

## Music for Life: Training and Development Scheme 2024/25



Applications are now open for our Music for Life Training and Development Scheme. This is a unique opportunity for vocalists who are keen to develop their skills and experience in supporting creative music sessions with people living with dementia, their families, and carers.

We are recruiting one **Trainee Vocal Leader** to take part in our Music for Life programme between September 2024 and July 2025. The successful candidate will be supported throughout by leaders and mentors and will have the chance to take part in other training sessions and opportunities as part of Wigmore Hall Learning's wider Pathways programme.

*"I have been given the time and the confidence to develop my skills as a vocal leader and music maker. But what's more is I feel I have learnt the importance and value of music making as a means of communication."* – Current Trainee Vocal Leader

### **What is Music for Life?**

[Music for Life](#) is an internationally renowned creative music programme for people living with dementia and their families, friends, and carers, founded by Linda Rose in 1993 and led by Wigmore Hall since 2009. We are proud to work in partnership with a range of organisations to provide meaningful opportunities for people at all stages of dementia. The programme encompasses a wide range of projects and events in care settings, community settings, online and at Wigmore Hall itself including:



- **Care home projects** – creative, improvisation-based projects in residential care settings, including projects in partnership with Jewish Care
- **Singing with Friends** – a weekly choir for families living with dementia taking place at Wigmore Hall and online, in partnership with the Royal Academy of Music and Resonate Arts
- **Monday Afternoons** – creative, improvisation-based projects with people with young onset dementia and their families and carers
- **Music for the Moment** – informal concerts for people living with dementia and their friends, family and carers in partnership with the Royal Academy of Music, Resonate Arts and St Marylebone Parish Church
- **Music for Thought** – creative workshops for people living independently / at home in partnership with the Royal Academy of Music and Resonate Arts
- **Out of the Ordinary** – an online project for people living with rare dementia in partnership with the Royal Academy of Music and UCL Rare Dementia Support
- **Training and development** opportunities for musicians, and training programmes for organisations developing work inspired by Music for Life

Our **vision** is a world in which the human rights of all people living with dementia are respected and upheld, where they are treated with dignity and fully included in society. We play our part by creating music activity for and with people living with dementia, which is fully inclusive of people whatever their stage or type of dementia.

We **aim** to enhance the wellbeing of all those involved by enabling creative agency, a sense of purpose, and meaningful connections with others. We also want to support carers and musicians in their journeys to better understand the experiences of people living with dementia, and to help them to improve their confidence in supporting them.

Our practice reflects Wigmore Hall Learning’s values of **care, collaboration, and equity**. Improvisation and flexibility are at the heart of Music for Life and our team works in a responsive way, both in moment-to-moment interactions, and more broadly in listening to and shaping sessions around participants’ ideas.

### **What does the scheme involve?**

The successful candidate will take part in a 12-week placement (mix of half days and whole days) with Singing with Friends, our choir for people living with dementia, their families and carers. They will also take part in four improvisation-based sessions as part of the wider Music for Life programme (in-person and / or online).



**Please note:** *Singing with Friends takes place on **Tuesdays** and the Trainee Vocal Leader placement will run from September-December 2024. Applicants must be available for the series of dates listed under ‘Key Dates’ below.*

### Other opportunities include:

- Six mentoring sessions with a Music for Life musician across the year
- Dementia awareness training
- Involvement in Music for Life team development sessions
- Three termly training and development sessions as part of our wider Pathways programme

*“At each stage of the process I’ve been expertly mentored to help facilitate music making and give space for the creativity of each and every participant.” – Current Trainee Vocal Leader*

### Who can apply?

#### **We would love to hear from you if you are:**

- A singer aged 18+ who is keen to gain experience in singing workshops and improvisation-based music workshops for people living with dementia
- Working in any genre and with any voice type

#### **And if you have the following experience, qualities and interests:**

- Appropriate musical experience, such that you feel confident singing and collaborating with other musicians and music leaders in a workshop context (though we acknowledge and embrace that many candidates will be early on in their musical career, and our expectations of experience are in line with this). This could be demonstrated through a music qualification, or you could be self-taught; we work with people from a range of different musical backgrounds
- Shared passion for the Wigmore Hall Learning and Participation [programme and values](#) and a sense of your own motivations and values
- A commitment to and interest in inclusive and anti-discriminatory practice, including a commitment against racism, sexism, ableism, ageism, homophobia, transphobia and other forms of discrimination
- A willingness to learn from others, to share your perspective with others, and to engage in reflective practice within a supportive environment
- A willingness to develop music making practice that is adaptable and responsive to different people and contexts, and to activity that is co-created with participants and partners
- A commitment to trauma-informed practice and supporting the wellbeing of others and yourself, and a commitment to and knowledge of good practice in safeguarding

#### **You must be eligible to work legally in the UK in order to take part in this scheme.**

Wigmore Hall is committed to being a fair and inclusive employer. We value diversity, promote equality and challenge discrimination. We value all kinds of experience, and welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds with relevant lived/personal, voluntary, educational and/or professional experience of the above. We embrace and celebrate different learning styles and neurodiversity, and welcome discussions around reasonable adjustments. We are working to increase representation of under-represented groups in our workforce, and strive to ensure our staff and musician teams reflect the communities with whom we work. We particularly welcome applications from people from the global majority\*, disabled\*\*, trans and non-binary candidates, as they are currently under-represented in our workforce.

\*This includes, but is not limited to people of Black Caribbean, Black African, South Asian, East Asian, South East Asian, Middle Eastern, Arab, Latinx, Native American and First Nations heritage as well as people indigenous to the global south

\*\* This includes but is not limited to those who define as disabled people, as people with long term health conditions, as d/Deaf or as neurodivergent

**Successful applicants will be paid the following training and development fees:**

- £100 per half-day workshop (up to 4hrs)
- £150 per whole-day workshop (between 4-8hrs)
- £20 per half-day training session

**Key Dates**

**Online audition and interview**

Thursday 1 August 2024

Please note, you must be available on this day for a group audition workshop, **10-11.30am** and a 25-minute interview between **12-4pm**

**Singing with Friends**

Applicants must be available to take part in the following series of sessions which take place at Wigmore Hall.

Autumn 2024: Tuesday 24 September – Tuesday 17 December 2024 (12 sessions)

- Weekly in-person sessions (10.30am-1.15pm)
- Plus additional online sessions on 24 Sep, 8 Oct, 22 Oct, 12 Nov, 26 Nov & 10 Dec (sessions extended until 3.15pm).

**Four additional improvisation-based workshop dates to be agreed**

Regular project days include:

- Monday Afternoons (Mondays)
- Care home projects (often Wednesdays)
- Music for Thought (Thursdays)
- Out of the Ordinary (Fridays)

**Trainee Welcome Meeting**

To be arranged for September 2024 (online)

For any questions regarding the scheme or application process, please contact Lydia Nickalls, Head of Music for Life, on 020 7258 8249 or [lnickalls@wigmore-hall.org.uk](mailto:lnickalls@wigmore-hall.org.uk).

*“I have acquired a wealth of musical experience and have been profoundly struck by the overwhelmingly positive impact on every person involved across each of the projects I’ve been involved in.” – Current Trainee Vocal Leader*