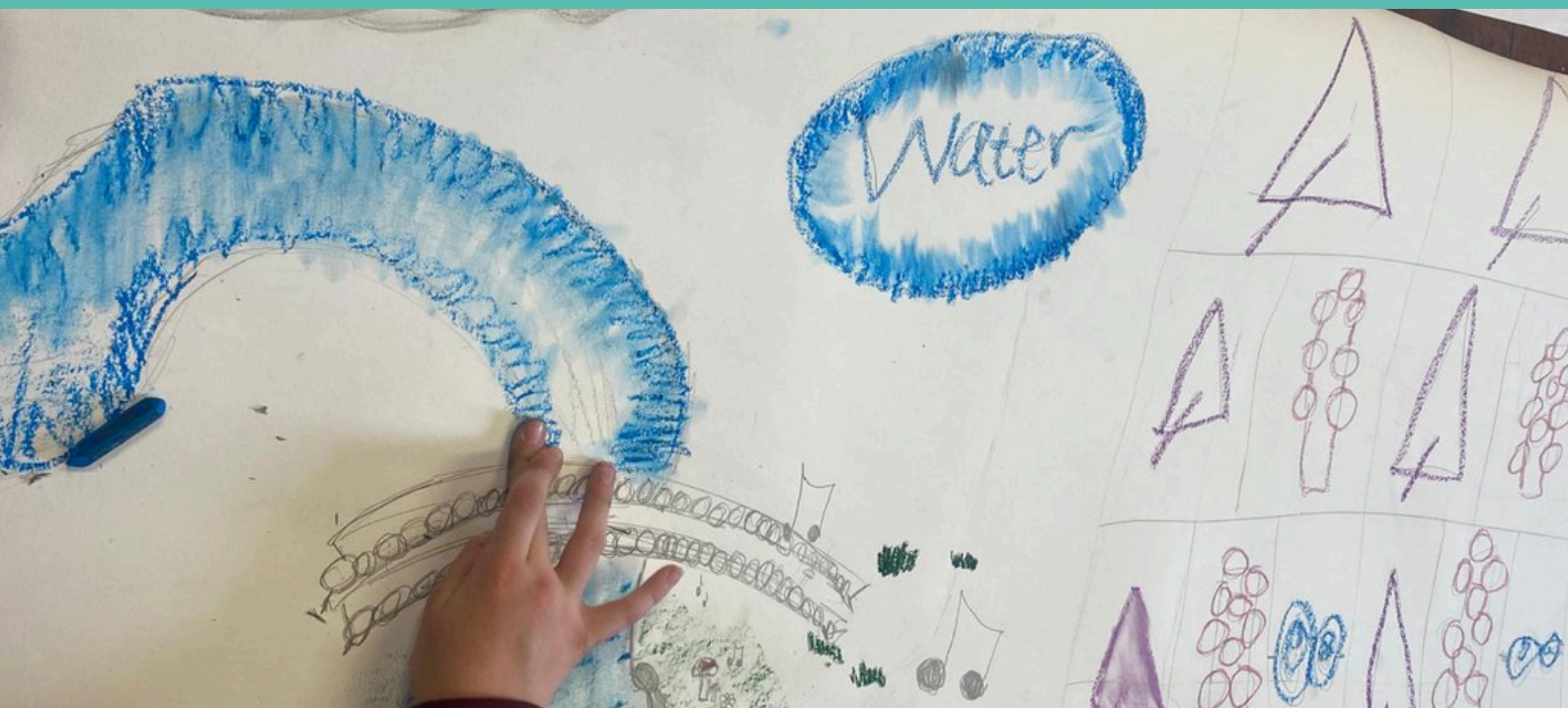
We will appoint a musician with experience in delivering school-based music tech projects in fun, exciting, engaging, and innovative ways.

The musician will produce a time-tabled plan, including all supporting activities, which will deliver creative opportunities for young people involved in the project.

The musician will be approachable, empathetic and understand the prevalent challenges faced by the community they are working in. They will work collaboratively with school staff and pupils to provide the most enjoyable and beneficial experience for all involved.

The musician will visit primary schools with a minimum face to face input of 12 hours for each group worked with. Costings will reflect the aim for the musician to work with 2 schools in one day (one AM and one PM) to minimise our carbon footprint.

The schools will be identified by the YMI Coordinator and the groups of pupils within those schools will be agreed by the head teachers and musician. During those visits, the musician will engage and involve the children to create and produce their musical piece and any other associated work.



The musician(s) will:

1. Deliver the elements of the project as per “Finance and Contractual” (page 10)
2. Plan all activity together with the YMI Co-ordinator and headteachers.
3. Produce a risk assessment to cover all activities. If you do not have experience of this, the YMI co-ordinator will support you.
4. Encourage pupils to learn about the equipment and resources they are using and have plenty of fun, hands-on experience with these.
5. Ensure inclusion so that young people who would not normally have the chance to, are supported to take part in music-making opportunities.
6. If appropriate, explore different cultural backgrounds and the relevance of music in their communities.
7. At an appropriate level, raise awareness of career paths in the creative industries.
8. Collaborate with, and support young people to develop their skills for music-making, life, learning, and work.
9. Produce an end of project event/celebration/performance/product.
10. Submit monthly updates and a final evaluative report to the YMI Co-ordinator. This content will include both quantitative and qualitative data and evidence of sessions, such as photos, films, artwork, recordings, quotes etc.
11. Consider sustainability in their provision, in line with Creative Carbon Scotland:  
<https://www.creativecarbonscotland.com/>





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

The musician(s) 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 the Intended Impact of Aberdeenshire's YMI Programme on Page 6.
- Musicians will share news appropriately on social media using the guidelines provided in their contract.



For each project a fixed budget has been allocated for the work to be undertaken by the musician(s) as follows:

1. Musician fee at M.U. hourly rate of £44. 96 hours face to face provision (12 hrs per group) - **£4,224.00**
2. Planning & Evaluation - 40 hrs - **£1,760**
3. Musician per diems (48 days @ £10) **£480.00**
4. Project Materials & Resources **£400.00**
5. Admin 20 hrs @ £18 **£360.00**
6. In line with HMRC approved rates, travel will be reimbursed at **45p a mile**  
We encourage mindful planning to keep this to a minimum and reduce our carbon footprint

- The fees will be paid for services delivered and 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.

**Total Budget not to exceed £9,999**

We welcome applications from new and experienced YMI Aberdeenshire musicians.

All musicians should send:

1. A brief 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 (2024/25) 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. 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 copy of PVG Scheme Record to demonstrate eligibility to work with vulnerable adults and young people. If you do not have a current PVG you are required to get one at your own expense before appointment.

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Applications and informal enquiries are welcome and should be directed to Kate James, YMI Co-ordinator at [kate.james@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto: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.