

# Music of Life Teacher Training Programme

## Charity overview

### Programme description and programme leaders



#### The organisation

Music of Life is a growing charity with a vision of a future where Deaf and Disabled children and young people have equal access to the music-making opportunities of their choice. Our ambition is to support the positive transformation of their lives through music education and to develop their abilities to engage in their communities so that they reach their full life potential. Our work is known to improve young peoples' physical and mental health and social engagement as well as their chances of employment.

Music of Life currently supports over 400 children a year, providing individual music lessons with expert teachers, musical workshops in special needs schools and opportunities for our students to perform in public alongside professional musicians. We encourage disabled and non-disabled participants to work together in music-making activities, eliminating logistical and psychological barriers and challenging prejudice and misconception.

Continuity is key to the success of our programmes and we typically work with our students for several years. We partner with local music services to fill gaps in music education. All our services are free for our students.

#### The opportunity

Music of Life is now embarking on a phase of further development aimed at expanding our services and providing them to more children and young people. Our **Teacher Training Programme** is designed to identify and train prospective workshop leaders and music teachers for Music of Life school programmes over the course of a 12 to 24 month period.

The overall aim is to create a team of tutors able to work on a freelance basis as Music of Life practitioners. The training they will receive will enable them to support and eventually lead weekly large group and/or classroom sessions in special schools and specialist SEN/D units nationwide. They will also receive training in the provision of individual music lessons.

#### We are looking for applicants for the two different parts of the training programme:

- Music provision for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children
- Leading choirs at special needs schools

#### Programme leaders

Music of Life programmes have been designed and delivered by leading music and education practitioners who have now exceeded their capacity to run the growing number of Music of Life projects. The teacher training programme will be led by musicians who have accumulated unique experience in working with students with various special needs and the programme will involve opportunities to learn first-hand from those who are pioneers in the provision of music-making opportunities offered by Music of Life. The training programme includes consultations with experienced SEN/D practitioners, specifically members of staff at special schools.

**Music provision for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children programme leaders:**

**Ruth Montgomery**



Ruth Montgomery has been involved with Music of Life since its inception in 2003 as a student musician and then later as a trustee. Since 2017 she has been delivering music teaching programmes to Deaf children for Music of Life and is very proud to be a member of the team, leading its vision of increasing music opportunities for Deaf children and introducing them to the social, emotional and educational benefits of music making.

Ruth's visual music teaching and approach to learning are strongly driven by the fact that she was born profoundly Deaf; she is a fluent British sign language user. As a flautist, she earned her Bachelor of Music honours degree at the Royal Welsh College of Music in Cardiff in 2005. For more than 16 years she has taught in a wide range of educational and community settings on a professional basis, from music for babies with Deafness to flute students from beginners to diploma level. She is a proud mother of two young sons also involved in music making.

**Eloise Garland**



An alumna of Chetham's School of Music in Manchester and of City, University of London, Eloise has drawn on her own experiences as a Deaf musician throughout her studies and subsequent work both around the UK and globally. With a particular passion for promoting full inclusion and access to music for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing, Eloise has contributed to numerous educational projects including 'The Phoenix of Persia' with Tiny Owl Publishing and the 'Bring the Noise' campaign with BBC Teach. She currently holds positions as Associate Director of Audiovisability, R&D Creative Arts Director at Decibels and is a specialist practitioner with Music of Life.

A highlight of her career so far was when Eloise presented the 2017 radio documentary *Listening Without Ears*, broadcast on BBC Radio 4 as part of the station's *The Art of Living* series. The documentary explored ways in which people with hearing loss engage with music and sound and challenged listeners to consider music appreciation from another perspective.

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**Leading choirs at special needs schools programme leaders:**

**Suzzie Vango**



Passionate about the arts and education, Suzzie's high-energy vocal workshops have gained her international reputation across the UK, Asia, the USA, the UAE and Africa. In demand as a vocal specialist, she conducts the National Children's Choir, Orchestra of the Swan Chamber Choir, Polymnia and Ex Cathedra Girls Academy and has been a guest conductor for ensembles including the CBSO Children's Chorus and Ex Cathedra Chamber Choir. Suzzie is Head of Vocal Studies at Bromsgrove School, a vocal tutor for Ex Cathedra Education – composing for their "SingMaker" education resources – and a member of the critically acclaimed, all-female, a cappella ensemble *Papagena*. Suzzie is the Schools Programme Leader for Music of Life having set up the workshop programme in the Midlands in 2014.

**Suzie Purkis**



Suzie Purkis is the Choir Leader and Individual Singing Teacher for Music of Life at Round Oak School in Warwick and a Singing Workshop Leader at the other Midlands schools. Having studied voice at Birmingham Conservatoire she has built a reputation as a workshop leader and vocal specialist in Birmingham, where she is currently the Music Director of Welsh National Opera Youth Opera, chorus mentor and community workshop leader for Birmingham Opera Company and regularly deputises as music director for Choir with No Name, a choir for people affected by homelessness. In addition to teaching privately from her home studio, Suzie is a singing teacher for National Children's Choir of Great Britain and has recently been involved working with choirs in prisons for Choirs Beating Time.

**Emma Cockbill**

*"At Music of Life, we learn so much from the young people we work with"*



Emma studied music at Emmanuel College, Cambridge where she specialised in performance and the psychology of music education and was a Senior Choral Exhibitioner. She has worked as a professional musician for the last 25 years, including both class teaching and instrumental teaching. Emma is very active as a performer and enjoys leading choirs and drama groups. She has worked as a pianist for Music of Life workshops for three years. She is currently studying to become a certified Song Therapist and is learning Makaton with the intention of becoming a certified trainer.