



MAHOGANY OPERA

APPLICATION PACK – CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE DELIVERY ARTISTS

Please find enclosed an application pack for the roles of Children & Young People Delivery Artists (Directors; Musical Directors; Repetiteurs; Company Stage Managers) with Mahogany Opera.

Further information about Mahogany can be found on our website: mahoganyopera.co.uk

In order to apply, please submit the following:

- Cover letter detailing your interest in working with Mahogany Opera, details of relevant experience and availability for project dates as detailed in this application pack (max 2 sides of A4).
- Current CV, including weblinks to your website or any online content that showcases relevant work/projects you have been involved with and details of two professional referees.
- Company Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form (sent with this pack)

Applications in alternative formats will be accepted to support applicants with specific needs. Please contact our Children & Young People Producer on the details below to discuss.

Deadline: Midday on Monday 11th March 2019
Responses: Wednesday 13th March 2019.
Interviews: Wednesday 20th March 2019
Interview location TBC. Interviews via telephone/Skype will be available where appropriate.

Successful applicants will be invited to a Snappy Opera Day. This day will also provide the opportunity to learn more about the work of Mahogany Opera and the Snappy Opera project, including training, support and guidance on the practical delivery of the project. Applicants will also have the chance to meet and network with other delivery artists and join discussions about diversity and inclusivity in opera education.

Snappy Opera Day (North): Thursday 2nd May 2019; North East
Snappy Opera Day (South): Friday 3rd May 2019; London

Email applications to: marc@mahoganyopera.co.uk
Please include your name and the role/s you are interested in in the subject line

Further information: Email marc@mahoganyopera.co.uk with any questions or to arrange an informal conversation with Marc Dunleavy (CYP Producer)

Attachments:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Equal opportunities form

ABOUT MAHOGANY OPERA GROUP

Mahogany Opera Group is a leading UK opera and music theatre company stretching the boundaries of what opera can be and who it is for. We create new opera in new ways, in different spaces and places throughout the UK and internationally.

We work with world-class and emerging artists, we create new works – and reinvent existing ones – drawing on a range of cultural influences, theatrical methods, art-forms and technologies. A major strand of our work is designed around children and young people, creating opera with local communities.

Ultimately, our work exists in the imagination of our audiences. We try to involve them in everything we do, surprise them with extraordinary experiences, challenge their existing ideas and share with them the power and joy of combining music with theatre.

'If you peel away the glossy trappings, opera not only grapples with the fundamental human need to sing, dance, ritualise and tell stories but also, through its ability to draw together different cultures and genres, is able to express most relevantly our existence today.'

Frederic Wake-Walker, Artistic Director

Website: mahoganyopera.co.uk

Twitter: [@mahoganyopera](https://twitter.com/mahoganyopera)

Facebook: [MahoganyOpera](https://www.facebook.com/MahoganyOpera)

Instagram: [@mahoganyopera](https://www.instagram.com/mahoganyopera)

ABOUT SNAPPY OPERAS

Snappy Opera History

In 2016, Mahogany Opera, with support from Arts Council England, launched the pilot for an ambitious programme to demystify opera and engage with children aged 7-11 in the development and performance of new ten-minute operatic pieces. Over two years, ten Snappy Operas were developed in partnership with Music Education Hubs, working closely with groups of children across England, by some of the nation's most exciting creative voices from both within and outside the opera world. Composers include Kerry Andrew, Gwyneth Herbert, Ed Hughes, Philip Venables, Errollyn Wallen and writers Peter Cant, Ted Huffman, Toby Litt, Zanib Mian and Ian Macmillan.

Through partnerships with Music Education Hubs and Multi-Academy Trusts, Mahogany Opera have so far engaged 1770 primary school children from Cornwall; Cumbria; Essex; Hull, Bridlington and Scarborough; Leicestershire; London; Norfolk; Slough; Suffolk and North Tyneside who have given 177 public and school performances of the ten new operas to their peers, teachers and families. Creative teams (director, music director, répétiteur & company stage manager) of leading practitioners have guided the children through rehearsal and performance to understand the different crafts involved in making an opera. Learning resources were developed for each opera (music learning tracks, introductory videos and design packs) and made available on a dedicated website. This was complimented by a professional development session delivered for teachers involved in the process.

