



Join WeCompose: Callout for Composers 2026

We are seeking composers who are passionate about working with young people and facilitating their creative ideas. Join a dynamic, reflective and committed cohort of composers working with students, teachers and musicians to transform how composition is taught in secondary schools.

About the project

WeCompose is our transformative in-schools composition project: a collaboration between teachers, professional composers, outstanding ensembles and leading music educators. Developing high quality resources and approaches, we work directly in schools in South Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, the East Riding of Yorkshire as well as in East London, Milton Keynes and the Solent Area (Portsmouth, Southampton, Isle of Wight). Our first four years have reached over 2420 students, and in 2026/2027, we aim to reach 2,460 young people across the country. Beyond the three years of currently funded delivery we will share our learning as widely as possible, making resources, approaches and training available to all teachers who wish to use them.

Project process

At the beginning of the project, there is training for participating teachers from our lead composer educators (Ellen Sargen, Andrew Smith, Patrick Bailey, John Webb) and the sharing of digital and other classroom resources. Each school has a concert by one of our partner ensembles and is introduced to some key repertoire – in the coming year our focus is string quartets with Key Stage 3 and clarinet quintets with Key Stage 4. We are currently working with the Consone Quartet and Phaedra Ensemble, having previously worked with the Ligeti Quartet and the Bridge Ensemble. Students and teachers then use the resources we have prepared for them to compose group responses to this repertoire (KS3) or compose individual pieces in response to their own briefs (KS4). Each school will be visited three times by a composer who will support the students in developing their pieces. At the end of the project, students come together to workshop their pieces with the composers and ensembles, hear them performed and have them recorded.

WeCompose composers

Composer Role Description

We are seeking a team of composers whose role will be:

- To attend and participate in an in-person training day in Autumn 2026 and begin building relationships with Music in the Round.
- To familiarise yourself with the new year's WeCompose resources and Key Repertoire in order to run the project and advise teachers and students on how to work within the project framework and be ready to help teachers based on these resources.
- In advance of your first visit to each school, to familiarise yourself with the KS3 and KS4 composition curriculum (first introduced in the training in Autumn 2026).
- In advance of your first visit to each school in autumn 2026, to familiarise yourself with the needs and challenges of the classroom, as described by the teacher in an initial evaluation. In particular:
 - understand the level that the students are working at and the intended teaching and learning methods of the class teacher;
 - understand whether students will be using music notation or DAWs (and which programme/s in particular).

- In advance of your first visit to each school, to read and listen to initial student ideas, as sent through by the teacher on Microsoft Sharepoint, in order to plan your first session using materials and frameworks shared at the composer training.
- To make a first visit to each school in late November/ early December 2026 (days will usually be organised into approximately 3 schools each day). At the first visit you will:
 - Familiarise yourself with the students' musical ideas and their compositional brief, acting as an encouraging and positive mentor to inspire creativity and new ideas. Support students to identify appropriate compositional techniques in response to their brief and demonstrate how the students can achieve these in their notation software/ manuscript paper/ DAW/ other as appropriate. Leave students with practical steps to achieve their next objective;
 - Make connections with the core repertoire, as shared with the students in the concert and the project video resources, as starting points and frames for students compositions;
 - Deliver a group activity that supports students to understand and use the instrumental forces appropriately (as agreed with the class teacher in advance);
 - Support teachers in their adaptation of resources to the needs of their students, acting as a mentor, critical friend and partner to teachers to increase their skills and confidence in composing;
 - Leave comments in the student log as to next steps (viewable by the teacher, student, and Music in the Round).
- To begin participating in monthly online composer CPD and project surgeries to share learning and offer and receive support with wider cohort of composers and the MitR team.
- After reviewing student progress (as sent by the teacher) and planning the sessions), to make a second visit to each school in January 2027 (days will usually be organised into approximately 3 schools each day).
 - To work with young people on their developing ideas by demonstrating or explaining practical objectives that can be carried out in the notation software, DAW, or other. To do this first as a group listening/ feedback session, then moving to 1:1 support. To do this as an encouraging, inspirational mentor.
 - To actively problem solve and encourage wider exploration from the young composers.
 - To support students to learn more about the notation software or DAW they are using e.g. by demonstrating how to write text and expression into their scores, how to check and edit quantised midi information in DAWs, etc.
 - To help teachers generate ideas for next steps and map technical advice against resources;
 - To leave comments in the student log as to next steps (viewable by the teacher, student, and Music in the Round) and keep information up to date (Music in the Round will use this to anticipate editing needs before sending final scores to the ensemble).
- To make a final visit to each school in February 2027 (days will usually be organised into approximately 3 schools each day), continuing the expectations above to help students finalise their pieces.
 - As described above, to document the progress of young people and keep simple, precise records using a central format, to enable appropriate support and adaptation of the project.
- To remotely review the scores in March-May 2027 and make up parts for the musicians, including (as appropriate):
 - Undertaking any final preparation in the scores and making edits to ensure pieces are playable;
 - Transcribing any work from DAWs into notation (using midi/ xml information as appropriate) and undertaking other necessary work to ensure the creative ideas of the young people are fully expressed.
- To be part of culmination events in each region from April 2027 onwards:
 - To facilitate a composer workshop alongside the ensemble and celebrate the work of the young people.

Composer Role

As a composer working on WeCompose you will:

- Lead group activities and deliver 1:1 feedback for young composers in KS3 or KS4. Ongoing training, together with remote planning, will enable you to deliver differentiated feedback to students working at different levels and in schools with different challenges/methods/software and hardware.
- Find appropriate creative solutions to composition-based challenges that arise for individual students during their creative process and empower young people to make use of them, and teachers to guide them.
- Be informed by the KS3 and KS4 curriculum and the particular circumstances and approaches of the schools with whom you are working.
- Collaborate with class teachers, so the teacher develops skills in composition and in creative and differentiated problem-solving.
- Check and edit student scores for playability errors before student compositions are performed by a professional ensemble. Occasionally, typeset compositions from midi information, or transcribe mp3 files by ear.
- Co-lead composition workshops with a professional ensemble, where students will hear their pieces for the first time and engage in conversation with the musicians around their piece and how to shape it.
- Attend annual training and ongoing professional development as pertains to this role.

Composer profile

We are seeking professional composers at a range of stages of postgraduate career. This is a project which is particularly focussed on opening up composition opportunities for children and young people who may have limited access to music and music education. We want to hear from composers who fit most or all of the following descriptions:

- are adaptable, flexible, and creative in their work;
- have experience working creatively with children and young people;
- have experience across a range of musical styles and genres;
- work with DAWs and notation software as well as document music in non-traditional ways;
- are creative problem-solvers and enjoy finding solutions in work with children and young people;
- are keen to work with young people who struggle to engage with traditional music theory and may not have experience of instrument learning;
- are enthusiastic and compassionate and have a passion for sharing a wide variety of music;
- are looking to develop skills in working with young people and are happy to share their learning
- are team-orientated and happy to collaborate with teachers, other composers, and Music in the Round
- have lived experience of making music as an artist who rarely sees themselves represented in the wider industry and/or are passionate about working with young people from background under-represented in classical music.

Composers will be paid at a rate of £175 per day, including some remote preparation as appropriate, with a planning fee paid across the project at £175 per 3 schools. Reasonable travel expenses agreed in advance will be paid. It is anticipated that each composer will work a different pattern dependent on their schools, regions and the development of the project. All work will be agreed in advance.

To express your interest in this role, please send your CV to wecompose@musicintheround.co.uk by 09.00 on Friday 14 August 2026.