Music Practitioner

Reports to: Lead Music Practitioner
Location: Watford, Hemel Hempstead and surrounding areas, with travel to events and performances
Hours: 1 post (14 hours) 1 post (21 hours). Days to be agreed.
Salary: FTE £30,591

Role Purpose

The Music Practitioner will play a key role in creating and delivering exciting, inclusive and high-quality musical experiences for Electric Umbrella members.

Working alongside the Lead Music Practitioner, Member Development Coordinators and the wider delivery team, the postholder will use their musical skills, creativity and enthusiasm to engage, inspire and support learning disabled people to express themselves through music.

The role combines professional musicianship with creative facilitation, encouraging members to explore their musical interests, develop skills, build confidence and participate in meaningful musical experiences.

We are looking for a passionate and talented musician who enjoys sharing music with others, can connect with people and is willing to develop their skills in inclusive music facilitation. Previous experience of delivering structured music sessions is welcomed but is not essential.

Key Responsibilities

Music Facilitation and Creative Delivery

- Plan and deliver engaging, creative and inclusive music sessions that reflect Electric Umbrella's values and approach.
- Use strong practical musicianship to create exciting and varied musical experiences through singing, instruments, songwriting, improvisation, movement and performance.
- Adapt musical activities and respond creatively to members' interests, ideas and abilities.
- Encourage members to influence and shape musical activities, supporting meaningful and member-led music-making.

- Contribute new musical ideas, approaches and opportunities to the ongoing development of Electric Umbrella's programmes.
- Support the creation of original music, rehearsals, live performances, events and other collaborative creative projects.
- Work with the Lead Music Practitioner and wider team to ensure sessions are well planned, prepared and delivered to a high standard.

Member Development and Musical Progression

- Support members to develop their musical skills, confidence, independence and creativity at their own pace.
- Work closely with Member Development Coordinators to understand members' individual interests, aspirations and development goals.
- Recognise and celebrate individual achievements, encouraging members to explore new musical opportunities and experiences.
- Support members to take increasing creative responsibility through choosing music, songwriting, leading activities and performing.
- Develop an understanding of the Sounds of Intent framework, applying its principles where appropriate to recognise different forms of musical engagement, interaction and expression.
- Work alongside Member Development Coordinators and the Lead Music Practitioner to identify opportunities for musical progression and share observations that help demonstrate members' achievements and development.

Inclusive Practice and Member Experience

- Create a positive, welcoming and supportive environment where members feel valued, confident and encouraged to participate.
- Build respectful and supportive relationships with members, recognising individual strengths, needs and communication styles.
- Adapt facilitation approaches to ensure members can participate meaningfully, regardless of their abilities or level of musical experience.
- Work closely with Member Development Coordinators to understand individual support requirements and ensure activities are accessible and appropriate.
- Promote choice, independence, dignity and member-led participation throughout sessions and activities.
- Follow agreed support plans, risk assessments and safeguarding procedures to maintain a safe and inclusive environment.

Teamwork and Professional Responsibilities

- Work under the guidance and support of the Lead Music Practitioner, contributing to the planning, delivery and development of musical activities.

- Collaborate with Music Practitioners, Member Development Coordinators and the wider team to provide a consistent and positive member experience.
- Participate in team meetings, planning sessions, supervision and relevant training.
- Share musical skills, ideas and good practice with colleagues, contributing to a positive and collaborative team environment.
- Communicate effectively about session delivery, member engagement and any emerging concerns.
- Support the smooth running of sessions, including preparing equipment, resources and spaces.
- Reflect on practice and demonstrate a willingness to develop skills in inclusive music facilitation and musical development frameworks.

Person Specification

Essential

- A skilled, passionate and confident musician with strong practical musical ability.
- Experience of performing live to a high standard, with a broad repertoire of covers and the ability to adapt to different musical settings.
- Experience of teaching, facilitating or leading music activities, whether with individuals, groups, ensembles or in classroom settings.
- Practical experience of setting up and using musical instruments, sound equipment and other resources for rehearsals and performances.
- The creativity and enthusiasm to engage, inspire and encourage others through music.
- The ability to share musical skills and knowledge in an accessible, supportive and engaging way.
- A flexible and adaptable approach, with the willingness to adjust musical activities, teaching methods and expected outcomes to suit individual needs and abilities.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with the confidence to lead groups and build positive relationships.
- A willingness to learn and develop skills in inclusive music facilitation.
- A genuine commitment to working inclusively with learning disabled people, promoting choice, participation and creativity.
- The ability to work collaboratively as part of a team and contribute positively to Electric Umbrella's values and culture.
- **A full UK driving licence and willingness to drive Electric Umbrella's van when required, including transporting musical equipment to sessions, rehearsals, gigs and events.**

Desirable

- Experience of delivering music sessions or workshops with learning disabled or disabled people.
- Experience of songwriting, improvisation, musical direction or collaborative music-making.
- Experience of working across different musical settings, including community projects, education and live performances.
- Skills in music technology, recording, production or sound engineering.
- Knowledge or understanding of Sounds of Intent or similar musical development frameworks.
- Experience of supporting others to develop musical skills, confidence and performance abilities.
- Relevant musical qualifications or training.

Safeguarding and Inclusion

All Electric Umbrella employees are expected to promote the safety, wellbeing, dignity and rights of learning disabled people.

The postholder must follow Electric Umbrella's safeguarding policies and procedures, maintain appropriate professional boundaries and contribute to a safe and inclusive environment.

Our Approach

At Electric Umbrella, music is about much more than developing musical ability. It is about connection, creativity, confidence, belonging and providing opportunities for learning disabled people to be seen, heard and celebrated.

Music Practitioners are central to this approach, using their musical expertise to create experiences where every member can participate, contribute and shine.

The role requires someone who is not only a skilled musician but also an enthusiastic, adaptable and collaborative practitioner who believes in the power of music to bring people together.