

Music Network and King House, Boyle Musician-in-Residence Programme Guidelines for Applicants

Application closing date: Thursday 9 July, 2pm

Residency period: October—November 2026

Applications are now invited for the **Music Network and King House, Boyle Musician-in-Residence Programme**. Music Network is funded by the Arts Council. King House is managed and funded by Roscommon County Council with programming support from Roscommon Arts Office.

On this occasion, we welcome applications solely from **professional musicians** who are resident in Ireland, who are **autistic/ people with autism** and who have a **strong track record in music performance**.

The appointment of the Musician-in-Residence is for 2 months (October to November 2026), and the successful applicant will be paid a bursary of €8,000. The residency will provide support for the Musician-in-Residence to devote time to:

- develop their creative practice
- create new work and/or artistic collaborations
- engage with the wider community, working alongside an experienced outreach coordinator to deliver a programme of inclusive music activities
- showcase their work live in concert at the end of the residency (the performance may involve collaborating musicians engaged by the Musician-in-Residence).

The Musician-in-Residence will visit King House in Boyle, Co. Roscommon 4 times during the residency period and have access to the performance space or a suitable alternative space in King House for up to 12 days (3 days/visit). In addition, a range of in-kind supports will be offered by Roscommon Arts Office and Music Network. The Musician-in-Residence will be welcome to liaise directly with the Arts and Culture Venue Manager at King House throughout the residency and with Music Network staff, as needed.

About Music Network:

Music Network is Ireland's national music touring and development organisation. We make high quality live music accessible to communities throughout Ireland and help musicians to develop fulfilling careers. Our vision is that of a culture which increasingly values live music in our everyday lives, embracing it as an essential part of a healthy, vibrant society.

Everything we do stems from this vision: from our work in music education, to supporting musicians at varying stages of their development, to providing opportunities for performance and participation through our valued network of partners. Our work enriches many aspects of music-making across Ireland, bringing musicians and listeners together through the magic of live performance.

We are motivated by the desire to make live music available to everyone, regardless of location or circumstance, and to be equitable and inclusive in our approach. We advocate for, support, educate, and encourage people to find joy in music. We embrace innovation through research, exploration and experimentation, to continue to challenge current thinking. We believe that live music is central to people's lives and wellbeing, and to the creation of a culturally rich society.

About Roscommon Arts Office:

Roscommon Arts Office programmes are funded by Roscommon County Council, the Arts Council of Ireland and Creative Ireland. They are guided by the *Place for Art Roscommon Arts Plan 2023–2028* and the *Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027* and aim to:

- Support, encourage, nurture and promote the arts and artists through diverse programmes, events, funding schemes and partnerships;
- Work collaboratively and inclusively locally, regionally and nationally with artists, venues, organisations, departments, agencies and communities;
- Facilitate and support opportunities to enhance the environment in which art is made, engaged with and received.

About King House Boyle:

A Georgian mansion built in 1720 for the influential King Family, King House later became headquarters for the Connaught Rangers. Now beautifully restored, King House opened in 1995 as an Historic & Cultural Centre. It is home to a range of treasured collections and exhibits and hosts numerous arts events throughout the year. A Steinway Grand Piano takes pride of place in the Main Salon and is a regular venue for music performances.

<https://www.visitkinghouse.ie>

About the Partnership:

In response to their shared equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) priorities, Music Network and King House/Roscommon Arts Office wish to provide an important development opportunity specifically for a professional musician who identifies as autistic/a person with autism and who has a strong track record in music performance. A key aim is to make King House welcoming and accessible for those with neurodivergence as audience members, professional musicians and workshop participants.

Music Network and King House/Roscommon Arts Office wish to learn from an autistic musician as they spend time in King House as Musician-in-Residence. In addition, we hope that this opportunity will enable musicians and other creative individuals in the surrounding area who are autistic/neurodiverse to connect with the residency and explore the potential to participate in musical or creative activities.

HOW TO APPLY:

Apply by 2pm on Thursday 9 July.

You may apply via email or via an online form, according to your preference.

If applying via email, please send the following documents to

programmesadmin@musicnetwork.ie.

1. A CV (maximum 3 pages. See point 21 below for what information to include)
2. A description of how you would like to use the 2 months of residency support (1,000 words maximum or audio file spoken equivalent, if preferred) including a description of how the residency will fit into your professional ambitions and goals, Your description should take into consideration that you will visit King House, Boyle 4 times and spend up to 12 days developing your creative practice.
3. Up to 2 audio or video samples of your work – they can be shared as online links or audio files.

