

Frequently asked questions

What is the Youth Music Initiative?

In 2002, a national audit of youth music provision in Scotland was commissioned by Youth Music UK, the Musicians' Union (MU) and the Scottish Arts Council to gain a comprehensive picture of provision, identifying gaps and developmental needs to provide a sound basis on which to develop future policy and activity.

The result was the comprehensive report '**What's Going On?**', published by the Scottish Arts Council in Spring 2003. It gave a complex picture of an active but **disparate scene across Scotland**. It highlighted significant gaps in provision and a number of issues that would **need to be addressed**.

Simultaneous with the publication of the report the Scottish Executive announced additional funding of **£17.5 million over three years** (2003-2006) to support the development of youth music provision, allocated to the Scottish Arts Council for redistribution under what was now to become the **Youth Music Initiative (YMI)**.

What is Youth Music UK?

Youth Music UK was set up in 1999 to **support and facilitate high quality and diverse music making projects throughout the UK** for children and young people up to the age of 18, particularly those living in areas of social and economic need.

By 2010 it aims to have reached **more than 3 million children** and young people in a UK-wide strategy to support youth music making.

Working in partnership with the Scottish Arts Council, Youth Music UK has four main functions:

- **Advising and assisting organisations applying for informal sector funding from the YMI**
- **Information gathering regarding youth music organisations across Scotland.**
- **Developing and encouraging networking opportunities for music practitioners and project managers**
- **Making links between the formal and informal sectors – enabling collaborations that increase opportunities for children and young people to take part**

Through the support of the youth music initiative Youth Music UK has a Development Officer. You can e-mail her at:

nicola.killean@youthmusic.org.uk

What is the 5-25 years theme?

We have created this theme to encourage and support regular music-making activities for children and young people aged 5-25 years.

We will support activities that contribute to delivering the youth music initiative strategy and actively seek to fill the gaps highlighted in the *What's Going on?* audit. These are:

- Creative music-making
- Improvisation
- Composition/Songwriting

This theme is part of the informal sector fund of the youth music initiative.

What is the Pre 5 theme?

We have created this theme to encourage and support regular music-making activities for children aged 0-5 years and their families.

We will support activities that contribute to delivering the Youth Music Initiative strategy and actively seek to fill the gaps highlighted in the *What's Going on?* audit. These are:

- Progressive, creative group music-making for children 0-5 years
- Music-making activities that are fun, stimulate children and encourage parents, carers and families to support and continue music-making with their children

This theme is part of the informal sector fund of the youth music initiative.

What is the informal sector fund?

The informal sector fund is the part of the youth music initiative not set aside for Local Authorities. Each Local Authority in Scotland receives funds to deliver on the aims of the National youth music strategy. We encourage you to contact your local authority to see that your plans fit with what they are delivering.

You can download the strategy from: www.scottisharts.org.uk

Can I apply?

Your organisation has to be more than one year old and have audited or certified accounts in order to apply. Although we encourage partnerships with Local Authorities, **Local Authorities or Local Authority departments cannot be the lead organisation.**

Individuals cannot apply. Organisations that are companies limited by shares and are profit-making are not eligible to apply.

What is the informal sector?

'Informal' is a term used to describe supervised music-making activities that happen mainly outside of school hours. Although these activities should complement the curriculum they are not about delivering it.

The 'informal sector' is a self-defining term for all organisations, which deliver the activities above. Although we encourage complementary partnerships Local Authorities and Local Authority departments are not able to directly apply for non-formal sector funds.

How much can I apply for?

Grants within each programme are available from £500 to a maximum of £30,000. You can apply for either the Pre 5 theme or the 5-25 years theme.

How many times can I apply?

You can only apply once

How much money is available this year?

Just £400,000 is available for organisations this year.

How long must my programme last for?

Programmes can last from 6 to 24 months.

How do I apply?

