



Awarding the Contemporary Arts

RSL Awards is a leading international Awarding Organisation, creating qualifications in music, performing arts, and Creative Industries subjects.



"As proud supporters of Youth Music, RSL Awards would like to congratulate all the musicians, artists, creators, and projects being

recognised for their talent and endeavour at the Youth Music Awards 2023!" **TIM BENNETT-HART** CEO, RSL AWARDS





Design great teaching and learning experiences with RSL Awards

RSL's Vocational Qualifications create opportunities for aspiring artists, performers, and industry executives to earn a recognised qualification. They are suitable for a wide range of community projects, grassroots initiatives, or creative arts youth programmes that may be able to access UK Government funding. We'll provide guidance to help you get set up and delivering.

RSL is committed to helping youth music programmes. We are looking for up to five projects to fund their VQ qualifications each year!

If you think your project would benefit from access to UK qualifications, please get in touch **vocational@rslawards.com**



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Hall	_eon	ard	Euro	ope			C	07			
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Judging panel								08			
Shortlisted nominees								13			
Tonight's performers								38			
With thanks to							4				
RSL Awards							43				
our k	broch	nure	spo	nso	r						



HELLO!

A big warm welcome to the Youth Music Awards 2023 in association with Hal Leonard Europe.

The Youth Music Awards celebrates the most forward-thinking projects and people in music. From artists and entrepreneurs to grassroots projects, young leaders and community activists, the event recognises an exciting range of trailblazers from across the scene.

And at Youth Music, we're the people behind that scene, powering grassroots music since 1999.

Most people in this room have had the opportunity to make, learn or earn in music. But sadly, not every young person has that same privilege. Whilst demand is on the rise - the number of young people taking part in Youth Music funded projects increased by a huge 40% this year – we are currently only able to invest in one fifth of the organisations applying to us. That means 80% are losing out. This unmet and growing demand is something we're determined to address, with young people's voices and views influencing every decision we make.

And next year, we celebrate 25 years of changing young people's lives through music, made possible right from the start due to the generous support of the National Lottery through Arts Council England. Big thanks to them and the DCMS for their foresight and invention to help make Youth Music happen.

But there's still so much more to do. This year, at a time of increasing inequalities across line-ups – from festivals to awards ceremonies – we're calling on everyone to TAKE NOTE of a more diverse, more inclusive and more creative future for music.

Thank you to everyone involved in bringing together the biggest ever Youth Music Awards this year.

Have a great evening and our very best wishes to you all.

Matt Griffiths

YolanDa Brown OBE DL

CEO Youth Music

Chair Youth Music

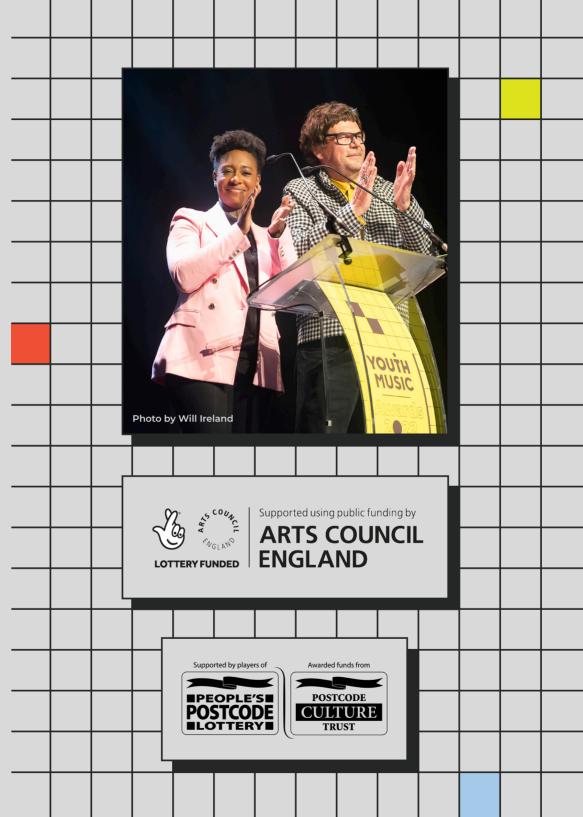


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HAL•LEONARD® EUROPE

Hal Leonard Europe is delighted to continue our important partnership with Youth Music, and proud to have been headline sponsor since the Awards began in 2019.

We are inspired by the vital work that Youth Music does supporting projects and young people making, learning and earning in music. This year we join the call for the music industry to TAKE NOTE of a more diverse, more inclusive and more creative future for music.