Or apply online at the following link [Application Form](#)

Informal enquiries may be made to Claire Austen, Programmes Co-ordinator, Music Network, programmesadmin@musicnetwork.ie, tel: 083-0955956 / 01-4750224

Closing date: Thursday 9 July, 2pm

Please note: late applications will not be accepted; lobbying will lead to disqualification of applications.

Candidates will be shortlisted for an in-person interview which will be held at King House, Boyle, Co. Roscommon. **The expected interview date is 15 July 2026.**

Selection Criteria:

The following criteria will be used to assess each application:

- **Artistic quality of your work and track record in music performance (45/100)**
- **Quality of your idea (30/100)**
Including your artistic plans, details on collaborating musicians/ composers (if relevant), and ideas on content of the final performance.
- **Feasibility of your idea (15/100)**
Including your approach to developing your creative practice/creating new work, collaborating with other musicians and presenting a final performance. Plans may be ambitious but must also be realistic within the available timeframe and resources.
Note: bear in mind that all musicians involved in the performance should be paid appropriately for their work, and those fees must be paid from the bursary.
- **Previous experience of managing similar projects (10/100)**
E.g. previous experience of managing your own musical projects, putting on concerts etc.

Note: it is important to consider all of the criteria carefully when preparing your application as this is a competitive process and all four will be taken into account during the assessment process. If none of the applications received are deemed suitable, Music Network, King House and Roscommon Arts Office reserve the right to pursue a different selection process.

Information Session: We will hold an information webinar on **23 June 2026 at 11am** to give interested musicians a chance to find out more about the residency and understand what is needed for this application. [Please click here to register and receive the joining link.](#)

Privacy: Please note, webinar attendees' cameras will be switched off throughout, the meeting participant list will remain hidden from attendees, and anonymous Q&A will be enabled. Attendees may request to have their mic switched on to ask a question verbally rather than typing, if preferred.

FAQs and Further Information:

1. Who can apply?

The residency is open to professional musicians aged 18 and over who are resident in Ireland, who are autistic/people with autism and who have a strong track record in music performance.

2. What do you mean by a professional musician?

We mean a musician aged 18 or over and performing in any genre who has demonstrable experience of performing in professional contexts. Although you may not earn income continuously/exclusively from your performance practice, you identify and are recognised by your peers as a professional performing musician.

3. What do you mean by a strong track record in music performance?

We mean that you have a considerable amount of professional performing experience appropriate to the stage you are at in your career.

4. What career stage of musician are you seeking?

We are seeking a professional musician, whether early-career, mid-career or late career. This means we are seeking a musician who has already worked as a professional performing musician and is recognised by their peers as such.

5. What will I receive as the Musician-in-Residence?

You will receive a bursary of €8,000, a space to work in and additional support to develop your practice/create new work. Opportunities to deliver workshops and to learn new skills in this area will also be provided. At the end of the residency, you will have an opportunity to perform live in concert in King House. At the beginning of the residency, we will agree on several objectives with the Musician-in-Residence that will set out a broad path for the musician to follow. There will be ample discussion around these objectives, and they will be agreed by all parties. The objectives will be broad-reaching and flexible. Together and collectively, we will continue to revisit these objectives over the course of the residency.

6. What does the residency bursary cover?

The bursary of €8,000 will be paid to the Musician-in-Residence to cover your fees and expenses (e.g. travel, accommodation, subsistence etc.), as well as the fees and expenses of your collaborators. It is important that you ensure both you and your collaborators are paid fairly for the work you do.

7. What kind of space will the venue make available to me during the residency?

The main performance space in King House will be available to the artist (dates to be discussed and agreed depending on the availability of the space), plus access to additional smaller spaces if required. Administrative support will also be available from the King House office, e.g. photocopying etc.

8. What size is the performance space in King House and what lighting and sound equipment is potentially available in-house?

The Main Salon houses a Steinway Grand Piano and some basic technical equipment (sound, screen and projector). The stage area and seating are flexible and can seat up to 80 people. There are additional smaller spaces and rooms that can be made available to the artist(s). If requested, a sound-engineer and basic PA can be provided for the concert.

9. What will be expected of me as the Musician-in-Residence?

The residency will enable you to devote time to developing your own creative practice or creating new work/developing a new collaboration. You will also be involved in a workshop programme designed by a specialist outreach co-ordinator, which will provide you with opportunities to develop new skills in relation to facilitating community activities. You may need to undergo Garda Vetting if engaging with children as part of the community activities – Music Network will advise on this.

