

An Opportunity for Creative Musicians to lead fun music projects in Aberdeenshire Primary Schools

Inspire children to create, explore and experience the fun, excitement and confidence that comes from making music together



CLOSING DATE MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2026



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1. The Commission:

We are looking for creative musicians who can inspire children to experience the fun, excitement and confidence that comes from making music together.

Through Aberdeenshire's Youth Music Initiative (YMI), you'll work with primary school classes and groups across Aberdeenshire, designing and delivering engaging music projects that spark curiosity, creativity and participation.

Many children will be making music for the first time, and we're looking for musicians who can help them discover the joy of making music, build confidence and develop their creativity.

We welcome musicians from any musical background. Previous projects have included drumming, songwriting, ukulele, violin, traditional music, digital music technology, xylophone and many more.

More than any particular instrument or musical genre, we're looking for musicians who can connect with children and create positive, memorable music-making experiences.

“If you can spark curiosity, build confidence and support young people to discover the joy of music, we'd love to hear from you.”



An opportunity for Creative Musicians to Lead School Music Projects

As a large rural authority, Aberdeenshire covers a wide geographic area. We are particularly keen to hear from musicians who are able to travel across the region, supporting access to high-quality music experiences for children and young people in some of our more remote communities.

Our current priority areas are Buchan, Banff and Buchan, and Marr, although these may change as projects are allocated.

We place projects across the whole of Aberdeenshire and will always aim to minimise travel and accommodation requirements where possible.

We see musicians as creative partners, not simply delivery staff. The shape of each project will be developed collaboratively with the successful musician, drawing on their skills, interests and ideas to create meaningful musical experiences for children and young people.

“Our current priority areas are Buchan, Banff & Buchan and Marr”



2. Background

This project is funded through Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative (YMI) Formula Fund, which aims to ensure every child in Scotland has access to one year of high-quality music-making opportunities before they leave primary school.

In Aberdeenshire, YMI reaches around 10,000 children and young people each year through a wide range of music projects delivered in schools and communities.

This project matters because music can help children build confidence, develop creativity, strengthen relationships and experience a sense of achievement. It also gives young people the chance to work with professional musicians and take part in creative experiences they might not otherwise access.

“Our programme is guided by a commitment to inclusion, fair work, sustainability and tackling child poverty.”



3. Context & Vision

We believe every child should have the opportunity to experience the creativity, connection and confidence that music can bring.

Our ambition is that every child in Aberdeenshire will take part in at least one year of high-quality music-making before they leave primary school, regardless of where they live or the school they attend.

Through YMI, we create inclusive, enjoyable and inspiring opportunities that encourage creativity, participation and self-expression.

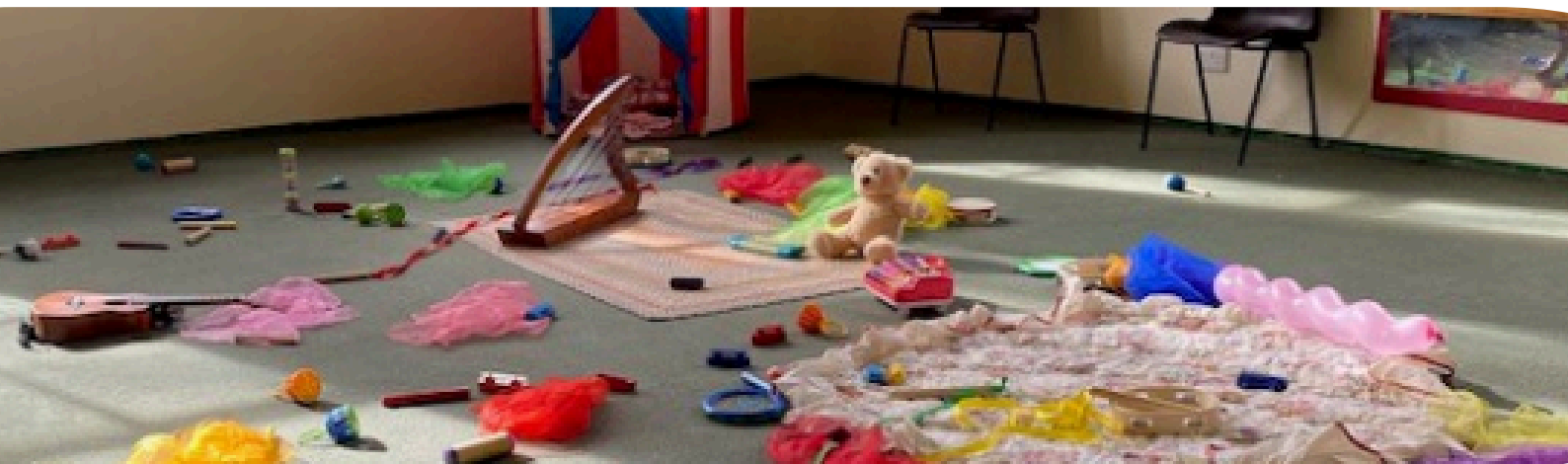
We want our projects to be shaped collaboratively, drawing on the skills, ideas and musical interests of the practitioner, alongside the needs and interests of the children and schools involved.

