

insync

Quench Arts is recruiting a Lead Music Leader to facilitate our new OverDub Club project which forms part of our InSync programme, kindly supported by Youth Music and our project partners.

1 x Freelance Lead Music Leader Role

Quench Arts is seeking to appoint 1 freelance Lead Music Leader for our OverDub Club project, a new programme which will be based in the community benefitting neurodiverse children aged 11-13. The project will focus on creative music making, using accessible music technology and songwriting to achieve positive outcomes. Through the sessions we aim to build peer connections and group skills in a supportive and sensory-inclusive environment, using music to support with emotional regulation and resilience.

The Lead Music Leader will work alongside and support the development of a Young Music Leader across the sessions. Each Young Music Leader will set their own aims for the role using Youth Music's 'Do, Review, Improve' framework and also complete a self-assessed baseline, reflecting on their skills and confidence in music leadership. The aims and baseline will be reviewed at mid-point and year-end to measure progress. Young Music Leaders will be informally mentored by the Lead Music Leaders to help achieve their goals for the project. The project will also host 8 visiting young performers (aged 18-25) at points across the year.

OverDub Club will run weekly over 26 weeks (plus planning, training and evaluation) from July 2025 - Feb 2026. We plan for the project to have an intake of 2 phases (8 children recruited per phase, each phase having a 12 week programme and sharing event). Each session will be 3 hours long but there will be flexibility to split this time into individual sessions, pairs work and group sessions to meet the needs of the children taking part. The exact structure will be set as part of the planning process, and children's preferences and needs will be determined as they are recruited.

Scheduling for our OverDub Club sessions is currently flexible and a consistent day/time will be organised with the team appointed. However, sessions are likely to be either twilight sessions on a consistent Mon/Tues/Thurs or on Saturday daytimes. The sessions will continue to run throughout the school holidays but we do appreciate that staff may want to schedule in some holiday weeks across the project year. We ask for plenty of notice here and, where possible, the Quench Arts wellbeing team support each other with cover during these weeks.

We have 4 years of funding confirmed for the project so there may be potential to renew the freelance contract in future years, subject to satisfactory performance.

Responsibilities:

The OverDub Club Lead Music Leader will:

- Undertake training as required for the role, where necessary (safeguarding, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Autism Awareness). We expect that some applicants might already have attended some training in these areas, so refresher training rather than full course attendance

might be possible, depending on the individual appointed. Attending a Quench Arts induction and safeguarding training is mandatory.

- Undertake all planning and preparation required for each session and communicate this to the Young Music Leader and any other supporting staff and/or volunteers prior to each session, planning appropriate differentiation to ensure that all sessions are accessible and inclusive.
- Lead the facilitation and evaluation of 24 x 3 hour sessions and 2 x informal sharing/celebration events (split across 2 project phases of 13 weeks).
- Support the development of the Young Music Leader with informal mentoring support and reflection after each session, working towards their development aims. The Young Music Leader should gradually take on more responsibility across the 26 weeks.
- Complete sessional monitoring forms after each session and return these promptly to Quench Arts so appropriate actions can be taken where needed. Our monitoring forms include participant outcome observations as well as any issues or concerns that coordinators need to address or follow up prior to the next session
- Support Quench Arts with measuring the impact of the project using our established processes. This may include undertaking and reviewing creative baseline and goal setting activities with participants and writing some impact case studies.
- Support with signposting participants to other Quench Arts and external opportunities on completion of the programme
- To complete a short blog/vlog/podcast related to the project, as part of our practice sharing.

Fee:

The Lead Music Leader will be paid £120 per session for a max of 26 sessions across July 2025 – Feb 2026 (to include supporting 2 sharing/celebration events), plus £240 planning, £240 evaluation, 2 reflection meetings at £120 each and a short blog/vlog/podcast at £30. The delivery fee will thus provisionally total £3,870.

Additional payment will be given for time in undertaking relevant training related to the role, such as safeguarding training (up to £360 per year), youth mental health first aid training (refresher £100/ full course £360) and autism awareness (£100), where needed.

Requirements:

Quench Arts is seeking 1 lead music facilitator, skilled and experienced with working with neurodiverse children.

We are 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 workforce to be reflective of the communities we engage and particularly encourage applications from Black and Asian applicants and from those with lived experience relevant to our programmes.

We are looking for:

1. Team players with excellent communication skills, the ability to be reflective and to take on board suggestions.
2. 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 will mainly run from our Quench Arts base in Winson Green, Birmingham.
3. Applicants who would potentially be interested in delivering the identified programme again in years 2-4 of our Youth Music Catalyser grant, building on lessons learned, subject to a satisfactory performance review.

Successful applicants will have:

4. Relevant experience of facilitating participatory creative music activities with children who are neurodiverse. Please note that we recognise the full range of neurodiversity in our work. Our programme will be open to children and young people with a formal diagnosis as well those

where some form of neurodiversity is suspected and/or the child/young person is undergoing assessment.

5. Understanding of the challenges that neurodiverse children may face at this age and the potential impact on their mental health.
6. Understanding of musical inclusion and what this means in practice.
7. Understanding of creative methods of facilitation and experience in leading participatory creative music making activities for children that are engaging, accessible and inclusive for participants.
8. Strong and appropriate musical skills and expertise in order to facilitate sessions to a high quality and to engage and inspire participants. In particular, applicants for this role should have a good level of experience and confidence in using music technology and hardware such as tactile midi controllers, samplers and loop pedals, as our consultation with young people has identified this as a desired focus for sessions. Additional songwriting, lyric development, vocal and multi-instrumental skills would be beneficial.
9. Strong interpersonal skills with excellent verbal and written communication abilities.
10. Empathy, with a positive outlook and a supportive and friendly manner.
11. An understanding and commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

Applicants must:

12. Undertake a DBS check and provide 2 references we can contact.
13. Be willing to complete a project induction, safeguarding training and other training as required. This may include attending a 2 day Youth Mental Health First Aid course. Time to attend any training required will be paid in addition to the contract fee.
14. Be available for a consistent day/time over a period of 26 weeks across July 2025 to Feb 2026 (with the flexibility to take a week or two off for a holiday where required, with advance notice).
15. Be able to work with participants in-person from our Quench Arts' base in Winson Green or at a city centre venue.

Other:

16. If you are comfortable to do so, please let us know if you meet our current Equity, Diversity and Inclusion priorities (for example if you are a Black or Asian applicant or if you have lived experience relevant to our programmes, such as being neurodiverse yourself). 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 the role but that our panel will aim to interview you should your application be fully completed to an acceptable standard.

How to apply

- Please answer how you meet points 1-15 detailed in the 'requirements' section above (point 16 is not scored).
- You can either do this with a written application (2 pages max) or through an audio or video recording (10 minutes max). In your application, please do give examples for each point if you can.
- Provide contact details for 2 references.
- Please email your application to info@quench-arts.co.uk. If you are applying using an audio/video recording then you will need to use WeTransfer.com to send your application if it is over 10MB. Please do drop us a separate email if you are sending an attachment via WeTransfer, so that we can make sure to look out for this.

The application deadline is 5pm, Monday 21st April 2025.

We will assess and score all applications against the listed criteria and will invite shortlisted applicants for an informal interview/audition on **Tuesday 29th April 2025**. Unfortunately, no other interview dates can be offered. If you'd like an informal chat before applying, please give us a ring or drop us an 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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