'A key element in our music strategy is for students to work with professional artists, to perform in inspiring venues and to experience a professional rehearsal process – this project delivered that in spades!'

Leicester-Shire Music Education Hub

What is a Snappy Opera?

A Snappy Opera is a ten-minute opera for children which introduces all the essential elements of opera – singing, acting and making – in a fun, colourful and bite-size chunk. Each piece is designed to be performed by around 30 children, divided up into two or three sub-groups. Every character in a Snappy Opera is represented by a sub-group; there are no main parts and no chorus which makes for a wonderfully non-hierarchical rehearsal atmosphere where everyone is fully involved the whole time. Each piece is orchestrated with its own small band of up to three instruments but there's also a piano only version. A Snappy Opera can be produced very simply with minimal props or with a full set of elaborate set and costumes, inspired by design packs created for each opera. They can be performed in any kind of space - classroom, hall or theatre – and either on their own or as part of a set.

Snappy Opera Festival

In 2019 Mahogany Opera will expand its Snappy Opera programme by creating the inaugural annual Snappy Opera Festival. For the Snappy Opera Festival 2019 we will work with existing partners in areas of low arts engagement (Durham, North Tyneside, Leicester, Daventry & Northampton). Through these existing relationships we will bring young performers and new audiences together across England in venues including The Playhouse in Whitley Bay, The Gala in Durham and Nevill Holt Opera. The aim is for the Snappy Opera Festival to be a sector leader in the provision of participatory opera and arts projects for children.

How the project works

In 2019 we will be working with a minimum of 25 teachers and 750 primary school children across 25 schools. Over the course of six weeks, the children will learn, rehearse and perform a Snappy Opera at a professional theatrical venue close to home. The activity will take place across five regions, concurrently over the same weeks, with performances taking place over a week in the summer term 2019. Each region will have a dedicated delivery team consisting Stage Director, Musical Director, Repetiteur & Company Stage Manager. These teams will be supported by Mahogany Opera's core team, who will also coordinate the activity with regional partners and schools.

In each region, five schools will rehearse and perform a Snappy Opera each, culminating in performances at the end of the spring term. The activity will include:

- 1 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) session at the start of the term for teachers and other local leaders who are interested in building their music and drama skills and confidence.
- 4 workshop rehearsals (2 hours each) for each school led by the creative team (director, music director and repetiteur)
- Simple designs and instructions for props and costumes that can be made by the pupils in school
- Learning resources including backing tracks, word sheets and activity ideas to enable teachers to lead further rehearsals in between the 4 workshop rehearsals
- 1 performance day for all five schools to come together to perform their Snappy Operas

Provisional Project Dates:

Snappy Opera Days	2 nd May – 3 rd May 2019
Teachers CPD Sessions	6 th May – 10 th May 2019
Rehearsal week 1	13 th May – 17 th May 2019
Rehearsal week 2	3 rd June – 7 th June 2019
Rehearsal week 3	17 th June – 21 st June 2019
In-School dress rehearsals	24 th June – 28 th June 2019
Performances	1 st July – 5 th July 2019

All project dates are to be confirmed. These dates represent activity across all five regions, so artists may not be required for all dates – dates will be discussed and agreed with artists prior to engagement.

PLEASE NOTE – even if you are not available for these project dates we would love to hear from you for possible future activity, but please do include details of your availability for these dates in your cover letter.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

All Roles

- Mahogany Opera works with a range of communities across the UK and applications are actively encouraged from artists that reflect the diversity of our participants and audiences.
- We are looking for practitioners that believe in quality and high standards, and we believe this is reflected in the work you have done, not just where you have worked/who you have worked with.
- We would love to hear from suitable practitioners working in any artform, that can bring unique skills and experiences to our teams.
- We would love to hear from practitioners from our 2019 project regions (North East, North West & East Midlands), but encourage applications from any area of the UK and beyond.
- We would love to hear from individuals who acknowledge and embrace their own backgrounds and can use this to engage and inspire our project participants.
- We welcome applications from practitioners who consider themselves to be disabled and will make any reasonable adjustments required for any part of the recruitment process, and to support you in your role.

Directors

Stage Directors to work in selected regions, to collaborate with Musical Directors to deliver the Snappy Opera project. As part of the creative team the Director will deliver inspiring teachers CPD sessions, lead in-school rehearsals with the children and direct performances in schools and performance venues. The Director will enthuse all participants to engage with opera and share knowledge on stage techniques and terminology. The Director will work with the Company Stage Manager and venues to coordinate lighting, props and other related technical requirements for rehearsal and performances as required.

