

## Leading Choirs at Special Needs Schools

### Person specification

#### It is essential for applicants to:

- Have studied singing to a high standard (degree or postgraduate) or be performing at a professional level.
- Have the flexibility in their own timetable to attend workshops in the Midlands - workshops are run on Wednesdays in and around Birmingham between 1000-1400 (you do not necessarily need to be available for the whole 4 hour slot).
- Be enthusiastic about educating others and passionate to want to get the best out of people.

#### It is desirable for applicants to:

- Have some experience of running vocal workshops or teaching individuals
- Have some experience of working in a team to make music
- Have some experience of working in a school environment
- Have a current up to date DBS certificate

#### As a result of this training you will:

- Have experience of running vocal workshops with young people with disabilities
- Be able to work “live” alongside an accompanist and other team members
- Be able to adapt music when necessary to ensure the whole group can join in and benefit from the musical experience
- Have knowledge of a mix of engaging repertoire that is suitable for a wide variety of abilities
- Develop a supportive approach to music-making, ensuring the whole room is engaged in the activity
- Be fully up to date with safeguarding policies
- Have experience of working in a variety of school environments
- Be able to work alongside teachers and encourage staff to participate

#### We are particularly looking for people with experience of:

- Working with young people in an educational context, who have a passionate belief in the contribution music can make to students’ development and well-being
- Having a personal experience of disability; caring for a disabled child as a parent or carer – who understands the need from the users’ perspective

### Training description and timeline

#### **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE + SEN**

Due to Covid19 times this proposed schedule is a working plan to meet the current challenges with partial school openings and social distancing rules. Special Needs including deaf children and those with Education Care Health Plan (ECHP) are now being actioned with the **‘Reasonable Endeavours**

**Care Plan**\* (2020) = ECHP +RECP which means they can only go to school if the RECP meet the temporary requirements along with the Government guidelines. RECP's time band is currently until March 2021.

As a result, we plan to begin training online during the Autumn term. Online training may have to continue into the Spring term 2021, but we hope that by the end of the Spring term and certainly for the Summer term, our 'live' classroom plan will be in action. By Summer 2021 the focus is on growth and expansion and Music of Life trainees will visit new schools with the view of hopefully establishing a new placement for September and beyond. However, it is a very fluid and ever-changing situation, and flexibility is required in this programme.

\*National SEN and Disability Legal Practice <https://www.senlegal.co.uk/post/what-does-reasonable-endeavours-mean-for-your-child-s-ehc-plan>

**Timescale:**

**August 2020** - Online interviews will be held the week commencing 17 August

**September 2020** - An online training afternoon with current Music of Life workshop leaders for each part of the programme. There will be a short demonstration of the different work each project does, leading to breakout rooms; one for "Leading choirs at special needs schools" and the other for "Music provision for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing children".

Leading choirs at special needs schools will cover themes including:

- Special needs schools and their students
- Teaching simple songs
- Modifying and changing the songs so they are accessible to the students
- Programming a term of work
- Discussion
- Q&A

**September 2020 – July 2021** - depending on whether we can go into schools at this point, the training will be run either online, or "live" in schools weekly with trainees.

**Live scenario:**

Trainees would attend a minimum of five sessions per term with the Music of Life team in schools on Wednesdays. These sessions last 75 minutes each. Trainees would be initially joining in, learning the music alongside the students and making notes with a discussion/debrief after each session with Suzzie Vango and the team about teaching methods, and asking any questions. Eventually, if appropriate and if the trainee is comfortable, they would begin to lead a small part of the session such as a warm up or a simple song with this role growing as time goes on. There would be continuous feedback after each session where the trainee leads. The aim is that after three terms, the trainee is ready to take on their own school, or take a joint lead on teaching with a Music of Life tutor.

**NB: All trainees need to have appropriate DBS clearance for any live sessions – this can be arranged by Music of Life, if necessary.**

**Online scenario\*:**

This will be run as one to one sessions with Suzzie Vango, covering:

- Learning repertoire and how to adapt it.
- Discussing scenarios in schools and how to approach different challenges.
- Working with the team of other musicians.
- Working effectively with a wide range of disabilities.
- Working with and engaging a team of adult staff.

**\*This is a less ideal scenario as it is challenging to (a) inspire and (b) fully demonstrate to the trainees without any students present or live music making. This would only be a few hourly sessions until schools are ready to resume provision.**

Once schools resume workshops, the 'live' plan comes into place, but this could be over a shorter period of time, rather than the three terms listed above.

**The future:**

All trainees will be evaluated and given regular feedback. It should be made clear that there is no promise of work at the end of the training period but if they are successful and the right fit for the work, and if the charity has enough provision they may be invited to work as a full vocal tutor in the future as more schools come on board. They may also have the opportunity to cover for any sessions that the current regular tutors cannot make.

**How to apply**

If you are passionate about the contribution music education can have on young people and have the requisite experience, please provide:

- A fully completed and signed Music of Life application form
- If possible, a link to a video example of your work as a music practitioner;

**The closing date for applications is Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020**

All applications to be made to Music of Life via email: [mofl@mofl.co.uk](mailto:mofl@mofl.co.uk)

**Please note that these trainee roles are unremunerated. The trainees will be paid a nominal fee of £50 per school session to go towards travel expenses and any planning or prep time they need.**