

Trainee Music Leader Scheme

building the next generation of music leaders

Join us as a host partner!

Spitalfields
music

For over 20 years, Spitalfields Music has equipped instrumentalists and singers with the skills required to become great music workshop leaders. The majority of alumni still work in the industry, including some of the most respected workshop facilitators and animateurs in the sector today.

Help us continue building this vital workforce by becoming a partner for 2026.



What our partners say

Catherine Bullough, former Producer (Community),
Britten Pears Arts

“Being involved in such a flagship programme for community music leaders has been **incredibly beneficial in so many ways**. We have seen a huge increase in our trainee’s confidence during their time on the scheme, and they are now regularly delivering exceptionally high-quality work as part of BPA’s Community programme. Spitalfields are collaborative and caring, and the values of the TML programme means that **collaborative and thoughtful music leaders are produced**. As an organisation, we are driven to widen the pool of local artists we work with, and the TML programme is helping us to achieve this.”

Becky West, Regional Producer North,
Orchestras Live

“Orchestras Live works with partners to provide opportunities for musicians based outside of London to develop their creative musical leadership practice. Our partnership with Spitalfields Music has enabled 3 trainee music leaders from the north of England to significantly develop their practice, **growing the pool of music leaders based in the north who can work creatively with orchestras and communities delivering our partnership projects.**”

A woman with curly hair is shown from the waist up, wearing a dark blue sweater. She is holding a white djembe drum with both hands and looking towards the right. In front of her is a music stand with sheet music and a pair of drumsticks. The background is a blurred indoor setting with a green wall and a window.

Through this scheme, we aim to:

Develop the pool of people leading creative music sessions in different settings

Equip leaders with the skills to work in multiple settings

Ensure diverse leaders enter and stay in the workforce

Increase the capacity within the sector to reach more communities

We're seeking partners to join us on that mission

New structure, same great practice*

October 2025

Auditions held,
Trainees selected

January - April 2026

3x Skills Lab Academy sessions
Assisting/shadowing experienced
workshop leaders in partner's projects

Summer/Autumn 2026

Main project delivery + mentoring and feedback
Additional work on partners' projects as hosts
see fit

August - September 2025

Callout for Trainee Music
Leaders

January 2026

**Programme launch: Two-Day Music
Leadership Training Retreat**
including Fundamentals of Workshop
Leading & Induction and introduction
to Action Learning

Spring 2026

Mini project delivery in Spitalfields'
Neighbourhood Schools +
mentoring and feedback
Additional work on partners'
projects as hosts see fit

December 2026

End point meeting;
ongoing Action Learning

***Example structure for the programme - things might change**

Spitalfields Music

Leads recruitment of the TML cohort with all partners, support recruitment of Trainee Music Leaders according to the partner organisation's needs

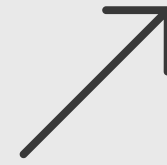
Designs core training programme based on 20+ years of experience

Provides mentoring and Action Learning to the trainees

Coordinates the programme and leads communication with trainees

Pays trainees £1800 for participation

Evaluates the programme



**We're better
when we work
together**

Here's what our
partnership involves



Partner organisations

Lead recruitment of a music leader based on their needs: this could be geographical, musical, representational

Host and support one trainee during 2026, offering regular assistant music leader opportunities on their programme

Provide shadowing opportunities, and chances to meet other leaders

Liaise with Spitalfields Music to share updates and further opportunities

Contribute £5,500 to the running costs of the programme, and support their trainee with travel costs

What past Trainee Music Leaders say

Jessie Maryon-Davies,
Trainee Music Leader, 2008-9

“The training was life changing for me. I got so much from the opportunity. Before that training scheme I didn’t know what a music leader was and afterwards it became the focus of my career. **It was an invaluable chance to meet other musicians and experience up close how they held different spaces**; connect with an organisation and build up a network of future collaborators and employers; and develop a toolkit for music facilitation and build a pathway for peer support - many of my cohort still work and play together and as a freelance music leader that support network is invaluable”

Patrick Barrett,
Trainee Music Leader, 2016-17

“The scheme provided the perfect stepping stone between finishing studies and entering the professional working world. It was particularly useful as it was based in the bustling London music scene, which can seem daunting when arriving to the capital for the first time as a young professional. **It gave me lots of opportunities to work across other organisations too, some of which I still work with today.** I learnt so much during this scheme and I’m so thankful for my time with Spitalfields Music.”

Interested in getting involved?

Get in touch to register your interest in partnering for 2026:

tml@spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk

