



Massed Ensemble Performance Projects 2019 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Music for Youth (MFY) is an established national youth music organisation which provides performance opportunities for young people aged 21 and under through an annual programme of nationwide festivals, concerts and events. MFY celebrates and showcases the breadth of music-making by young people both within and beyond the formal education sector. Events are designed to encourage and inspire musicians at every level of experience, in a supportive environment.

Massed Ensemble Performance Projects

Each year, Music for Youth presents Massed Ensemble Performance Projects at each of its spectacular showcase concerts in London's Royal Albert Hall in November. The concerts showcase exceptional performances from some of the UK's most creative, innovative and accomplished young musicians. They provide a snapshot of good practice in music teaching and learning currently taking place across the country. Massed Ensemble performance projects are the cornerstone of the Prom concerts, involving around half of each night's 1,000 young performers.

In 2019, Music for Youth will also be offering Massed Ensemble performance opportunities at the MFY National Festival in Birmingham's Town Hall in July. These will be slightly smaller scale, and will be scheduled during the daytime, enabling participants to take part in other activities during the Festival.

Through these large-scale projects, MFY aims to offer opportunities to a broad range of young people and ability levels, directly tackling diversity and inclusion, supporting innovation, ambition and good practice and presenting regional partnerships on national stages.

Call for Proposals

Music education providers and arts organisations are invited to submit Massed Ensemble Performance Project proposals for the MFY National Festival in July 2019, and for the MFY Prom concerts in November 2019.

What we would like to support

1. Innovation – e.g. repertoire approach, way of working, performance practice, use of technology
2. Collaborations between different groups (any age, between 4 and 21 years)
3. Good practice in teaching and learning, as demonstrated in the performance
4. Opportunities for young people to take part in something beyond their normal experience, meet young musicians they would not otherwise meet and work with artists they would not otherwise have had the opportunity to work with. We are interested in presenting the work of a wide group of young people, not just the very best performers.
5. Audience development – active involvement in securing an audience for your performance

NEXT STEPS

Please complete the [online application form](#), taking account of the [criteria and key facts](#) outlined in the Guidance for Applicants, and demonstrating how your project matches [what we would like to support](#).

Deadline for proposals: **12 noon, Monday 26 November.**

If you have any queries about the application process, please email Liz Coomb, Head of Programmes, at liz@mfy.org.uk

We will contact shortlisted organisations to arrange a telephone interview to discuss the details of your project during the week commencing **26 November**, with interviews scheduled on **3, 4, 5 December**. Massed Ensemble Performance Projects for 2019 will be confirmed by **14 December**.

Thank you for your interest.



Judith Webster, **Chief Executive**

SCHEDULE	DATE
Deadline for proposals	Monday 26 November, 12 noon
MFY contacts shortlisted projects to arrange phone interviews	Thursday 29 November
Phone Interviews with shortlisted projects	Mon 3, Tues 4, Weds 5 December
Selected projects are contacted	By Friday 14 December

See next page for Guidance for Applicants

Music for Youth Prom 2019 Massed Ensemble Performance Projects

Guidance for applicants

Music for Youth welcomes proposals from existing partners, as well as from organisations we have not worked with previously. This guidance covers both the National Festival and MFY Prom events.

Project Criteria

1. Performing group size
 - a) For National Festival proposals, the performing group should be a maximum of 300 young people, and must include a number of different participating groups (more than two) who come together in a single performance.
 - b) For MFY Proms proposals, the performing group should be a minimum of 500 and maximum 700 young people, and must include a number of different participating groups (more than two) who come together in a single performance.
2. The performance can present any genre, or mix of genres, and any type of performer or mix of performers, including instrumentalists, singers, and other art forms such as dance. Restrictions will be purely on account of practical logistics.
3. We wish to support high quality projects which reflect the high performance standards of MFY events, which demonstrate good practice at any level(s) of proficiency, and which clearly show an inclusive approach to recruitment.
4. We welcome the inclusion of professional musicians/artists in performances, but with the emphasis remaining on the young people. We are unlikely to support projects with professional musicians as major soloists. However we are happy to consider projects which involve professional musicians as role models, including in a performing capacity.
5. Performance length
 - a) National Festival performances should last approximately 20 minutes
 - b) MFY Proms performances should last approximately 10 minutes in total. If your piece is longer than this, it will not be ruled out per se, but you will be asked to shorten it for this event.
6. Audiences

Your proposal should demonstrate how you will promote your project locally and secure an audience for your young people's performance. Music for Youth will organise special ticket offers to enable supporters to attend.

 - a) For National Festival, performers and audiences will be expected to take part in other festival activities beyond their performance.
 - b) For MFY Proms, Massed Ensemble Performance Projects account for around half of the total number of performers at each concert. It is therefore important that the organisers secure an audience for their performance.

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Key Facts

Dates:

National Festival, Town Hall, Birmingham 2 - 6 July;

- up to 4 Massed Ensemble projects will be available on either 3 or 4 July

Music for Youth Proms, Royal Albert Hall, London 12 and 13 November;

- 2 Massed Ensemble projects will be available NB this is a reduction from previous years.

Production:

MFY produces large scale showcase events and festivals at major venues across the UK with thousands of young people each year. Our highly experienced production team will support you in the delivery of your performance at the National Festival or MFY Prom. You will be responsible for all aspects of the delivery of the project up to that point.

Organisation:

MFY expects to engage in an on-going dialogue with Massed Ensemble project partners to agree how best to produce the project with the resources at our disposal. Partners need to provide one member of staff as our main point of contact.

Funding:

Music for Youth is not able to offer any funding for the delivery of your project prior to your performance. We provide instead national performance platforms, and cover event costs on the day of your performance including provision of a highly experienced production team, professional stage management, and sound and lighting crews. We are not able to contribute to travel costs.

Profile:

Music for Youth will work with Massed Ensemble partners to achieve regional and national publicity for your project as part of MFY's event promotion.

Concert tickets:

It is crucial that all performing groups bring their own audience to support their young people. Music for Youth will organise special ticket offers to enable supporters to attend. We will also be happy to liaise with partners regarding attendance of your VIP guests (MFY Proms only). All details will be provided in a partnership agreement.