Essential:

- Demonstrable experience as a director or drama facilitator in the performing arts
- Experience of working with children and/or young people
- Willingness to work collaboratively with a wider creative team
- Proactive, flexible and resourceful
- Enhanced DBS, or willingness to obtain one following appointment

Desirable:

- Able to read notated music
- Experience of working within opera/musical theatre
- Experienced and comfortable with public speaking (our Directors often compère our performances)
- Experience of delivering arts training and development activities for other artists
- Experience of delivering arts training and development activities for teachers

Musical Directors

Musical Directors to work in selected regions, to collaborate with Stage Directors to deliver the Snappy Opera project. As part of the creative team the Musical Director will deliver inspiring teachers CPD sessions, lead in-school rehearsals with the children and conduct performances, including a small band, in schools and performance venues. The Musical Director will enthuse all participants to engage with opera and share knowledge on singing, performance techniques and musical terminology. The Musical Director will work with the Company Stage Manager and venues to coordinate music/sound related technical requirements for rehearsal and performances as required.

Essential:

- Demonstrable experience as a musical director/conductor/music workshop leader
- Experience of working with children and/or young people
- Understanding of young voices and the ability to model good singing techniques
- Willingness to work collaboratively with a wider creative team
- Proactive, flexible and resourceful
- Enhanced DBS, or willingness to obtain one following appointment

Desirable:

- Experience of working within opera/musical theatre
- Experience of delivering arts training and development activities for other artists
- Experience of delivering arts training and development activities for teachers

Repetiteurs

Repetiteurs to work in selected regions, to collaborate with Stage Directors and Musical Directors to deliver the Snappy Opera project. As part of the creative team the Repetiteur will support the Musical Director and Stage Director by accompanying for all rehearsals and performances with the children. The Repetiteur will join in with all activity, acting as a positive role model to enthuse all participants to engage with the project. The Repetiteur will support the Musical Director with coordination of the musicians on performances days, as well as supporting all music activity during the project, including leading sectional work and elements of conducting/cueing as required.

Essential:

- Demonstrable high level of musical performance (piano)
- Willingness to work collaboratively with a wider creative team
- Proactive, flexible and resourceful
- Enhanced DBS, or willingness to obtain one following appointment

Desirable:

- Experience of conducting
- Experience of working with children and/or young people
- Experience of working within opera/musical theatre
- Understanding of the voice and the ability to model good singing techniques

Company Stage Managers

Company Stage Managers to work in each region, to oversee and manage rehearsals and performances. This will include being the main liaison between creative teams (director, musical director & repetiteur), schools (teachers), performance venues and Mahogany Opera, completing reports after each session and circulating as appropriate. The Company Stage Manager will be responsible for local logistics and coordinating technical requirements for rehearsals and performances in collaboration with Mahogany Opera and performance venues.

Essential:

- Demonstrable experience as a stage manager / company manager / production manager in the performing arts
- Access to a car and a valid driving licence
- Experience managing small budgets
- Proactive, flexible and resourceful
- Attention to detail
- Enhanced DBS, or willingness to obtain one following appointment

Desirable:

- First aid at work certificate
- Able to read notated music
- Experience of working with children/schools
- Experience of working within opera/musical theatre

Terms

Responsible to:	Executive Manager & CYP Producer
Fee & payments:	<p>Directors, Musical Directors & Repetiteurs - daily fees in the region of £200-300 based on experience.</p> <p>Company Stage Managers - set project fee in the region of £1,200-1,500 depending on experience.</p> <p>All delivery artists are engaged on a freelance basis. Travel to project location & accommodation (if required) will be booked/paid for by Mahogany Opera. Additional expenses relating to the delivery of the project will be paid if agreed with Mahogany Opera in advance.</p>
Hours:	<p>As required by the project. All roles will involve unsociable hours, including evenings and weekends.</p>
Location:	Delivery will take place in various locations across the UK and internationally.
Equal Opportunities:	Mahogany Opera will provide equal opportunities to any employee or applicant and will not discriminate either directly or indirectly because of ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief, marital or civil partnership status, age, disability, or pregnancy and maternity.