

Music Network and St. John's Theatre Musician-in-Residence Programme Guidelines for Applicants

Application closing date: 14th May 2024, 12pm

Residency period: July – October 2024

Applications are now invited for the **Music Network and St. John's Theatre and Arts Centre Musician-in-Residence Programme**. Music Network is funded by the Arts Council. St. John's Theatre and Arts Centre is funded by the Arts Council and Kerry County Council 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 4 months (July to October 2024), 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 community, working alongside an experienced facilitator 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 St. John's Theatre 4 times during the residency period and have access to the theatre or a suitable alternative space for up to 14 days. In addition, a range of in-kind supports will be offered by St. John's Theatre and Music Network. The Musician-in-Residence will be welcome to liaise directly with the Artistic Director of St. John's Theatre throughout the residency and also 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 St. John's Theatre:

St. John's Theatre & Arts Centre, a vibrant arts venue in Listowel presenting an ambitious annual multidisciplinary programme presents all genres of the arts. We serve local artists and our grassroots community and youth theatre projects. We have created an arts venue that supports national and international artists, both by producing their work and through artist residency programmes. We also aim to maintain Listowel's heritage of culture of nurturing new and important writers and artists and want to continue this tradition by making Listowel an outpost for experimental art and new ideas today.

We strongly believe that the arts are for every single person in our community and pride ourselves in a vibrant, dynamic, creative environment that inspires and engages artists, nurtures a diverse audience and is firmly rooted in and dedicated to the life of its community in the North Kerry market town of Listowel and its surrounds.

Our mission is to support artists and the creation of art; to connect artists and audiences; to provide opportunities for our community to develop their own creativity and create a cultural engagement that enriches the lives of diverse communities in Kerry and beyond.

About the Partnership:

In response to their shared equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) priorities, Music Network and St. John's Theatre wish to provide an important development opportunity specifically for a professional musician who identifies as Autistic/Person with Autism and who has a strong track record in music performance. Liaising closely with Listowel Autism Friendly Town committee, which is working towards Autism Friendly Town status in October 2024, a key aim is to make St. John's Theatre welcoming and accessible for those with neurodivergence as audience members, professional musicians and workshop participants.

Music Network and St. John's Theatre wish to learn from an autistic musician as they spend time at the venue as Musician-in-Residence. We wish to make the venue a hub for conversations and dialogue around the supports and changes required to make businesses more accessible and welcoming for those on the autism spectrum. In addition, we hope that this opportunity will enable musicians and other creative individuals in the area who are autistic to connect with the residency and explore the potential to participate in musical or creative activities.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Apply by 14th May 2024.

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 4 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 Listowel 4 times for a period of 3½ days each time.
3. Up to 3 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 Sarah Ledwidge, Programmes Administrator, Music Network, programmesadmin@musicnetwork.ie, tel: 083-0162718 / 01-4750224

Closing date: 14th May 2024, 12pm

Note: late applications will not be accepted.

Candidates will be shortlisted for an in-person interview which will be held at St. John's Theatre, Listowel, Co. Kerry. The expected interview date is 6th June 2024 (subject to availability of the interview panel).

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), 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 and St. John's Theatre reserve the right to pursue a different selection process.

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 St. John's Theatre.

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, 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?

A number of different spaces may be made available to the artist (subject to availability) including the theatre space in St. John's Theatre, or alternative space close to the theatre (e.g. The Kerry Writers' Museum).

8. What size is the theatre in St. John's and what lighting and sound equipment is potentially available in-house?

For information about the dimensions of the stage, lighting and sound specifications etc. in St. John's Theatre please visit <https://www.stjohnstheatre.ie/tech-specs>. Any technical equipment that might be required will need to be discussed and agreed with St. John's Theatre.

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 facilitator, which will provide you with opportunities to develop new skills in relation to facilitating community activities.

10. Do I have to live in Listowel for the 4 months of the residency?

No. You will be required to visit 4 times in total. Once a month for a period of 3 ½ days each time during July, August and September. There will be one final visit in October when, at the end of this 3 ½ day period, you will present your work at the final concert.

Note: accommodation costs while you are in Listowel must be covered under your bursary.

11. What is expected of me during each 3 ½ day visit?

Each time you visit will have 3 days to develop your own practice or create new work/develop a new collaboration, and one ½ day where you will work closely with the community facilitator to deliver activities in the community.

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

St. John's Theatre is the main cultural partner in Listowel's Autism Friendly Town process. We will work alongside the Autism Friendly Town committee towards an awareness-raising day in October 2024. You will be invited to give a concert performance on this day. As part of this day, it is also intended to invite a speaker from ASIAm, and for people local to Listowel who have experience of neurodivergence to

share their perspectives. A participative event involving locals engaged in the process may also be part of this day.

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/persons with autism to take the lead on engaging with the community. The facilitator 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?

During one ½ day of each visit, you will work with the community facilitator to deliver activities together. This will happen 4 times during your residency.

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 facilitator 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 St. John's Theatre 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 14th May 2024, 12pm, or apply on line at this link [Application Form](#). Interviews for

shortlisted candidates will be held at St. John's Theatre, Listowel, Co. Kerry. The expected interview date is 6th June 2024 (subject to availability of the interview panel).

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 4 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 3 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 St. John's Theatre.

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 St. John's Theatre 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/Person 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 projects, St. John's Theatre 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.

In line with Autism Friendly Town progress, our aim is to make St. John's Theatre a hub for conversations and dialogue around the supports and changes required to make venues more accessible and welcoming for those on the autism spectrum. St. John's Theatre will endeavour to implement change and invest in supports (equipment, material, training, awareness raising of venue personnel) in response to the experience of and advice from the autistic Musician-in-Residence and other local participants in this process who also experience neurodivergence (e.g. audiences, local musicians etc.).

The Music Network and St. John's Theatre and Arts Centre Musician-in-Residence Programme is supported by the Tomar Trust, with thanks to AslAm and Cork Opera House for their invaluable advice and support in relation to the planning of this residency.