10. Do I have to live in Boyle for the 2 months of the residency?

No. You will be required to visit 4 times (of 3 days duration) during October and November and you will have access to the performance space or a suitable alternative space for up to 12 days in total. There will be one final visit in November when you will present your work at the final concert.

11. What is expected of me during each visit?

Each time you visit will have time to develop your own practice or create new work/develop a new collaboration (up to 12 days across the whole residency period). In addition, there will be opportunities to work closely with the outreach co-ordinator to deliver activities for the autistic community in the surrounding area.

12. When and where can I showcase my work in concert?

You will give a final concert performance at King House at the end of your residency in November. The exact date will be discussed and agreed with the appointed Musician-in-Residence.

13. Can I invite other musicians to collaborate with me for the concert performance?

Yes. Please note that all fees and expenses for collaborators must be included within your residency bursary.

14. Do I need to take responsibility for planning and organising community events?

No. The partnership will engage a facilitator who has direct experience of working with autistic people/people with autism to take the lead on engaging with the community. The outreach co-ordinator will research and engage groups and plan a range of activities. You will be involved in these activities as a guest musician, without having responsibility for planning and organising these activities.

15. How often will I be involved in delivering community events?

There will be the opportunity to work with the community facilitator to deliver activities in the surrounding areas each time you visit Boyle. All activities will be discussed and agreed in advance to make sure you are comfortable.

16. Do I need to be experienced in delivering workshops?

No, this opportunity will enable you to develop these skills by working with an experienced outreach co-ordinator who will act as a mentor, as needed.

17. Will there be there any publicity expectations of me?

We may ask you to have your photograph appear in our publicity materials, to take part in interviews or to be involved in other promotional activities e.g. for your concert performance, should you feel comfortable doing so.

18. Will there be any other expectations of me during the residency?

Yes. You will be asked to engage with Music Network and King House/ Roscommon Arts Office in any way that you feel comfortable, sharing your knowledge so that collectively we can create a roadmap/set of guidelines to help other venues become as welcoming as possible for musicians and audience members with autism.

19. How do I apply?

Please send your application documents to: programmesadmin@musicnetwork.ie by 2pm on Thursday 9 July, or apply online at this link [Application Form](#). Interviews for shortlisted candidates will be held in person at King House, Boyle, Co. Roscommon. The expected interview date is 15 July 2026.

20. What should I include if I apply via email?

As part of your application, please include all of the following items:

1. A CV (maximum 3 pages. See point 21 below for what information to include.)
2. A description of how you would like to use the 2 months of residency support (1,000 words maximum or audio file spoken equivalent, if preferred) including a description of how the residency will fit into your professional ambitions and goals
3. Up to 2 audio or video samples of your work – shared as online links or audio files.

21. What should my CV look like?

Your CV should be a maximum of 3 pages long. It should include your full professional experience alongside any other experience you deem relevant for us to know. It should also include your contact information (phone number, email address and postal address), your educational qualifications and the names and contact details for 2 referees that we have permission to contact.

22. What will happen after I apply?

A staff member of Music Network will contact you to let you know if your application will proceed to the interview stage.

23. If I am not successful, will I be able to ask why?

Yes. We will be happy to provide feedback to applicants after the assessment process is complete.

24. What will happen if I get an interview?

A staff member of Music Network will contact you to arrange an interview with a panel. This interview will be held in person in King House on 15 July. Your travel expenses to and from the interview (within Ireland) will be covered.

25. Can I bring someone along to help me in the interview process?

Yes, you may bring someone to help. We will do our best to facilitate any additional support you may need.

26. What will Music Network and King House/ Roscommon Arts Office get out of this Residency?

We welcome the opportunity to work with musicians from historically marginalised groups who may have had limited opportunities to present their work on stage. Through this residency, we hope to provide a platform for musicians which will create opportunities to celebrate diversity in our sector.

For this residency, we invite applications solely from **professional musicians** who are **autistic/people with autism**. We do this in recognition that many such musicians face barriers toward career progression that others may not.

We are seeking to make space for social change in the music sector in general and our hope is to learn from the Musician-in-Residence how we can better facilitate and include autistic people/people with autism in Music Network and Roscommon Arts Office projects, in King House and in the wider sector, both in performance and educational environments. However, the main purpose of the residency is to provide time and space for a Musician-in-Residence to develop their career intensively.

This programme is presented by Music Network in partnership with Roscommon Arts Office, supported by King House, Roscommon County Council, the Bank of Ireland Community Fund, Community Foundation Ireland and the Tomar Trust.

Music Network is funded by Arts Council.