



# MUSIC FOR YOUTH REGIONAL FESTIVAL SERIES 2024

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## MARCH

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Welcome to the 2024 Music for Youth season! The regional festivals provide a friendly environment where you can gain performance experience, learn from and enjoy performances from other music groups, and get valuable feedback and advice from our Music Mentors.

The Music for Youth season is designed to inspire musicians at every level of experience and there will be a wide range of musical genres, group sizes, ages and ability of groups performing at your Regional Festival. Following the festivals, there are progression opportunities from the regional festivals to other events in the Music for Youth season, such as the National Festival and Music for Youth Proms.

The information below is designed to help you plan your visit and make sure that everyone gets the best possible experience from the Regional Festival Series. If you have any questions or trouble with any of the links, please feel free to contact us on 020 7759 1830 and ask for your Festival Producer (the person who emailed you).

A dedicated team of Local Organisers run the regional festivals on behalf of Music for Youth. Music for Youth is incredibly grateful to these organisers and their teams for giving up their time to run these festivals. They will be your point of contact on the day and should be able to help with any queries.

### 1. GETTING THERE

Please refer to the **Key Information document** on the [Participants Portal](#) for on the day contacts. You should contact your Local Organiser if you are running late on the day.

Within the **Key Information document** you can also find a Parking and Facilities Map – this will show you a map of where the venue is, travel information and details about parking and facilities.

### 2. IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

MFY has prepared various health and safety documents for groups.

- You can download MFY's Health and Safety Information by clicking on this [link](#).
- We also have a Risk Assessment for the Festival, available [here](#).
- Please make sure you read our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy which can be downloaded [here](#).

### 3. ARRIVAL

In your covering email you will have been told which session, of which festival, your group(s) will be performing in. Please plan for your group(s) to arrive in good time for the start of the session. If you need time to set up equipment, please arrive at least 30 minutes before the start of your session. On arrival, please introduce yourself at the reception desk where you will be registered and directed where to go. Groups should stay for the whole session to support and enjoy other performances given by young musicians.

At least four weeks before the event you will be sent a final group list that will show you who else is performing in your allocated session.

You should always make sure that you have enough adult helpers to accompany the group. Please check your Local Authority guidelines for information on this.

### 4. MUSIC

We want to make sure that the feedback you receive is as relevant as possible for your group. Therefore, it is important that the Music Mentors have a copy of your music, where relevant, accompanied by any useful information about your group, such as how and when they formed and if it is a student led group etc. If you don't use music, a short note explaining how the piece was conceived or learnt will be useful for the Mentors to consider in their

feedback. Please hand this in at the Reception Desk when you arrive.

Please remember to collect your music at the end of the session as we're unable to return it after the event.

PLAY YOUR NEW COMPOSITIONS! We're keen for the regional festivals to provide a performance platform for new student compositions, so why not encourage your group members to play something they've written themselves? Please state whether you are performing any new compositions in the group information that you hand into the Music Mentors with your music.

## 5. EQUIPMENT

A list of the equipment available at your festival can be found within your festivals **Key Information document** found within the [Participant Portal](#) . If you need any other equipment that is not listed, then you will need to bring this with you on the day.

If you are bringing lots of equipment that needs setting up, please ensure you arrive in plenty of time. Please also ensure you bring with you all beaters, sticks, guitars leads, straps and extension leads as your Local Organiser won't be able to provide these for you.

You will be responsible for setting up your equipment on the day. Please ensure you bring enough members of staff to lift heavy instruments safely and ensure they are properly transported. There may not be staff available at the venue to help you.

All electrical equipment you bring must have a current Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) regime and be suitably marked as such. This safety test can be carried out by some high street electricians for a small fee and is necessary to ensure that all electrical equipment is safe to use.

## 6. WARM-UP SPACES

At the festivals there will be access to a warm-up space. Please note that this space will not be suitable for a full rehearsal and is more appropriate for having some time with your group to focus before your performance on stage. This space will be used on rotation throughout the day so your group will be given access to this space for between 10 – 20 minutes depending on the schedule.

Please arrive dressed and ready to perform, as space is often very limited at the Regional Festivals. Please also make sure that rooms are left clean and tidy when you leave.

## 7. AUDIENCE

When you're not performing, your group should be seated in the main hall to listen to other performances. We want you to get the most from the experience. The festivals are a great opportunity to listen and enjoy music performed by other young musicians and to make connections with groups and music leaders in your area.

Friends and family are welcome to attend the festivals. This will be on a first-come, first-served basis and we ask for your cooperation in ensuring every audience member gets to see their young person perform if space is limited.

## 8. PERFORMANCE

All groups have a maximum of 10 minutes to perform. You don't have to use all of this time if you don't want to, but please make sure your performance doesn't last longer than 10 minutes. If everyone performed for an extra 5 minutes then the day would run late causing massive problems for groups' transport arrangements!

To ensure the smooth running of the day, please ask some of your group members to help set out chairs and music stands for your performance. As the group leader, please take responsibility for this and for ensuring your equipment is on stage and ready. Please ask accompanying staff to help ensure the whole group is ready to perform when called.

Please ask one member of the group to announce your group's name and the piece(s) you will perform.

## 9. MUSIC MENTORS & FEEDBACK

Music for Youth send two Music Mentors (music education specialists and professional performers) to every festival. Their role is to listen to each performance and provide constructive feedback and suggestions which will help each group continue on their musical journey. The Music Mentors will provide you with feedback at the end of the session on such things as your group's performance skills, musical expression etc. This feedback is intended to give you ideas, advice and encouragement in your on-going music-making.

The feedback is delivered at the end of each session for all of the groups that have performed in that session.

Each group will also be presented with a certificate of participation and a written comment and next steps sheet. Please arrange for one member of your group to receive these from the Music Mentors. Please let a member of staff know on the day if you're not able to stay for the feedback.

## 10. PRESS & MEDIA

You could publicise your group's involvement by contacting your local press directly.

At some events we expect there to be members of the press present to report on the day. Therefore, please ensure you accept or decline the [Recorded Media Consent](#) terms.

## 11. SAVE THE DATES!

### **National Festival, 2024**

**Thursday 4th – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

Save the dates now for the National Festival in Birmingham to make sure your group can come. We're well underway with shaping up an exciting programme with more information to follow early in the New Year.

There are more opportunities than ever next year for everyone to take part - whether you're invited to the main stages, or come and perform on one of our profile Fringe platforms, take part in workshops or listen to the wonderful performances by young people from around the UK. It's a unique occasion in the calendar which is not to be missed.

## 12. SOCIAL MEDIA

Your Regional Festival is something to shout about, and we want to hear all about it! Share your Regional Festival experience with Music for Youth by tagging us (@MusicforYouth) in posts and photos on social media so we can see them, and we can promote it to our audience across the UK and let everyone know what you are doing!

Likewise, you and your young people will be able to see what's happening at Regional Festivals all across the country. Send us or tag us in your photos, tweet about what's happening at your festival, use the hashtag #mfyregional and tell us what you thought about the day! If it is appropriate to encourage your participants to get involved on social media, they (and you!) can find Music for Youth on:

- X – @musicforyouth, #mfyfestival24
- Facebook – facebook.com/musicforyouth
- Instagram – @musicforyouth #mfyfestival24
- TikTok - @musicforyouth

Please note age restrictions apply to some social networking sites.