



50th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Massed Ensemble Performance Projects

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

General Information

Music for Youth (MFY) supports and celebrates the next generation of performers - providing life-changing experiences, development opportunities and platforms for young people's music, everywhere.

MFY showcases the breadth of music-making by young people both within and beyond the formal education sector. Our aim is to encourage and inspire musicians at every level of experience, in a supportive environment.

We are celebrating our 50th birthday in 2020 and to mark this milestone we are inviting you to put forward your exciting projects to be part of our once in a lifetime celebrations.

Massed Ensemble Performance Projects at 50th Birthday National Festival 2020

Each year, we welcome 10,000 young people to perform, take part and be inspired by our National Festival. For our 50th Birthday National Festival 2020 we want the performances to be bigger and bolder than ever. We aim to offer more opportunities for more partners, new and old, to be part of this national celebration at both Town Hall and Symphony Hall, Birmingham.

Massed Ensemble Performance Projects at Music for Youth 50th Birthday Prom

Each year, we present spectacular showcase Prom concerts in London's iconic Royal Albert Hall. We recruit participants throughout the year from the 40,000 young people who take part in our Regional and National Festivals. The Prom showcases exceptional performances from some of the UK's most creative, innovative and accomplished young musicians, providing a snapshot of youth music-making currently taking place across the country.

An important feature in the concerts are the Massed Ensemble Performance Projects presented by Music for Youth in collaboration with regional and/or national partners. For 2020, we are looking for two exceptional projects to present at our special Prom, and at a second daytime event also in the Royal Albert Hall.

What we are looking for:

Through these projects, MFY offers 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. We are looking for:

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

National Festival 2020 - 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 National Festival 2020.

Project Criteria

1. 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.
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. National Festival performances should last approximately 20 minutes
6. 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. For National Festival, performers and audiences will be expected to take part in other festival activities beyond their performance.

Key Facts

Venues: Town Hall and Symphony Hall, Birmingham 7 - 11 July 2020;

A minimum of 4 Massed Ensemble projects will be available across the Festival

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. 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 the venue, 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. All details will be provided in a partnership agreement.

Music for Youth Birthday Proms 2020 - 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 Music for Youth Birthday Proms 2020.

Project Criteria

1. 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. MFY Prom 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. 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. 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.

Key Facts

Venue: Royal Albert Hall, London 17 and 18 November;

2 Massed Ensemble project opportunities will be available, one for the Music for Youth Birthday Prom, and one for a second daytime event (*details tba*).

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 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 venue, 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. All details will be provided in a partnership agreement.

HOW TO APPLY

For National Festival Massed Ensemble Performance Projects please complete the [online application form](#), taking account of the criteria and key facts outlined in the Guidance for Applicants (for National Festival), and demonstrate how your project matches what we would like to support.

For MFY Proms 2020 Massed Ensembles please complete the [online application form](#), taking account of the criteria and key facts outlined in the Guidance for Applicants (for MFY Birthday Proms), and demonstrating how your project matches what we are looking for.

Deadline for proposals: **12 noon, Friday 13 September 2019.**

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 **16 September**, with interviews scheduled on **30 September, 1, 2 October**. Massed Ensemble Performance Projects for 2020 will be confirmed by **4 October 2019**.

Thank you for your interest.



Judith Webster, **Chief Executive**

SCHEDULE	DATE
Deadline for proposals	Friday 13 September, 12 noon
MFY contacts shortlisted projects to arrange phone interviews	w/c 16 September
Phone interviews with shortlisted projects	30 September, 1 & 2 October
Selected projects are contacted	Friday 4 October