

## Application Pack Information

### What is it?

In person training in instrumental/ vocal teaching skills for proficient freelance/ sole trader musicians aged 18+, delivered by Quench Arts with support from Services for Education (Birmingham Music Education Hub).

The training course has 2 options:

- A free and unaccredited version of the course (our original New Horizons programme)
- A version which includes the Level 4 Certificate for Music Educators (CME) accreditation from Trinity Guildhall. This version has a subsidised cost of £1145, thanks to support from S4E (the full cost being £2820.80 per head).

The course sessions for both options are the same but the CME version includes all Trinity Guildhall moderation/certification costs. It also has additional mentoring support, assessment and feedback to help you develop a portfolio of evidence, plus additional assessed observations of your practice. Both versions include practical opportunities to put your learning into practice alongside other trainees.

### Who is it for?

For musicians who:

- Have a high level of musical skill(s) in at least one specialist area, which could be anything from sitar or rock guitar to voice or woodwind.
- Have a strong understanding of good technique in relation to their instrument/voice.
- Have the potential to inspire and motivate children and young people to make music.
- Already have some experience of helping others to make music, whether that be through teaching or running workshops (though this can be on a voluntary basis).
- Want to develop the skills and knowledge needed to work in the formal education sector, including working for Music Services across the West Midlands (in particular Birmingham).
- Want to build skills in individual and group teaching.
- Could help to meet instrumental shortage areas (further information below).

### Why has the course been set up?

Schools and individuals are asking for music tuition and workshops in a wider range of musical styles and instruments. Quench Arts and Birmingham Music Education Hub are seeking to address this demand through training musicians of all styles and backgrounds in order to provide a more diverse offer. We are looking to build the knowledge and skills of trainees to deliver effective and inspiring instrumental lessons privately and to prepare trainees to apply to local music services for work.

We are currently looking for musicians across all instruments, music technology and vocal specialisms. We would also welcome applicants from across all genres - Pop, Classical, Folk and Jazz and Global Indigenous Music Traditions.

We are seeking musicians who can inspire young people to start learning an instrument or vocal style, and who have the potential to support musical development and progression over regular longer term engagement in lessons/sessions.

## **What will I get out of it?**

- The skills to teach your instrument (or voice) and facilitate sessions to a high standard to individuals and groups in schools and community settings.
- The knowledge to fulfil the requirements of working for the Music Service and Music Education Hub.
- The chance to observe peripatetic teachers/facilitators working in schools and settings across 2 full days (to save confusion with observations of your own practice, we call these shadowing placements).
- An observed session\* in a setting to demonstrate your teaching skills, receiving feedback from trainers and Music Service staff (\*those undertaking the CME will have 3 observations of their practice).

## **What will it involve?**

- The course will run between across 7 full Saturdays in 2026 and will be delivered at Quench Arts HQ – the Afro Caribbean Millennium Centre, 339 Dudley Road, Winson Green, Birmingham, B18 4HB.
- Shadowing placements (where you get to observe peripatetic teachers/facilitators working) will take place during the day across 2 days and will be organised at the beginning of the course, around your availability.
- For those undertaking the CME accreditation, additional individual online mentoring sessions will take place across the course duration.
- A satisfactory DBS with the Music Service will be needed in order to attend placements and must be completed before the course starts. This is free of charge to successful candidates.
- You will be required to lead a session in a school or community setting for your assessment. This can be in a setting you already work in, or we can give you contacts to organise this through the Birmingham Music Education Hub organisations. If you are undertaking the CME accreditation, you will be required to lead 3 sessions across the course which will be assessed.
- For an overview of the course, see the final page summary below.

## **Brief sessional overview (including course dates and times):**

**Session 1 & 2 – 14<sup>th</sup> Feb (10am-5pm):** Reflection and core skills; how we learn; principles of music education; one to one teaching skills; planning; clarity of instructions; continued professional development

**Session 3 & 4 – 7<sup>th</sup> March (10am-5pm):** Policies and procedures; child protection; health and safety; blocks to learning; The Music Service context; what to expect if you work for a music service.

**Session 5 & 6 – 21<sup>st</sup> March (10am-5pm):** The wider impact and context; the current climate; group teaching skills; repertoire development.

**Session 7 & 8 – 9<sup>th</sup> May (10am-5pm):** Musical development and assessment; inclusion and differentiation; diversity, equality, equity, inclusion and discrimination.

**Session 9 & 10 – 27<sup>th</sup> June (10am-5pm):** Positive behavioural management; how to deal with challenging situations; practical and assessment advice; feedback from school observations.