“Through YMI, we create inclusive, enjoyable and inspiring opportunities that encourage creativity, participation and self-expression.”



Our Intended Impact

- 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.



4. Artist Roles

We will plan the project with you and encourage creative approaches to delivery. To give an indication of what the role might involve, previous projects have often included working with four primary school classes (which may be composite) across two schools, providing each group with at least 12 hours of face-to-face music-making.

Working alongside the YMI Co-ordinator and school staff, you'll design and deliver a creative music project that reflects your own musical practice and the interests of the children taking part. A member of teaching staff will remain in the classroom during all sessions and will be encouraged to actively participate, supporting children alongside you.

You'll support children to develop confidence, creativity and musical skills through fun, engaging and inclusive music-making experiences, contributing to project evaluation and an end-of-project celebration or showcase.

“12 hours of face to face music making”



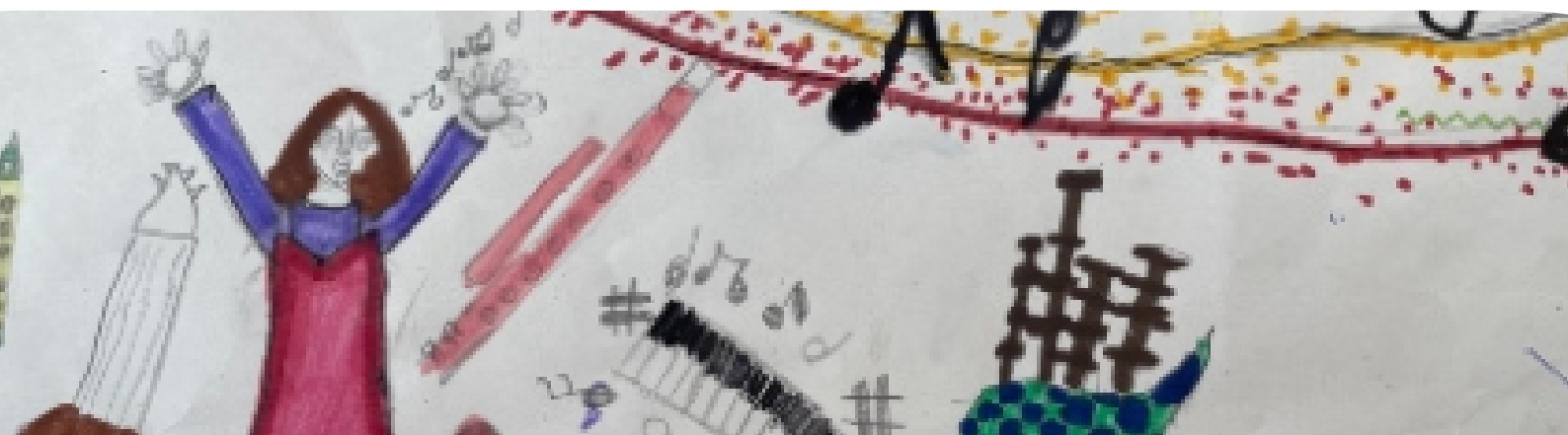
We are looking for musicians who can

- Create engaging, hands-on music-making experiences that children enjoy and remember.
- Make everyone feel welcome and able to take part, whatever their experience or background.
- Encourage creativity, curiosity, confidence and teamwork.
- Support children to explore instruments, technology and new ways of creating music.
- Work alongside teachers, sharing simple musical games and practical ideas that can be used beyond the project.
- Share different musical styles, traditions and influences.
- Inspire children to think about the many possibilities music and creativity can offer in the future.

