

insync

Quench Arts is recruiting for several positions as part of our new InSync programme, kindly supported by Youth Music and our project partners. Please note that applicants are welcome to apply for both roles (young performer and young music leader) but can only hold one of these positions across the year. If an applicant is successful in being offered both opportunities at interview then they'll need to decide which to accept. This is because we are seeking to boost the number of emerging musicians we support and also because some of the sessions will be the same, and it won't be possible to undertake both roles at once!

Please note: if you've held a young music leader role with Quench Arts before then sadly you can't apply for this opportunity again but you are welcome to apply for the performer role as long you are willing to attend the training and you can clearly demonstrate how this will benefit you. If you have any questions about this then please do get in touch! If you have held a Young Guest Performer role with us previously then you can't apply for the same position again, but can apply for a Young Music Leader role (provided you've not held this role previously).

6 x Freelance Young Guest Performer Roles*

**Applicants must be between the ages of 18-25 for the duration of the role.*

Quench Arts is seeking to appoint 6 freelance Young Guest Performers for our InSync programme, funded by Youth Music and running in Birmingham. The grant supports our creative music making work in mental health inpatient settings in Birmingham (Ardenleigh FCAMHS), and also our OverDub Club music project based in the community and benefiting neurodivergent children aged 11-13 years old, for early intervention.

Around 75% of the children and young people that we work with through our youth music and mental health projects are also neurodivergent and we feel that there is a huge need for programmes that support early intervention focused on emotional wellbeing for neurodivergent children, hence creating the new OverDub project back in 2025. OverDub Club aims to build peer connections and group skills in a supportive and sensory-inclusive environment, using music to support with emotional regulation and resilience.

As part of our previous Plugin programme delivery we provided a couple of performance slots for young musicians aged 18-25 to go into settings to meet and perform to participants and also give feedback on any music they've created to date. These sessions were incredibly well received so we are now expanding this offer with our current grant, these visits having had such positive impact on the social development and musical inspiration for participants who otherwise only get to interact with other poorly young people.

The Role:

The Young Guest Performers will attend training with Quench Arts to prepare for the role, hospital environments and understand more about the young people who will be listening to performances.

The 6 appointed Young Guest Performers will:

- undertake an enhanced DBS check (Quench Arts will cover the cost);

- attend 6 hours of training with Quench Arts Directors, which will cover safeguarding, preparing for your visits and interactions, resilience building and reflection processes (£92.70);
- attend settings across the year, giving 4 short performances each (£61.80 a performance, £247.20 total). Normally there will be 2 young guest performers visiting a session together, so that we can contrast the performances given. Performers may be asked to visit other settings outside of the InSync programme as part of Quench Arts' overall project delivery.
- attend an online/telephone reflection session with Quench Arts after each performance (£10.30 each, £41.20 total)
- attend an evaluation meeting and/or complete a short evaluation questionnaire at the end of the role (£61.80)

Total fee: £442.90 max

These Young Guest Performer roles will each cover 4 performances across one project year of activity. The project sessions that the performances are part of run from June 2026 – February 2027, but the performances will be scheduled at set points throughout the project year, around the successful applicants' availabilities. These Young Guest Performer roles are for 1 project year only, as we are keen to support a range of emerging practitioners with development opportunities. We will thus recruit new Young Guest Performers in 2027.

In the past, people who've undertaken these young performer roles have often gone on to apply for InSync Young Music Leader roles in following years, having had a positive experience, though this isn't an expectation. Young Guest Performers are welcome to apply for Young Music Leader roles in the future, as long as they are aged 25 or under for the duration of the project year and haven't undertaken a Young Music Leader role with Quench Arts previously.

Requirements:

Quench Arts is seeking 6 skilled and confident musicians as young guest performers. The organisation is passionate about Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and have given our pledge in principle to the '[More Than A Moment](#)' initiative. We are keen for our emerging workforce to be reflective of the communities we engage and particularly encourage applications from Black and Asian emerging music leaders and/ or those with lived experience of mental health and/or neurodiversity and also from young musicians with strengths in rap/beatboxing or grime/hip-hop musical styles. We are, however, keen for the project workforce to have musical strengths and interests that are representative of the wide range music that our participants listen to and want to create.

