

OPEN CALL GUIDELINES:

Fun Size Jazz

A performance and development opportunity for Jazz & Improvising Musicians

Improvised Music Company in partnership with The Ark May 2018 & August 2018

Overview

Improvised Music Company in partnership with The Ark are looking for applications from professional artists and ensembles in jazz and improvised music for short 'scratch' performances aimed at young audiences. The chosen artists will have an opportunity to devise, create and deliver short live performances for audiences of children at The Ark.

We are looking for considered, innovative and engaging approaches to creating memorable and enjoyable performances of between 15 and 20 mins duration maximum designed to specifically appeal to young audiences aged between 4 and 12 years.

Each proposal should take into consideration the audience age profile and provide a short description which illustrates clearly an understanding of the direction and approach or ideas that will be used to appeal to young audiences.

Fun Size Jazz will result in 2 performances taking place on the May and August Bank Holiday Mondays respectively. These performances will be hosted by an MC who will help facilitate a relaxed atmosphere of experimentation and friendly feedback or dialogue between the performers and the audience.

The themes or focus for proposed performances is purposely open as we wish for the chosen artists to have the freedom to explore ideas that may be of specific interest to them and the development of their music and stagecraft for young audiences. We also wish to allow for the integration of any learning or refinement to the artist's approaches or ideas so for this reason there will be 2 separate performances on the event days.

IMC and The Ark will provide additional help and supports in aiding musicians/ensembles who wish to apply for a performance slot. This will include an initial application information day for anyone interested in applying.

The selected artists will receive further support through a preparation day which will provide information (e.g. what to expect when performing for children), video examples, a chance to meet with musicians who have done this before and the MC as well as time to further tease out and rehearse your ideas ahead of the performance dates.

As well as the preparation day, all selected artists/ensembles will need to attend both performance dates. This is to maximise the opportunity to learn from being both on the performance and the audience side of the experience. We will also debrief with all artists at the end of the performances to consolidate and share learnings and development.

It is our intention that this opportunity will encourage musicians to try out performing for children, support their growth and broaden their range of experience in this developing area of music performance practice.

Key dates which the artists must be available are stated below.

As with all work involving children, the selected artists will be required to undergo Garda vetting and follow to our child protection policy and health and safety guidelines.

Key dates:

Application Information Day: Tuesday March 20th – information sessions at 12pm and 4pm at The Ark

Deadline for receipt of applications: Thursday 29th March, 5pm

Preparation date for selected artists: Monday April 16th (daytime, 3hrs duration approx.)

Performance Date 1: Monday 7th May 2018 (from 12pm to 5.30pm)

Performance Date 2: Monday 6th August 2018 (from 12pm to 6.30pm)

Budget:

Fee: In addition to the provision of the development supports outlined, each selected artist/ensemble will also be paid a performance fee of €250 per musician.

Expenses: There is a limited transport and parking allowance for selected artists to attend performance dates. Unfortunately, accommodation cannot be covered.

About The Ark

The Ark is a dedicated cultural centre for children. We create opportunities for children, along with their families and friends or with their school, to discover and love art. Through our work with leading Irish and international artists children can enjoy performances in our unique child-sized theatre, view engaging exhibitions or participate in creative workshops.

You can read more about The Ark at <http://ark.ie/about>

About Improvised Music Company

Improvised Music Company (IMC) is an Arts Council funded resource for Irish musicians and a specialist music promoter for jazz and ethnic music in Ireland. IMC's mission is to foster the growth, artistic achievement and understanding of jazz and related music in Ireland by addressing every aspect of its development for performers, students and audience alike in a coherent and focused manner, while actively removing barriers of participation and providing access at all levels of its practice, from performance and dissemination to touring and education.

You can read more about IMC at <http://www.improvisedmusic.ie/about/>

FAQs

● **What kind of artists are we looking for?**

We are looking for professional musicians/ensembles who are excited about the possibilities of creating and presenting jazz and improvised music performances to young audiences, and can see long-term benefits to their practice from this experience.

We will accept submissions from soloists, duos, trios or quartets.

Experience in developing and presenting work for children is an advantage, but not essential. Openness and a willing to fully explore the possibilities of this project is of greater importance, as is a high level of musicianship of course.

This opportunity is unfortunately not suitable for artists still studying or those who have very recently graduated.