You must download an application form and the guidelines from the Youth Music website at www.youthmusic.org.uk/looking_for_funding/Apply_for_YMI_Funding.jsp

(Pre 5 form and guidelines)
(5-25 years form and guidelines)

Once you have completed your application, using the guidelines you must e-mail it to: ymi@youthmusic.org.uk

When is the deadline for applications?

The last day for us to receive an application is the 10th October 2005.

Where can I go to get help with making my application?

The Guidelines documents will help you with making your application. You must download this document, print it out and read it whilst you fill in your application form.

Youth Music UK, the UK development agency for children and young peoples music making has a Development Officer who can help you with your application – answer your questions and give advice. You can e-mail her at:

nicola.killean@youthmusic.org.uk

Can the informal sector fund support activity that is already running?

Yes and No. If you are looking for an award to simply continue to offer exactly the same experience that you have previously offered to the same set of children or young people then you cannot apply.

If you are looking to **develop** the work of a previous programme for example by:

- Offering a new or developmental opportunity to children and young people you have worked with before
- Focusing on a style or styles of music that are new to your organisation or the children and young people involved
- Reaching children and young people who have not participated in music-making before

....then you **can** apply.

Informal sector funds cannot support activity that has already happened. If you are applying for an award then the start date must be at least 3 months from the date you e-mail us with your application.

Do you need to be a music organisation to apply?

No. If your organisation works with children and young people and is committed to supporting them to access music-making then you can apply to the fund.

Can any type of music making be supported by the funds?

Yes! If you are passionate about any type of music we want to help you share that with children and young people.

Can we buy instruments or equipment with the funding?

Yes. Up to 10% of the total award can be used to fund instruments or equipment. If you need to spend more on instruments or equipment you should consider raising extra partnership funding.

Can we buy a van, or refurbish our venue?

No. Informal sector funds cannot be used to purchase vehicles, refurbish venues or support trips abroad. The fund is principally about activity – not property.

What is a Music Leader?

A Music Leader is an experienced musician who leads creative music making sessions for children and young people. Music leaders must have both good music and good social skills, relate well to children and have leadership experience with the age group you intend to work with.

What is a Trainee?

A trainee is someone who is learning to become a Music Leader. They should have skills in music-making and should be looking to develop their leadership skills in order to take on a career working with children and young people.

What is Continuing Professional Development (CPD)?

We consider CPD to be any experience that increases a music leader, project manager or trainees knowledge or understanding of delivering creative music-making sessions/ working with children and young people. A CPD experience could be anything from skills sharing amongst peers to completing an accredited course.

From May 2005 you will also be able to use Youth Music UK's MusicLeader.net resource www.musicleader.net to search for training, information, advice and guidance.

How do I find a music leader?

There are many ways you could find a music leader. You could contact your Local Authority Arts Development Officer or Head of Instrumental Teaching or you could contact Youth Music UK's Development Officer Nicola Killean:

nicola.killean@youthmusic.org.uk

From June 2005 you will also be able to use Youth Music UK's MusicLeader.net resource www.musicleader.net to search for music leaders, training, information, advice and guidance.

Can I apply for funding for music making that is part of a bigger cross arts project?

Yes but any award from the Informal Sector fund can only be used to fund **music-making** activity.

What is a partnership?

A partnership is when two organisations (or more) with similar or complementary aims combine their skills, functions and expertise to deliver a programme of work looking to achieve similar or complementary outcomes. For instance a charity supporting children and young people who have been victims of crime may work with a music organisation on a songwriting project. The charity may be looking for the songwriting workshops to contribute to improving the self-confidence of the young people it works with whilst the music organisation may be looking to develop some new songwriters.

The best partnerships work when:

- All partners have agreed on the aims of the programme before it starts
- Each partner is committed to the programme
- Each partner has a clear role in the programme

How can I find out more?

Youth Music UK, the UK development agency for young peoples music making has a Development Officer who can help you with your application – answer your questions and give advice. You can e-mail her at:

nicola.killean@youthmusic.org.uk