

New Music Stage: Guidelines

Music for Youth and Sound and Music are looking to support more performances and commissions of new music written by young composers.

The programme is open to young composers who are aged between 12 and 21 years old. Applications can be made by young composers, or by music organisations representing young composers, and will be considered in the following age categories:

- 12 - 16 years old
- 17 - 18 years old
- 19 - 21 years old

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

For the New Music Stage event at MFY's National Festival 2015, we are looking to programme a wide range of new music performed by young musicians. As a result we are looking for compositions written for:

- Any type of group*
- For a group of 2 or more musicians
- Representing any genre of music
- Performed by young musicians
- Lasting no more than 10 minutes in duration

*(*A group could be any type or combination of young musicians, including for example a choir, a jazz band, a laptop ensemble, a string quartet or an acoustic singer/songwriting duo.)*

Music Organisations

This programme is as much about supporting music education organisations to perform more new music by young composers, as it is about supporting young composers themselves.

As a result, if you are a music organisation you will need to demonstrate that:

- the piece will be performed by other young people of a high standard, either from the young composer's school, community music setting or music hub
- the group of young musicians must be available to play at the New Music Stage event in July 2015 if the piece is shortlisted.

Young Composers

If you are applying as an individual young composer, then you should write your piece for a group of young musicians you know – this could be musicians in your school / college or through your local music hub. In your application you will need to tell us:

- who you are writing your piece for and
- what type of group they are.

The group must be able to perform your piece if your composition is shortlisted for the New Music Stage event in July 2015.

I am a young composer but I don't have a group to write for

MFY and SAM acknowledge that not every young composer will have access to a group of young musicians to write for. As such, we are looking to offer those young composers the opportunity to write for one of the New Music Stage housebands. More information about this and who the housebands are will follow shortly.

If you select the option to write for one of the housebands, the application form will ask you to demonstrate your eligibility for this – ie: why you are not able to access a group locally.

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

Young composers and organisations who wish to apply will need to fill in the online application form and upload the score and link to a recording by **noon on Friday 27 March 2015**.

- A score can either be fully noted, or comprise chord sequences, written instructions or other forms of notation as suits the medium of the piece. **You must submit the score as a PDF document.**
- As this is a national flagship initiative we will also need to hear a recording of the proposed performing group to assess their standard – ideally a recording of them playing the composition itself, but if not a recording of the group playing something already in their repertoire. **The recording should be uploaded to YouTube, Vimeo or Soundcloud or to your own website and a link to your file uploaded on your application. Please ensure you provide relevant passwords if you are sending private files.**

In addition, the young composer will need a musical sponsor to vouch for them – this can be a teacher, music leader or a parent/carer.

SELECTION PROCESS

In April 2015, MFY and SAM with a panel of composers and artists, will select the applications we will invite for inclusion in the New Music Stage event.

Applicants will be informed by the end of April if they have been successful.

The event will be held in July 2015 in Birmingham as part of MFY's National Festival. The precise date will be announced in January 2015.

The panel will aim to select applications encompassing the following criteria:

- Young composers from the 3 age ranges
- A broad range of different types of genres
- A mixture of applications from music organisations and from individual young composers