

**EVALUATION BRIEF**

**Online Instrumental Tuition in New Contexts**

**Issue date: Tuesday 6 February 2018**

**Tender deadline: Wednesday 28 February 2018**

**Budget: £8000 Inclusive of VAT and expenses**

**1 About NYMAZ**

NYMAZ is a youth music development charity which champions the transformative potential of music for children and young people. We know that music has the power to change lives – it can raise aspirations, enable personal and social development, and enhance career prospects. Working with our trusted partners, we deliver high quality music-making activities to those in challenging circumstances, including rural isolation. We are also committed to strengthening the sector through workforce development, building strategic partnerships and advocating for the benefits of participatory music.

**2 Introduction**

NYMAZ is seeking an evaluation consultant (or team) to work with us and our partners to help us to capture the learning from our 4 Connect: Resound New Contexts Action Research Projects. The projects will trial our tried and tested approach to delivering instrumental lessons and other music activities online in new contexts, where we and our partners feel that remote learning may be valuable in increasing access to and encouraging participation in music education.

Through the Connect: Resound project, NYMAZ works with Music Education Hubs and arts organisations to help to embed online approaches in their delivery of music services and activities for children and young people. To date, this has involved supporting the delivery of instrumental lessons, in real time, to individuals and small groups of learners and participants. Research reports summarising the findings from the 2014 pilot, action research phase of the project, and the subsequent rollout phase in 2015/16, undertaken by the University of Hull, can be accessed here https://www.nymaz.org.uk/connectresound/download-resources

The initial driver for Connect: Resound was the issues facing rural Music Hubs when trying to reach schools and pupils in more isolated and out of reach areas. The approach has proved to be an effective way of working in these contexts and many of our Hub partners have expressed an interest in exploring the potential of real time online music tuition (or ‘Synchronous Online Learning’) in other contexts, including those where children may be facing challenging circumstances.

These include:

* Teaching learners in multiple locations simultaneously
* Connecting with young people not in mainstream education settings, including:
	+ Alternative education provision (eg PRUs)
	+ Homeschooled children and young people
	+ Children and young people who cannot attend school due to health issues or who are receiving education in healthcare settings
	+ Looked after children who may not be attending the same school regularly
	+ Newly arrived and vulnerable foreign nationals

Following a call for Expressions of Interest, Connect: Resound is working in partnership with 4 Music Education Hub and arts organisation partners to explore the feasibility and benefits of synchronous online learning of music when engaging with children and young people in some of the above contexts. The partners will receive a bursary of £3000 towards the costs of an action research project, each working with a specific group of children and young people and delivering music education activities online, in real time.

The New Contexts plans will be designed and delivered by the arts organisations, with input and advice from Connect: Resound. The projects will have access to CPD and training opportunities, including a place on a Virtual Action Learning Set for the lead practitioner from each project, online webinars and networking activities and events and conferences, exploring the development, opportunities and challenges of synchronous online learning in music education.

**3 Project Information**

**The Connect: Resound New Contexts projects are:**

**Surrey Music Education Hub**

Surrey MEH music leaders will deliver 10 x 30 minute one-to-one vocal or instrumental tuition via Synchronous Online Learning to newly arrived and vulnerable foreign nationals. The sessions will be part of a wider project of group based face to face creative music making for this group of young people and will embed and develop the musical skills they are gaining through the group based project, whilst also providing a greater depth of emotional and social support through more focussed, one to one activities.

**East Sussex Music Education Hub**

Following testing of the Blackboard SOLE platform, and working with 121 and small groups in the same room in 2017/18, the East Sussex New Contexts project will explore the potential of teaching to several children who are based at multiple locations. This project will overcome the difficulties that rurally based children and young people can face in accessing group lessons after school at the Music Centres in the county. These young people are already accessing instrumental lessons, and the groups offer an opportunity to develop their skills in their instrument further.

**Croydon Music and Arts**

Croydon Music and Arts would like to use Synchronous Online Learning as a route to supporting children who, for whatever reason, are not able to access mainstream schools opportunities, and are interested in exploring this for their arts as well as their music provision. As with East Sussex, they will be testing the online learning approach during the 2017/18 academic year, with the New Contexts project taking place in the autumn term of 2018/19.

