



MAHOGANY OPERA

APPLICATION PACK – SNAPPY OPERA DELIVERY ARTIST (MUSICAL DIRECTOR)

Please find enclosed an application pack for the role of Snappy Opera Delivery Artist (Musical Director) with Mahogany Opera.

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

Musical Directors interested in this role can find out more by attending our optional [“Get To Know Us” Snappy Opera Intro Session](#). Delivered by the Mahogany Opera core team, this remote session will introduce interested artists to our work, provide further information about Snappy Operas and provide a networking opportunity for artists across the UK. For more information about this event, including how to sign up, click [HERE](#).

In order to apply formally for this role, please submit the following:

- Cover letter (max 2 sides of A4), video recording or sound file (max 5 minutes of recording) detailing:
 - Your interest in working with Mahogany Opera
 - Details of relevant experience
 - Your availability for project dates as detailed in this application pack
- Current CV, including:
 - Where you are based/your home address
 - Weblinks to your website or any online content that showcases relevant work/projects you have been involved with
 - Details of two professional referees.
- Company Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form - this can be completed online here: [Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form](#)

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.

Optional Remote Intro Session:	Friday 2 nd October 2020, 10:00am
Application Deadline:	Friday 30 th October 2020, midday
Responses:	w/c 2 nd November 2020
Interviews* – Interactive Group Session:	Monday 16 th November, 10:00am
Interviews* – Individual:	w/c 16 th November 2020

**All shortlisted applicants are expected to attend the Interactive Group Session as detailed above – if you are unable to attend this session please state this in your application. Individual interviews will be arranged for a mutually convenient date/time.*

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 (Producer)

Supporting Documents:

- [Equality & Diversity Policy](#)
- [Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form](#)

ABOUT MAHOGANY OPERA

Mahogany Opera Group is a leading commissioner and producer of opera and music theatre. Our vision is for opera to be an inclusive, collaborative and dynamic artform that speaks meaningfully to people in today's society. Our mission is to stretch the boundaries of what opera can be and who it is for.

Collaborating with world-class and emerging artists, we craft new works and reinvent existing ones. Widely varied influences draw communities into our creative process. By surprising audiences with extraordinary experiences whilst challenging their preconceptions, we share with them the power and joy of combining music with theatre.

Since 2014, the company with its Artistic Director, Frederic Wake-Walker, has commissioned and produced 16 world premieres and toured these productions extensively across the UK and internationally. Our position within the UK cultural landscape is unique, creating new opera that is locally rooted, whilst looking outwards in its influence and approach.

Our work sits within three clearly defined and complementary programmes:

1. **Snappy Operas:** bringing the power and joy of music and theatre to children across the UK
2. **Various Stages:** creating inclusive opportunities for artists to develop and create new work in new ways,
3. **New Commissions:** extending the reach and diversity of artists and audiences through new opera

The connections across our three programmes of work is one of Mahogany Opera's defining features. Our practice uses mentoring & development alongside workshops & showcases to engage a wide range of communities and speak meaningfully to people in the here and now. We approach everything we do with the same sense of adventure, collaboration, and demand for quality.

Website: mahoganyopera.co.uk
Twitter: [@mahoganyopera](https://twitter.com/mahoganyopera)
Facebook: [MahoganyOpera](https://www.facebook.com/MahoganyOpera)
Instagram: [@mahoganyopera](https://www.instagram.com/mahoganyopera)
YouTube: [mahoganyoperagroupofficial](https://www.youtube.com/mahoganyoperagroupofficial)

ABOUT SNAPPY OPERAS

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. Mahogany Opera has now commissioned twelve Snappy Operas, written by some of the UK's top composers and writers who worked with groups of young people to develop stories and characters that are universal and connect directly to the young people who will perform them.

Each piece is designed to be performed by a class of around 30 Key Stage 2 children. Every character in a Snappy Opera is represented by a group of children; 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 is 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 OPERAS BACKGROUND

Since we began the programme in 2016, we have engaged 2,500 primary school children from across the UK with exciting musical opportunities, and they've given 177 performances of the new operas to their peers, teachers, families and the general public.

In 2019 Mahogany Opera held its inaugural Snappy Opera Festival. The Snappy Opera Festival is a celebration of opera made with and for children. It dismantles misconceptions about opera and the barriers that surround it. Collaboration is key – Mahogany Opera connects and works with music education hubs, multi-academy trusts, venues, artists, schools, teachers, children, and audiences to make this happen, each having shared ownership and involvement throughout the process.

During the Snappy Opera Festival 2019, Mahogany Opera worked with six regional partners to engage 750 children & 47 teachers from 21 schools across the country. A team of 39 creative practitioners and musicians helped the children to stage 41 performances in schools and venues, with audiences of around 3,500. In 2021 we are returning to Durham, Hull, Leicester, North Tyneside and beginning a new partnership with the Edinburgh International Festival.