We are looking for:

1. Applicants who are between the ages of 18-25 for the duration of the project year. Please state your date of birth in your application.
2. Team players with excellent communication skills, the ability to be reflective and to take on board suggestions.
3. Applicants that live local to Birmingham (or who are within easy commuting distance and are seeking to build freelance work in the area) because these opportunities have been created to develop our local workforce. Please provide your address in your application.

Successful applicants will have:

4. A high standard of musical proficiency in an appropriate musical specialism.
5. A high standard of performance skill in their specialist area/ genre. We would like to have a mixture of genres offered across the programme. *Please note, where possible we would like the performances to include an original piece of work (as our programmes focus on creative music making and aim to build emotional literacy). However, we do appreciate that this is*

dependent on the genre of music. If you are a jazz or folk performer then you can explain and demonstrate the creative freedom in improvisation, for example. We are also very keen to offer more contemporary performances, such as rap, beatboxing, and performances using live electronics. Ideally we'd appoint 3 young performers who are songwriters and can perform their original songs with piano/guitar accompaniment, and then 3 musicians with other contrasting specialisms.

6. Excellent verbal communication skills; the informal and interactive nature of the visit is just as important as the performance itself. Applicants should feel comfortable to talk briefly and informally about their work/instrument/set up, answer questions, accept feedback and also give constructive comments on participants' own creative work in progress.
7. An abundance of passion for their musical genre/work and be able to articulate and talk about their experiences and inspiration.
8. Confidence to present themselves authentically, just to be themselves in how they interact with our participants.
9. Sensitivity to the young people and the environment that they are visiting, giving people space and time to respond and being aware of non-verbal communication (this will be covered in the training).
10. Awareness and understanding of the importance of repertoire choice within their performances, taking on feedback where given. Applicants should be sensitive regarding lyrics and the themes of any material, and should plan accessible performances that will appeal to project participants but also potentially inspire them to widen their listening.
11. An awareness of professional expectations and behaviours as relevant to the setting, such as arriving in time to set up; using appropriate language, etc. (this will be covered in the training)
12. Ideally have had some experience of being a participant themselves on a creative project.

Applicants must:

13. Show a desire to build their skills, confidence and knowledge to work within the mental health sector and with neurodivergent children and young people.
14. Be reliable & committed for the duration of the role.
15. Be willing to undertake a DBS check and to complete the training day.
16. Be willing to have their instrument/voice potentially sampled by participants and to contribute elements to participants' pieces (as steered by them) if the opportunity arises within the sessions visited.
17. If you are comfortable to do so, please let us know if you meet our current Equity, Diversity and Inclusion priorities (Black and Asian emerging music leaders and/ or those with lived experience of mental health and/or neurodiversity and/or emerging music leaders with strengths in rap/beatboxing or grime/hip-hop). Our shortlisting panel will take this into account when scheduling interviews in order to support positive action for those that meet this criteria. This does not mean that you'll be given preference for one of the roles but that our panel will aim to interview you should your application be fully completed to an acceptable standard.
18. Provide details for 2 people we can contact for references.

How To Apply:

To apply, please send us a short 10 minute (max) video or audio recording. This should include 5 mins of you performing something representative of what you'd play in a session, plus a maximum 5 minute informal recording of you telling us about your music and why the role appeals to you. We want to see/ hear you as you are, so please don't over-prepare, just speak as if we were having an informal chat. We aren't judging your recording skills here, we just want to get a sense of your performing skill and specialism, so just using an appropriately placed phone to record is absolutely fine!

Please email your application to info@quench-arts.co.uk. If your audio/video recording is over 10MB then you will need to use WeTransfer.com to send your application. Please drop us an email if you are sending an attachment via WeTransfer, so that we can look out for this.

The application deadline is 5pm, Sunday 10th May.

If you are shortlisted then we'll invite you to an informal interview where we'll chat about points 1-14 above. As well as helping appoint for the role, the interview will also be for us to get to know you better and tell you about other opportunities at Quench beyond this role.

The informal interview/audition will be on **Monday 18th May 2026**. Unfortunately, no other dates can be offered. If you'd like an informal chat before applying, please give us a ring or email!

Quench Arts is an Equal Opportunities employer. All applicants offered a role will be required to undertake a DBS check and to provide details of 2 references. They will also be required to attend a project induction and safeguarding training.



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