**Take Art - Somerset**

Take Art have been working with delivery partner Actiontrack to deliver music making and music production activities with young people in Pupil Referral Units for four years. Through this work, they have become aware of the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) who find it difficult to access opportunities because of rural isolation and/or because they are unable to leave their homes due to mental health or other health and social issues. They would like to trial engaging these young people in music making activity in a Synchronous Online Learning Environment.

**New Contexts Draft Outline Timetable**

|  | Surrey | East Sussex | Croydon | Somerset |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Jan - March 2018 | Taster sessions to recruit studentsRecruitment and training of tutors | Testing of Blackboard software with trained staff.Work with a test group of existing students to trial 121 and small group tuition.  | Delivery of equipmentRecruitment and training of tutors |  |
| April - July 2018 | **Series of 10 lessons delivered** | Recruit pupils for new after school online group lessons.Work on business case, developing the model and costings for online instrumental tuition in East Sussex | Pilot lessons delivered with existing pupilsRecruitment of learners for New Contexts Trial | Delivery of equipmentRecruitment and training of tutorsProject planning and development |
| August/Summer Holidays | Review and next steps planning |  |  |  |
| September - December 2018 | Report/Share findings | **Teaching to multiple locations trial**  | **Delivery of lessons as part of work with Virtual School/with Looked After Children** | **Delivery of project with NEET young people** |
| Jan - March 2019 |  | Report/Share FindingsReview and next steps planning | Report/Share FindingsReview and next steps planning | Report/Share FindingsReview and next steps planning |

**4 Evaluation Aims**

This evaluation will be additional and complementary to the evaluation, monitoring and data collection activities that will be co-ordinated by NYMAZ as part of the overall management of the Connect: Resound project. The specific focus of this evaluation work will be to assess the impact and effectiveness of Synchronous Online Learning in the specific contexts identified as priorities by the partner organisations.

Working in partnership with our Music Education Hub and Arts Organisation partners, we want to explore:

* The effectiveness and quality of the teaching and learning experience, based on the feedback of pupils, instrumental teachers/music leaders, Music Hub Managers/Arts Organisation SMT members, classroom teachers (where applicable) and parents and carers. This will be the focus of the evaluation co-ordinated by NYMAZ, and the appointed evaluator will have full access to the data collected.
* The particular challenges, including logistical, technical and pedagogical, of delivering music education activities in these contexts online, in real time.
* Key learning points and the identification of areas which require further exploration

**5** **Audience, outputs and timetable**

We envisage the following key audiences for this work:

* Music Education Hubs, Music and Arts Organisations, practitioners, researchers and teachers working in the field of music and arts education
* Funders, stakeholders, opinion formers and policymakers with an interest in music education, arts development and new technology

We require a report which helps Music Education Hubs to understand the benefits and challenges of delivering music education in real time online with participants facing particular access and related challenges to participation. It will help the Music Education Hubs who participated in the project, and NYMAZ, to consolidate and share the learning from the projects with the wider sector. It will also help NYMAZ, arts, music and education funders, and policymakers in these sectors, to identify potential areas in which the learning from these small pilot projects may be applied and/or further developed.

The main outputs from this work will be:

Presentation of draft report and findings to NYMAZ

A full written report, written with the above audiences in mind and redrafted according to feedback on the draft report from NYMAZ. The report should include an executive summary, and recommendations regarding next steps for this area of research and practice.

NYMAZ will co-ordinate the design and publication of the final evaluation report.

The report will be disseminated online via our networks, and through our on and offline networking and sector development events. There may be further opportunities for the evaluation team to participate in these dissemination and development activities, beyond the scope of this contract.

**Indicative timetable:**

* **March 2018:** Design an evaluation framework which will help us to gather a consistent dataset across the four projects
* **April 2018 - December 2018:** In partnership with Connect: Resound and the participating projects, gather evidence and data - through questionnaires, interviews, project visits and session/project reports from music leaders as agreed.
* **January- February 2019:** Compile and analyse the data and write up a draft evaluation report and recommendations
* March 2019: Final report completed.