Like Youth Music, Hal Leonard Europe's vision is to enable music-making for everyone, providing the products and services musicians need to do what they do best. We hope this evening's awards ceremony provides inspiration, vision and a platform for everyone involved to establish a more inclusive music industry.

halleonardeurope.com





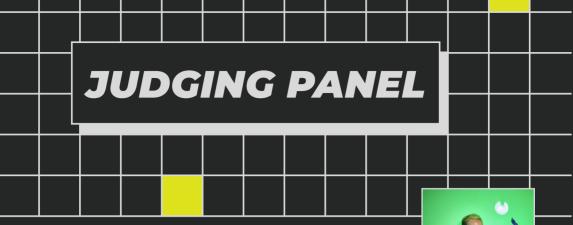












An incredible panel of music industry figures gave their time to help judge this year's awards. From big name artists, DJs, presenters and producers, to people working behind the scenes throughout the industry.



Alexis Taylor Band member, Hot Chip



Amarie Cassidy Artist Marketing Manager, Amazon Music



Amelia Dimoldenberg Comedian, journalist, broadcaster & creator



Andrew Lansley Innovation Manager, Cheltenham Festivals



Anna Karatziva Head of Talent & Music, Paramount UK/MTV



Berkeley Edwards Head of Music, Clintons



BICEP Electronic Music Production & DJ duo, Youth Music Ambassadors



Bre McDermott-King International Product Manager, AWAL



Bryan Wilson Producer, Mixer, Songwriter & Recording Engineer







Capo Lee Artist



Cecilia Chan Agent, Wasserman



Charlie Rout Associate Creative Director, Warner Music X



Chloé Abrahams-Duperry

Artist & Promoter Relations Manager, International at Ticketmaster Music



Christopher Daglish Brand Programs Manager, Levi's



Chris Pattinson Director of Music, Media Arts Lab



Dave Simpson Music Critic, The Guardian



David Mulqueen Lead, Artist Marketing EMEA, Fender



Dr Diljeet Kaur Bhachu

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Musicians' Union



Ellie Prohan DJ & Presenter



Elliot Jaillet Senior Manager, Programming & Editorial, Vevo



Fleur East Singer-songwriter & Presenter



Freddie Aitken Membership Officer, London Youth Choirs



Gareth Mellor VP, Global Marketing & Communications, Downtown Music Holdings



Hanna Chalmers

Senior Research Practitioner and Founder, CultureStudio Research



Iain McGoldrick Head Of Business Development, DJ Mag





Ian Sims Senior Label Relations Manager, Amazon Music



James Giddings Co-Founder, DeLaMouche



Jamie Spinks Head of A&R, Columbia Records



Jayd Williams Head of Music Partnerships and Sponsorships, Virgin Media O2



Jess Iszatt Presenter



Joe Goddard Band member, Hot Chip



Jonny Lattimer Songwriter



Jordss DJ



Joy Crookes Artist



Kelly Betts Editor, BBC Music Introducing



Kojey Radical Artist



Kwabs Artist



Lauren Layfield TV & Radio Presenter



Lewis Slade Studio Manager, Metropolis Studios



LF System Production Duo



Louise Unsworth UK Managing Editor, Hal Leonard





Lucian Wheeler Exams Officer, RSL Awards



Mark Savage BBC Music Correspondent



Martha Kinn Founder, Kinndred Management



Megan Townsend Deputy Editor, Mixmag



Michael Cragg Music Journalist & Author



Miri Buac Associate Director, BCW London



NAINA DJ & Presenter



Nathan Thomson Head Of Music, KISS Network



Nathifa Jordan Business Director, CultureMix Arts



Nicolas-Tyrell Scott Music & Culture Journalist



Olivia Stock Digital Staff Writer, DJ Mag



Paul Bonham Programme Manager, MMF (Music Managers Forum)



Peter Capstick Label Manager, Marshall Records



Rafe Offer Co-Founder/CEO, SoFar Sounds



Rebecca Frank Content Director, KISS Network



Rob Swaden MD/Founder, 333 Management





Rosie Byers Managing Editor, Notion



Ruth Barlow Director of Live Licensing, The Beggars Group



Sam Denniston Founder. Verdigris Management



Sarah Brown National Programme Lead for Children and Young People's Mental Health, NHS England