● **What do you mean by ‘scratch performance’?**

Whilst we are looking for exciting, interesting ideas and, of course, expect musicians of a high standard who will prepare well and rehearse for the performances, at the same time we don't expect the performances to be fully formed or completely perfect. Rather this is an opportunity to present a work-in-progress or a seedling of something which could be further refined or developed in response to audiences' feedback and your own observations and learnings from the experience.

It is our aim that a significant part of the value of experience for the selected artists in taking part will be the chance to test their ideas in a supportive setting and to have the chance to reflect and learn from that.

In this context, the performances will have a small audience capacity (max 60) and be hosted by an MC who will facilitate a relaxed atmosphere of experimentation. The MC will also encourage friendly dialogue and feedback between audience and performers to enhance the learning experience for all.

● **What information should I include in my application?**

We are keen to learn about your and/or your ensemble's experience to date as professional artist(s) and, in particular your work related to children, if relevant. We want to hear why this project appeals to you, as well as your interest in the scope for your development as an artist offered by the opportunity. We'd love to see examples of your work (film clips, audio samples, reviews etc.) so please include them in your application via web links and/or file transfer links (e.g. Dropbox or WeTransfer). Please don't include CVs or other additional documents as the panel will only see your application form.

● **Is there a word count limit?**

Please limit your answers to word count limits per question as indicated on the application form. Think about the key facts/values/ideas you want the panel to know and make those clear and succinct in your answers.

● **How will the panel assess the applications?**

The panel will review each application in relation to the following key criteria:

- *Demonstrated existing professional music performance practice*
- *Artistic quality*
- *Enthusiasm and commitment to the development of your experience in performing for young audiences*
- *Quality of ideas and how you see them engaging children aged 4 to 12*
- *Clear vision for the potential impact of this opportunity on your career as an artist*

● **How many places are there?**

We have provisioned for up to 6 musicians/ ensembles to perform split across 2 dates - May 7th and August 6th 2018.

We will accept applications for solo, duo, trio or quartets performance proposals only. You may apply more than once if you have more than one performance idea.

● **Can I apply if I haven't connected with The Ark or Improvised Music Company before?**

Yes, absolutely. We strongly encourage all musicians interested in this opportunity to develop their performance experience with young audiences to apply.

● **Can I apply with more than one idea or project?**

Yes, you can apply more than once if your proposals are clearly different.

● **What will each performance day involve?**

Each selected artist/ensemble will have the opportunity to perform twice on their selected performance date. Performances will take place at The Ark during the day. The audience capacity will deliberately be kept small (max 60). The performances will be hosted by an MC who will facilitate a relaxed and experimental atmosphere and encourage friendly dialogue between audience and performers.

All selected artists will also attend the other performance date as part of the audience. This is to maximise the opportunity for broadening your experience and development as well as to enable a shared learning through debrief with all the participating artists together.

● **What kind of technical set-up is available for the performances?**

A degree of standard audio equipment will be available to help the set up for your performances. However, we strongly advise you to keep your technical requirements as straightforward as possible. Given the short duration of each performance as well as the small scale of spaces for performance in The Ark, the small audience size and the relaxed atmosphere, high levels of volume/pick up are not anticipated to be necessary in this context.

● **What do you mean by young audiences?**

For the purposes of this opportunity, young audiences is defined as children aged between 4 and 12. You can submit a proposal idea that you think will have broad appeal to the full range of those ages. If you wish you may also submit a proposal that is aimed at a more specific age range within that e.g. 4-6 year olds or 10 to 12 year olds etc.

● **Can I apply for this opportunity if I'm not based in Ireland?**

Unfortunately no. This opportunity is for artists based in Ireland only.

● **How accessible is The Ark?**

The venue is fully accessible and we welcome applications from artists with a disability. Please get in touch with us if you would like to discuss your accessibility needs.

To apply:

To apply, simply complete our online application form [here](#).

<https://form.jotformeu.com/80644815406356>

Applications must be received by 5pm on Thursday 29th March 2018.

The selection panel will include Kenneth Killeen, Artistic Director of Improvised Music Company and Aisling O'Gorman, Creative Arts Manager at The Ark.

All applicants will be contacted during the week beginning 3rd of April.

We aim to ensure the application and selection process is straightforward and fair. If you have any questions about the process, or the opportunity in general, please email Kenneth Killeen at ken@improvisedmusic.ie

