

Background

OPUS Music CIC is currently engaged in music residencies in Derbyshire Children's Hospital, Leicester Children's Hospital (Leicester Royal Infirmary), Nottingham Children's Hospital (Queens Medical Centre) and Kings Mill Hospital (Children's) in Sutton in Ashfield. In addition, OPUS is currently delivering long term residencies in wards for elderly patients and those living with dementia at Leicester University Hospitals and at Kings Mill Hospital.

OPUS musicians visit the healthcare settings on a regular basis to make music for and with patients, residents, visitors and staff in wards, waiting rooms, day rooms, intensive care (including neonatal) and accident and emergency departments amongst others.

These residencies are supported by funding from Youth Music and Arts Council England alongside support from partner hospitals.

Our existing grant from Arts Council England also supports short-term training and longer-term paid apprenticeships (year-long) for musicians who already work in, or have an interest in working in healthcare settings.

Through the support of our Apprenticeship programme, eight past Apprentices (four in 2014-2015 and a further four in 2015-2016) have established new programmes of Music in Healthcare practice in London, Essex, Liverpool, Leeds and Nottingham/shire. We aim to run our (paid) apprenticeship scheme again from September 2017 to July 2018. Completion of this training programme (or similar) is a requirement for application to our apprenticeship scheme.

Music in Healthcare Settings is an innovative approach to the use of music in healthcare contexts for cultural rather than clinical purposes. It has been pioneered over the last 20 years by musicians of Musique & Santé in France.

OPUS Musicians are trained by Musique & Santé through European Commission funded exchange and training programmes. Lead trainer Nick Cutts has vast experience of music in healthcare practice, having delivered and observed practice in healthcare settings in the UK, France, Ireland and Poland. Nick has also been trained as a trainer of musicians in healthcare settings through a partnership between Musique & Santé and Royal Northern College of Music and has delivered highly acclaimed training courses to musicians and healthcare professionals from across the UK and beyond.

Overall objectives of the training

The key objectives are:

- Introduction to and exploration of the skills and competences required of musicians for delivering music-making activity in healthcare settings
- Development of new competences for trainee musicians

The programme will have the additional benefit of:

- Humanising the hospital environment for patients, visitors and staff

Training sessions

- Five days (including three half-days of observations and music-making at Kings Mill Hospital). These will take place from 9.30am to 4.30pm on the 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th May 2017.
- The training will consist of theoretical knowledge acquisition, group and individual musical work and practical work in the field (musical actions in healthcare settings for hospitalised patients)
- This training programme will focus on working with hospitalised elderly patients, particularly those living with dementia, as well as hospitalised children and young people. The theoretical background and practice will also be of benefit to those who wish to work in other healthcare settings.

Training description

Each location, patient, member of care staff and each ward are unique. The approaches, methods and presence of music in health settings can vary from providing music at the patient's bedside to regular workshops, performances and artistic residencies.

For the musician's work to be part of an open and flexible dialogue between health and cultural sectors, it is necessary that musical interventions be adapted to each situation. This particular context requires the musician to think about their own place and interventions in an original way as playing music in health settings involves theoretical and practical competences that have to be reinvented in every moment.

The sessions will be delivered by experienced musicians/trainers from OPUS. A maximum of eight trainees will be accepted onto the training course.

Objectives

- Understand the place of music and of the musician in healthcare settings
- Identify and explore the theoretical and practical competences necessary to carry out high-quality musical actions
- Explore and reflect upon methods and approaches of musical actions in health settings
- Explore musical techniques (vocal/instrumental repertoire, appropriate instruments, improvisation)
- Develop spatial awareness and interaction with patients and families/carers
- Explore the importance of partnership with health institutions and care staff
- Understand ethical principles underpinning the practice

Conditions for musicians

- All applicants must be aged 18 or over at the start of the training.
- Compulsory attendance at all training sessions - five days in total.
- An enhanced DBS check dated within the last two years (we can help to obtain this if required at a cost of £59.60).
- Musicians are required to contribute £200 towards the costs of the training. No support is available towards the costs of travel/accommodation though we are happy to offer advice if required. This course is heavily subsidised by funding from Arts Council England.
- Successful applicants will be required to sign a contract of commitment to the course.

Musicians will receive a certificate of attendance.

Criteria for selection of trainees

Necessary criteria:

- **instrumental ability** (accompanying, instrumental play); suitable instrument for a healthcare environment and easily portable *and / or* **vocal ability** (knowledge and usage of suitable repertoire, vocal improvisation)
- **creative ability** (improvisation, listening & creative response to groups/individuals)
- **communication skills**
- **interpersonal skills**
- **desire to learn**

Desirable criteria:

- previous musical experience in healthcare settings

The following details should be submitted:

- A completed application form (download from OPUS website)

We will be offering individual places on the training programme as we receive the applications. If your application is deemed suitable, we will invoice for the course fees of £200. Your place on the course will **ONLY** be confirmed once we have received the course fees.

We will close the application process once all eight places have been filled. You are encouraged to **apply as soon as possible** as places could fill up quickly.

The **deadline** for applying for the course is **5pm on Friday 10th March 2017**.

We retain the right to cancel the course in the unlikely event that the course is not filled. In these circumstances we will inform you shortly after the deadline above and refund any course fees paid.

Please send completed applications (via email preferred) to Nick Cutts, Director, OPUS Music CIC

Email: nick@opusmusic.org

Web: www.opusmusic.org

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