Sarah Mitchell SVP Neighbouring Rights, **BMG**



Sheniece Charway Artist Relations Manager, YouTube Music



Sian Eleri TV & Radio Presenter



Simon Lyon Brand Manager UK & Ireland, Ableton



Sophia Alexandra Hall

Content Editor, Classic FM



Tinea Taylor Radio & TV Presenter/



Tom Farncombe Manager, Publishing Society Partnerships, YouTube



Tom Schroeder Executive Vice President. Wasserman



Whitney Wei Journalist and Critic



Will Davenport Composer, Pianist & Producer



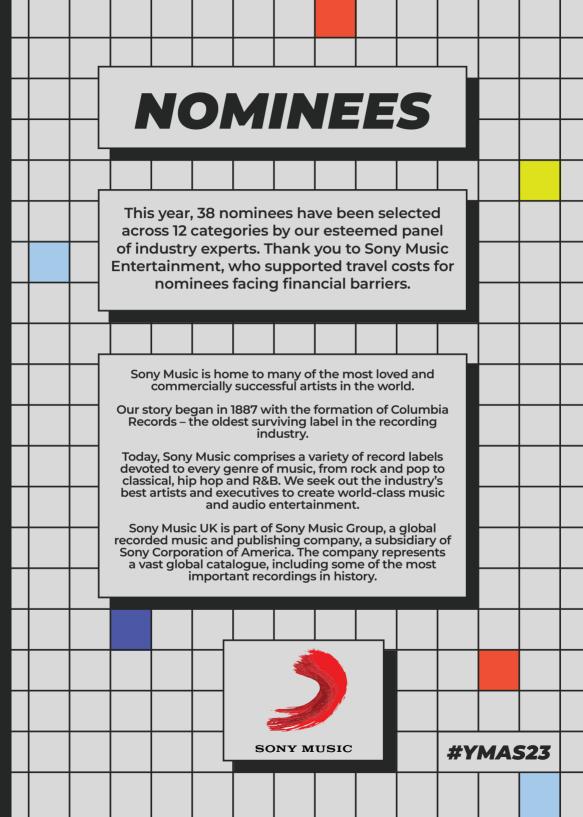
Will Edge Head of Artist Development, AWAL Recordings

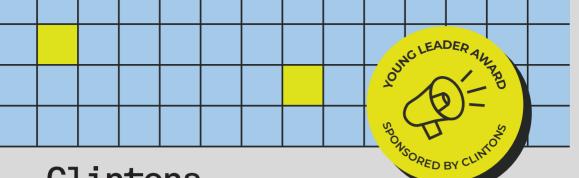


YolanDa Brown OBE DL

Saxophonist & Youth Music Chair







Clintons.

Young Leader Award

Sponsored by Clintons

For a young person who has demonstrated great leadership skills as a project participant.

Clintons is a market leading boutique law firm which has been representing many of the world's highest profile musicians and entertainers for over 60 years. They support emerging talent as well as musicians at the peak of their careers and are delighted to support the Youth Music Awards.



David Coke, Heart n Soul

Do Your Own Thing, London

David is a young man with a learning disability and a passion for music. He supports his peers by taking the role of MC and host and playing drums for participants at the programme. He also improvises live with the London Symphony Orchestra, supporting his fellow musicians by holding the pace of the track.







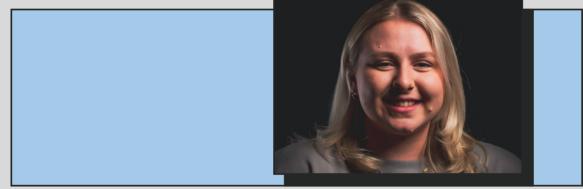
Kobe Francis, The Music Works

Knife Angel/Upsurge/Music for Mental Health, South West

Having experience of a near fatal stabbing, Kobe played an instrumental role in leading a group of highly vulnerable young people to engage with the Knife Angel project through support with writing, developing an album and marketing.

Through The Music Works' Creative Development programme, Kobe developed a talent for PR and marketing, and has since set up his own artist development PR business, mentoring 20+ young people.

Last year, Kobe became a young ambassador for the VCSE Strategic Partnership, advocating for young people from diverse ethnic backgrounds with mental health challenges, showing how music can make a difference. His leadership work on this board is beginning to make real changes in the health system in the county and the way they approach things.



Manon Molyneux, The Music Works

Key Changes, IncDrop, Music Social, Studio Engineering Programme, The Drop, Foundation House, DJ Collectives, Soundabout Choir, Upsurge, South West

Manon works with young people from challenging circumstances that might otherwise face barriers accessing music.