5. Timescale

All project activity, including the final evaluation report, must be completed within the 2026/27 academic year (August 2026 to July 2027).

“Celebrate successes, support challenges, show impact”



6. Structure

The successful musician(s) will:

- Plan the project with the YMI Co-ordinator and participating schools.
- Produce a risk assessment for all project activity.
- Deliver the activities agreed during the project planning stage.
- Work with children and staff to create and share something they can be proud of, such as a performance, recording or sharing event.
- Collect quotes, photos (with permission) and other evidence to submit with your monthly monitoring information and final evaluation report.
- Consider sustainability in line with Culture for Climate Scotland guidance and Climate Ready Aberdeenshire.

The structure of the project will be developed collaboratively between the successful musician(s) and the YMI Co-ordinator who will provide support and guidance throughout the project as required.

Copyright of work created through the project will belong to Aberdeenshire Council.

“The project will be developed collaboratively”



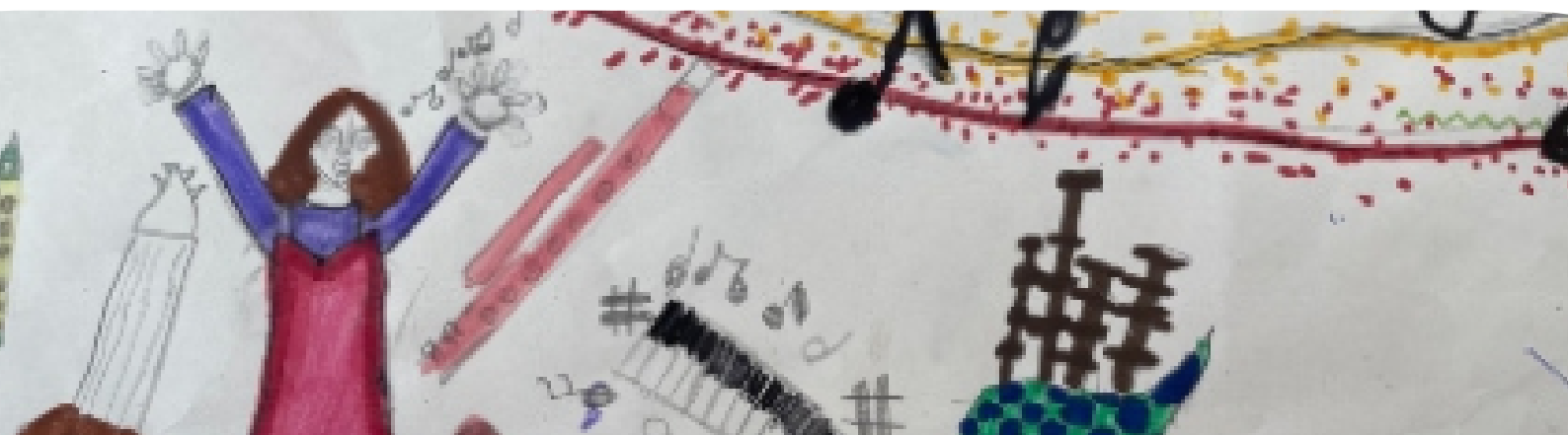
Keeping in Touch

Throughout the project we'll ask you to share regular updates with us so we can celebrate successes, support any challenges, and evidence the impact of the programme.

- Any opportunities or challenges encountered.
- Any ideas, suggestions, or changes that could improve the project.
- A short monthly update, including participant numbers and activities.
- A final evaluation report, including feedback from children, young people and supporting adults, showing how the project achieved the intended outcomes of Aberdeenshire's YMI Programme. Evidence could include quotes, photographs, observations, recordings or other examples of project activity and outcomes.

We'll provide a simple Microsoft Form for reporting, helping keep everything in one place and reducing paperwork.

“Celebrate successes, support challenges, show impact”



7. Financial & Contractual

A budget will be agreed for each project. The example below is intended to illustrate the type and scale of activity we currently support. We have a total budget of £15,000 available and would typically expect this to support two to three projects.

Musician delivery fee

We are committed to fair work and ensure musician fees are based on current Musicians' Union rates. 48 hours face-to-face delivery (12 hours per group) @ £45.50 per hour. £2,184

Planning and evaluation

15 hours @ £45.50 per hour. £682.50

Daily expenses

(meals and refreshments on delivery days)

24 days at £10 per day. £240

Project administration

10 hours at £18 per hour. £180

Project materials and resources

Any resources you need for your project will be agreed at the planning stage.