SNAPPY OPERAS: THE SUM OF ITS ARTS AND PARTS

Through the development of Snappy Operas we have discovered the best way to create authentic, fun, fully realised performances (in a short time frame) is to adopt an interdisciplinary and discovery led approach to teaching and learning – what we call The Snappy Opera Approach.

This holistic approach combines music, acting, movement and design on an equal footing, with each informing the other. How does music inform character? How does design and costume inform movement? How do we tell a story with creative expression using body and voice? These are just some of the questions a Snappy Opera Company explores, with artists, teachers and young people exploring and learning these things together in a collaborative environment.

Vital to this process is a play centred methodology. By using fun games and exploration we create an open, supportive atmosphere where those involved are able to unleash their creativity and learn in a different way. This approach goes beyond the direct project experience, informing both educators and students about different ways to teach and learn, and providing

Hear young people talk about Snappy Operas in this special video here: [SNAPPY OPERA \(via YouTube\)](#)

SNAPPY OPERA FESTIVAL 2021

In 2021 Mahogany Opera will deliver its second biennial Snappy Opera Festival. We will be working with new and existing partners in areas of low arts engagement (Darlington, Hull, Leicester & North Tyneside). Through these relationships we will identify schools whose young people will benefit from this project, provide them with new skills and life changing experiences, and bring the young performers and new audiences together in professional venues to celebrate the joy of 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 2021 we will be working with a minimum of 25 teachers and 720 primary school children from 24 schools, across 6 regions of the UK. Over the course of a term, the children will learn and rehearse a Snappy Opera before coming together with other schools in their region for a Gala Showcase at a professional theatrical venue close to home. The regional activity will take place concurrently over the same weeks, with performances taking place over a week in the summer term 2021. Each region will have a dedicated delivery team consisting Stage Director (Director), Musical Director (MD), Repetiteur (Rehearsal Pianist) & Regional Coordinator/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 Summer term. The activity will include:

- 1 Artist Training Day – compulsory for all Snappy Opera Delivery Artists, this day will also be open to local Music Leaders and freelance delivery artists.
- Remote introductory sessions for teachers and young people, including teacher-led in-school activities.
- 1 Teachers CPD Day - to help the teachers to support the project in school, give them the skills and confidence to teach music and the arts independently and show how similar techniques can be used in other areas of the curriculum (delivered by a dedicated training team).
- 4 workshop rehearsals (2 hours each) for each school led by the Delivery Artist teams (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 DELIVERY DATES:

Artist Training Day	x1	w/c 8 th February 2021
Remote Intro Sessions	5 per region	w/c 8 th March 2021
Teachers CPD Sessions	1 per region	w/c 19 th April 2021
Rehearsal week 1	5 sessions per region	w/c 26 th April 2021
Rehearsal week 2	5 sessions per region	w/c 17 th May 2021
Rehearsal week 3	5 sessions per region	w/c 7 th June 2021
Rehearsal week 4	5 sessions per region	w/c 28 th June or w/c 5 th July 2021
Performance Day	1 per region	w/c 28 th June or w/c 5 th July 2021

All project dates are to be confirmed. These dates represent activity across all regions. Specific 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 all of these dates in your cover letter.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Musical Directors

Musical Directors will work in selected regions and collaborate with Stage Directors to deliver the Snappy Opera Festival 2021 project. As part of the delivery team the Musical Director will participate in and contribute to artist and teacher training sessions, deliver in-school workshops and 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 Regional Coordinator 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 delivery team
- Proactive, flexible and resourceful
- Enhanced DBS, or willingness to obtain one upon appointment

Desirable:

- Experience of working within opera/musical theatre
- Experience working in a school or educational setting
- Experience of delivering arts training and development activities for teachers
- Experience of delivering interactive activities remotely

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 based in our 2021 project regions (North East, Yorkshire & East Midlands), but welcome 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 we will make any reasonable adjustments required for any part of the recruitment process, and to support you in your role.

TERMS

- Responsible to:** Mahogany Opera's Executive Manager & Producer
- Responsible for:** Although the role holds no direct subordinates, the Musical Director will guide the Repetiteur, who will provide support to the Musical Director throughout the project. The Musical Director shall work collaboratively with the Director, Repetiteur and Regional Coordinator throughout the project.
- Fee & payments:** A flat fee of £3,500 to cover
- Attendance at Artist Training Day
 - Attendance at Teachers CPD Day
 - Delivery of Remote Intro Sessions (5 x 45 minutes)
 - Delivery of In-School Rehearsals (4 x 2.5 days)
 - Delivery of Performance Day
 - Completion of evaluation materials as required.
- All delivery artists are engaged on a freelance basis.
An additional payment to cover travel to project locations, accommodation and per diems will be issued where appropriate.
Additional expenses relating to the delivery of the project will be paid if agreed with Mahogany Opera in advance.
- Hours:** As required by the project.
All roles will involve unsociable hours, including evenings and possible weekends.
- Location:** Delivery will take place in various locations across the UK.
- 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/paternity.