**Session 11&12 – 10<sup>th</sup> July (10am-5pm):** Creativity; voice and rhythm work; teaching musicianship; next steps; signposting; review of assessments.

**Session 13&14 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sept (10am-5pm):** Self-employment; marketing; final reflection; further professional development; evaluation.

## **Who is leading it?**

The course will be led by Mark Bick, who has extensive experience of secondary school music, youth work and participatory music work using voice, instruments, music technology and percussion. His experience of training includes work for Community Music Wales, Artshape

(Gloucestershire), Music and Sound Experience (North Wales) and Quench Arts. Qualifications: BMus, Cert Ed.

There will also be specialist input from Services for Education (Birmingham Music Service) teaching staff and community musicians.

Expert witnesses include all of the above plus specialist Music Service Teachers and Liz Viggers BSc (Hons) Music, PGCE (Primary Music Specialist and Quench Arts Director) and Nic Briggs BA (Hons) Music, PGCE (Secondary Music Specialist and Quench Arts Director). The New Horizons CME Quality Assurance role is undertaken by Meldra Guza (BIMM; Derby University; Nottingham Trent University, The SongLab), BA(HONS) PG CERT MBA SLMDA FHEA FCMI.

### **How do I get a place?**

There is a formal application process but we aim for this to be accessible to all. Applications can be in written, audio or video formats **but must address all questions asked on the application form**. Please do not hesitate to contact Quench Arts if you need any advice in completing your application. Quench Arts is a Disability Confident Employer.

Within your application please state if you are interested in the free version of the course or the CME option. The CME option costs £1145 and is payable in 2 equal instalments of £572.50.

The online application form can be found here: <https://forms.gle/VyqQBowbXHv8bz2J7>

You can also apply via audio or video format. If you decide to do an audio or video application, please ensure that you answer all of the questions on the application form and send it to [info@quench-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@quench-arts.co.uk).

### **The closing date for applications is 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Training places will be awarded using the following criteria:

- A high level of performance skills and general musicianship.
- The ability to inspire children and young people.
- An interest and commitment to working in this area and the necessary communication skills.
- Good instrumental or vocal technique and understanding – will not be passing on damaging or restricting habits.
- Ability to communicate musical ideas aurally and through notation appropriate to the instrument.
- The potential to work within the Music Service and Music Education Hub. Applicants should be based in the West Midlands and be willing to work across the Birmingham area. Please note, future employment is not guaranteed.
- A commitment to continuing professional development.

**Interviews will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> February**

**If called for interview, you will be required to perform on your main instrument(s)/voice**

**For further information contact:**

**Quench Arts, 07716 362478**

[info@quench-arts.co.uk](mailto:info@quench-arts.co.uk)

[www.quench-arts.co.uk](http://www.quench-arts.co.uk)

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## **New Horizons Certificate For Music Educators Vision, Values and Philosophy**

We believe that all excellent music educators bring a combination of musical and people skills, a love of music, and a desire to encourage and equip new generations of young musicians. They can come from all cultural, educational, social, and ethnic backgrounds bringing highly valuable diversity and inspiration. This course is designed to celebrate that diversity, enable people to learn from each other and to respect each other's different starting points as musicians and as educators. This in turn creates a music workforce more able to work inclusively with our children and young people. We aim to help overcome the barriers that still exist in our society to inclusion in music education.

We know from experience that the ability to engage and inspire children and young people requires approaches that work with each individual teacher's different personality and strengths. Much of what works in music education is intuitive rather than intellectual and above all is developed through practical experience. At the same time, there is a core set of knowledge, skills and understanding that underpins high quality teaching. There are aspects of accountability and risk management that have to be understood, including safeguarding. Good time management and planning are essential to be effective. The best music educators combine the instinctive and intuitive with solid core knowledge, discipline, and skills. We aim to set people on the right path to continue to reflect, learn and develop their practice throughout their working lives.

CME applicants will normally already be delivering music activities to some extent, either formally or informally, and be able to draw on this experience to evidence their learning & progression throughout the course. Where this is not the case Quench Arts may be able to organise a teaching/facilitation placement within the Birmingham Music Education Partnership.

Most trainees prefer to attend all course sessions (and this is advisable) but prior learning will be considered in the application phase. The New Horizons CME is generally completed in one course year. In exceptional circumstances, completion may be carried over into a 2nd course year, but additional fees may be required.

**For further information contact:**

**Quench Arts**

**07716 362478**

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