Travel & Accommodation

We'll cover reasonable travel and accommodation expenses where these are needed for project delivery. Arrangements will be agreed with the successful musician at the planning stage. Mileage will be reimbursed at the HMRC recommended rate of 55p per mile.

Payment

We'll agree a payment schedule with the successful musician before delivery begins, with payments made in stages throughout the project. The last payment will be made once the final evaluation report and supporting evidence have been received.

“We are committed to fair work first and ensure musician fees are based on current Musicians' Union rates.”



Budget

We are open to different approaches and welcome proposals that demonstrate strong impact and value for money. Final activities, hours, fees and project budgets will be discussed and agreed during project planning. Below are some other examples of budgets we would consider.

NEW PROJECT MODEL 1							
Description	No.	Units	@	Sub Tot	No. Artists	TOTAL	Notes
School 1 Group 1	12	hrs	£45.50	£546.00	2	£1,092.00	
School 1 Group 2	12	hrs	£45.50	£546.00	2	£1,092.00	
School 2 Group 1	12	hrs	£45.50	£546.00	2	£1,092.00	
School 2 Group 2	12	hrs	£45.50	£546.00	2	£1,092.00	
Planning & Evaluation	15	hrs	£45.50	£682.50	1	£682.50	
Admin	10	hrs	£18.00	£180.00	1	£180.00	
Daily Expenses	24	days	£10.00	£240.00	2	£480.00	
Accommodation and Travel Mileage will be reimbursed @ 55p per mile. Estimated 120 miles per day x 24						£1,789.50	Travel and accommodation costs are estimated. Final expenditure will be based on actual costs incurred, with any travel underspend available to offset accommodation costs within the agreed budget
TOTAL						£7,500.00	

NEW PROJECT MODEL 2							
Description	No.	Units	@	Sub Tot	No. Artists	TOTAL	Notes
School 1 Group 1	12	hrs	£45.50	£546.00	1	£546.00	
School 1 Group 2	12	hrs	£45.50	£546.00	1	£546.00	
School 2 Group 1	12	hrs	£45.50	£546.00	1	£546.00	
School 2 Group 2	12	hrs	£45.50	£546.00	1	£546.00	
School 3 Group 1	12	hrs	£45.50	£546.00	1	£546.00	
School 3 Group 2	12	hrs	£45.50	£546.00	1	£546.00	
Planning & Evaluation	20	hrs	£45.50	£910.00	1	£910.00	
Admin	15	hrs	£18.00	£270.00	1	£270.00	
Daily Expenses	36	days	£10.00	£360.00	1	£360.00	
Accommodation and Travel Mileage will be reimbursed @ 55p per mile. Estimated 120 miles per day x 36						£2,684.00	Travel and accommodation costs are estimated. Final expenditure will be based on actual costs incurred, with any travel underspend available to offset accommodation costs within the agreed budget
TOTAL						£7,500.00	

NEW PROJECT MODEL 3							
Description	No.	Units	@	Sub Tot	No. Artists	TOTAL	Notes
School 1 Group 1	12	hrs	£45.50	£546.00	1	£546.00	
School 1 Group 2	12	hrs	£45.50	£546.00	1	£546.00	
School 2 Group 1	12	hrs	£45.50	£546.00	1	£546.00	
School 2 Group 2	12	hrs	£45.50	£546.00	1	£546.00	
Planning & Evaluation	15	hrs	£45.50	£682.50	1	£682.50	
Admin	10	hrs	£18.00	£180.00	1	£180.00	
Daily Expenses	24	days	£10.00	£240.00	1	£240.00	
Accommodation and Travel Mileage will be reimbursed @ 55p per mile. Estimated 120 miles per day x 24						£1,713.50	Travel and accommodation costs are estimated. Final expenditure will be based on actual costs incurred, with any travel underspend available to offset accommodation costs within the agreed budget
TOTAL						£5,000	

8. Application Process

We welcome applications from new and experienced YMI Aberdeenshire musicians. We also welcome applications from two or more musicians who would like to collaborate on all or part of their project.

We'd love to hear about your musical practice and how you would approach this opportunity.