**6** **Skills and knowledge**

The contractor should have:

* Excellent communication and listening skills
* Clear concise report writing that will engage stakeholders
* Knowledge of the current music education sector, particularly in relation to Music Education Hubs, Musical Inclusion and Technology.
* Experience of evaluating projects in the cultural education sector
* Ability to work flexibly to meet the needs of the project
* Experience of managing and delivering evaluation projects to an agreed budget and schedule

**7 Timescale**

Deadline for applications: 12 noon, Wednesday 28th February 2018

Phone/Skype interviews: Thursday 8th March 2018

Consultant Appointed: Wednesday 14th March 2018

**8 Budget**

£8,000 inclusive of VAT and expenses

**9 Data protection and confidentiality**

The contractor must comply with all of the requirements of the Data Protection Act and all other applicable laws (note that the General Data Protection Regulation shall supersede the Data Protection Act from May 2018), and shall seek appropriate research consents from interviewees or any data collection. These consents must be agreed with NYMAZ in advance of any activity taking place.

The contractor must maintain confidentiality about their dealings with NYMAZ.

The contractor must follow NYMAZ’ Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Equality and Diversity Policies and Procedures when undertaking this work. These can be found here: <https://www.nymaz.org.uk/about-us/policies>

**10 Application Process**

Proposals should be submitted by 12 noon on Wednesday 28th February 2018.

Please include:

* Name of organisation and/or individual consultant(s) making application
* Contact name and details for all correspondence, including address, email and telephone
* CV for each consultant to be involved
* Roles of each consultant if a partnership or team is applying for the tender
* Contact details for 2 referees,
* Up to two examples of previous evaluation reports you have written (these can be included as links if the reports are available on-line)
* A brief proposal outlining how you would approach the work, including methods and costings, and a brief summary of your skills, suitability and experience.
* Please send your submission to emily.penn@nymaz.org.uk by 12 noon on Wednesday 28th February. Please include New Contexts Evaluation in the subject header.

**The consultant will be required to hold appropriate public liability insurance.**

**Appendix 1**

**Background**

NYMAZ is a youth music development charity which champions the transformative potential of music for children and young people. We know that music has the power to change lives – it can raise aspirations, enable personal and social development, and enhance career prospects. Working with our trusted partners, we deliver high quality music-making activities across North Yorkshire to those in challenging circumstances, including rural isolation. We are also committed to strengthening the sector through workforce development, building strategic partnerships and advocating for the benefits of participatory music.

Connect: Resound promotes the way digital technologies can be used to create more music education and enrichment opportunities for children living in rurally isolated areas, where transport costs and times challenge traditional methods of provision.

The project is led by NYMAZ and delivered in partnership with technical lead UCan Play, Music Education Hubs, Music Organisations, ensembles and venues, as well as primary, secondary and special schools across England.

Connect: Resound was originally piloted in North Yorkshire in 2014/15 (funded by the Digital R&D Fund for the Arts) and was then rolled out in 2015/16 to Cornwall, Cumbria, Durham and Darlington, East Riding of Yorkshire, with support from Arts Council England and J Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust. Research undertaken by academic partners The University of Hull during the pilot and rollout phases demonstrated that online technologies could help Music Education Hubs to overcome the high transport costs and logistical challenges of reaching children in isolated areas.

The researchers found that online instrumental tuition was as effective as face to face tuition in terms of progression and that teachers and pupils were engaged and enthusiastic about the lessons. The project also created a bank of web based resources to help schools and Music Education Hubs interested in exploring online instrumental tuition.

The project has also worked with musicians, ensembles and orchestras to create an exciting programme of high quality music performances and productions, live-streamed direct to schools. Working with Music Education Hubs and arts venues, we have streamed concert specifically commissioned for young audiences featuring the Royal Northern Sinfonia, the Hallé Orchestra, and emerging ensembles including the A4 Brass Quartet and the Consone Quartet.

Connect: Resound has also established the Remote Music Learning Network, a UK-wide network of practitioners and organisations working in the field of remote music learning, to share practice and offer Continuing Professional Development events.

The project has received funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation’s Education and Learning Through The Arts (More and Better) fund to further explore and develop the role of online technology in music education. Between 2018-21 the project will support more Music Education Hubs across the country to develop an online element to their delivery, including online tuition, and will further develop the CPD and livestream broadcast activity strands. Further information [www.connectresound.org.uk](http://www.connectresound.org.uk)