

Advertisement accompanying

music teacher

The word 'music' is written in a bold, black, serif font. Below it are three horizontal lines representing musical staff lines. The word 'teacher' is written in a lighter, grey, serif font to the right of 'music'.

Your Voice in Music Education

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£4.50

Youth Music to lead Cultural Olympiad

CLARE STEVENS

Youth Music (YM) is to mastermind the contribution of young musicians to the Cultural Olympiad that takes place in the run-up to the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.

The Olympiad begins at the close of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, when London takes over as host city. YM proposes to take a leading role in supporting, encouraging and co-ordinating youth-inspired and youth-led participation in the cultural programme, and is committing its expertise and experience and £9m of its budget to the project, subject to ongoing Arts Council funding. It has also launched an appeal for delivery partners and co-investors to get involved, and will help and encourage organisations that it funds to seek additional partnership funding; it will be actively seeking supplementary investors to supplement its own investment.

Three YM programmes have been planned to facilitate this initiative:

Open Programmes: Grass Roots

Through YM's open funding stream, small grants will be available in 2010-2012 to enable 2,000 communities to organise cross-generational music-making activities to contribute to regional celebrations round the country. YM will close its three current Open programmes in March 2010 and replace them with one Olympic Open Programme. The application programme will be light touch and straightforward.

Singing: United in Song

Singing Challenge Week will see children and young people making and breaking records, Olympic Games-style. Choirs of young children and young people across all age ranges will sing at high-profile and multi-national events, and the aim is to form the largest-ever 'World in Song' Youth Choir. The singing programme will involve partnership working, investment in training for music leaders and the provision of resources to inspire children to achieve high standards in their singing.

Ozones - Sky High Music: Achieving Excellence

Building on the work of the YM Action Zones across the UK, Ozones will be established both in the London Olympic boroughs and elsewhere, to 'deliver new work providing musical development, progression and innovation for 400 high-achieving young musicians, linked closely to core Olympic and Paralympic values'. Young musicians will be encouraged to collaborate with young people who excel in other art forms to create 'new works of performance art reflecting contemporary culture'.

All the activity will reflect the key themes of London 2012: celebrating London and the whole of the UK welcoming the world; inspiring and involving young people; and generating a positive legacy. Young people were integral to the final persuasive presentation of London's winning bid and YM believes their continued involvement and representation will set London 2012 uniquely apart from previous Olympic Games and Paralympics.

'If the cultural programme of the Games is to mean anything and leave a real legacy, participation must be the key,' said Christina Coker, chief executive of YM. 'Participation not just by our cherished artists and select others in high-profile showcases, but by as many "ordinary" citizens as possible in our diverse communities across the UK... We know that the million and a half youngsters across the UK whose participation in music-making YM has supported will relish being part of the celebrations, not to mention the others waiting in the wings who we can support in their music-making between now and 2012.'



More information about Youth Music and the Cultural Olympiad is available in a brochure, Filling the air with music, available from the YM office. YM will operate an 'Open Door' policy on partnerships. To register your interest, email enquiries@youthmusic.org.uk or call 020 7902 1067.