We know everyone works differently. If there are any reasonable adjustments that would help you with your application, interview or delivery of the programme, we'd love to hear from you and will do our best to support you.

Please send:

- A brief outline of how you would deliver the project, including your approach, key milestones and how you would allocate your time.
- An outline budget breakdown.

Musicians who have not delivered an Aberdeenshire YMI Project in the last year should also include:

- A C.V. showing your skills with clear links to this brief
- Evidence of previous relevant work. This might include social media links, photos or written reports.
- Email address for someone we can contact as a referee.

If you are successful, you will also need to provide

- A copy of your public liability insurance.
- A Level 2 Disclosure with PVG membership.

**Applications should be sent to
Kate James, YMI Co-ordinator at
kate.james@aberdeenshire.gov.uk**

“We’d love to hear about your musical practice and how you would approach this opportunity.”



8. Selection Process

- *Closing date
28th September 2026*
- *You will hear from us
by 16th October 2026*
- *Interviews will be held
week beginning
26th October 2026*
- *Delivery will probably
begin early in 2027*

We welcome requests for reasonable adjustments and will do our best to support you throughout the process.



10. Project Contact

We'd love to hear from you.

If you'd like to know more about the project, our YMI programme, the application process, or any of the practical requirements, please get in touch. Whether you have a specific question or would simply like to chat things through, we're always happy to have an informal conversation before you apply.

No question is too small.

Informal enquiries are welcome and should be directed to

Kate James, YMI Co-ordinator:

kate.james@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

or telephone 01467 539048

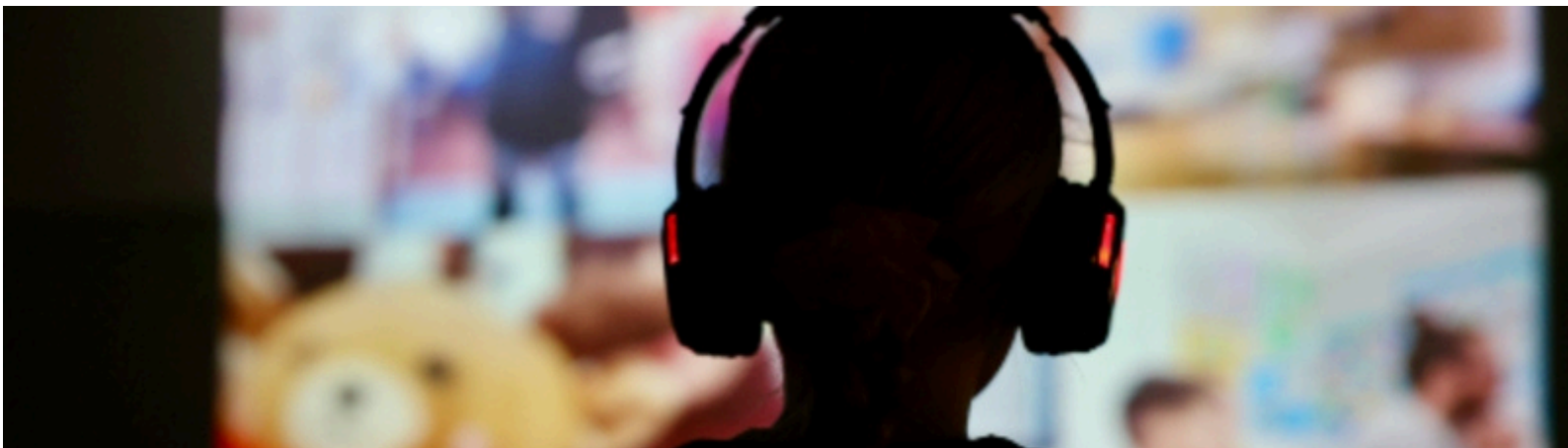
Learn More About Us!

You might find the following websites useful:

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

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

***“Celebrate
successes, support
challenges, evidence
impact”***



Appendix 1

Climate Ready Aberdeenshire

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/environment/climate-change>

Our sustainable future

Climate change is a global challenge with impacts on our communities, environment and economy.

Our goals are in line with the Scottish Government's target of reaching net zero by 2045 and we are committed to making a valuable contribution in reducing national greenhouse gas emissions.

View our [environment and climate change policy](#).

“We consider sustainability in line with Creative Carbon Scotland guidance and Climate Ready Aberdeenshire.”