Her approach is to listen and engage with young people, to be on their level and understand what creative outlets that person is looking for. She regularly supports 100+ young people a week, adapting her approach to meet each individual.

Manon came to The Music Works as a Junior Music Leader and sound engineer two years ago, and is now a recording studio engineer with a vast technical knowledge.



amazon music

Music Producer Award



Sponsored by Amazon Music

For outstanding technical skills in music production, engineering, mixing and/or mastering, by a young person from a Youth Music funded project.

Amazon Music is an immersive audio entertainment service that connects fans, artists, and creators through music, podcasts, and culture. Amazon Music brings fans closer to what they love, with curated and personalised playlists, artist livestreams, artist merch, and Amazon Exclusive podcasts. Prime members get access to over 100 million songs in shuffle mode, All-Access playlists, plus the largest catalogue of top ad-free podcasts, included with their membership. Customers can upgrade to Amazon Music Unlimited for full, on-demand access to 100 million songs in HD and a growing catalogue of Ultra HD and Spatial audio. Anyone can listen to Amazon Music by downloading the Amazon Music app for free, or wherever they listen to music including Alexa-enabled devices. Learn more at https://www.amazon.co.uk/music.



Gaddiel Nketia – Eternal Faith

Nottingham C.A.N, East Midlands

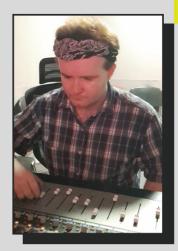
Gaddiel says: "Before the Phlexx Records Mentoring Programme, I was still in university studying music performance and trying to find my feet in the music industry. I went into the mentoring programme hoping that it could help me to expand my network and hopefully use that to start working as a professional in the industry; and it sure did! Part of the mentoring programme gave us as the participants the chance to be part of different masterclasses, one of them being on the topic of sync licensing, with a woman from SATV (Music Publisher for Sky TV). I am now working as a full-time composer for TV and film with some of the biggest music publishers such as BMG, Universal and SATV. My music has since been used and synced on 'No Time to Die - 007' (Official Sky TV Trailer), 'The Resident' (Promo campaign - VTM), 'Libby, are you home yet' (Official Sky Trailer), 'Gangs of London', 'Formula 1', 'Sky Sports Premier League' and many more.



James Jones - Coconut Beach

LAB7, Wales

James says: "I use loops quite often but I think it's okay to have a collage and then sprinkle some interesting flamenco guitar and jazz violin which is what I tried to do with 'Coconut Beach', the last track on my EP, 'Landscapes'. It sounds very Garage-inspired which is very different for me but I enjoyed it."





naafi - Magnolia

Youth Music NextGen Fund, Scotland

naafi says, "Lyrically, it [Magnolia] explores the constant upheaval of moving and travelling as part of growing up in a military family. The walls in army housing are always painted magnolia, so this colour became symbolic of the pain of leaving people behind, but the hope and optimism of new beginnings. I created this piece using a Korg Minilogue, vocals, as well as recording/sampling sounds. The arps reflect the hope of the new start, and the notes in the bassline change halfway through, adding to the euphoric bittersweet feeling that I wanted to convey."





Musicians' MM Inspirational Music Leader Award

Sponsored by the Musicians' Union

For a music leader who inspires project participants through their actions, creativity, determination, positivity, energy, selflessness or ability to overcome challenges.

The Musicians' Union represents over thirty-four thousand musicians working in all sectors of the music business and has campaigned on behalf of its members since the organisation was established in 1893. As well as negotiating on behalf of its members with all the major employers in the industry, the MU offers a range of services for self-employed professional and student musicians of all ages.

Antonia Lines

Come Play With Me CIC, Yorkshire & The Humber

Antonia leads Come Play With Me's Come Platform Me project, the label's LGBTQ Connected Sounds podcast and LGBTQ/ Trans inclusion training. Antonia takes care of younger team members from a line manager or pastoral perspective. Last year, the team won Music Week's Women In Music 'Diversity In The Workplace' award.

Antonia sets the standard in making sure that Come Play With Me's ethos to champion and celebrate under-represented and marginalised communities in music is at the forefront of everything the label does.

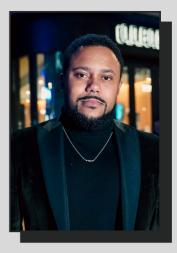




Benjamin Turner

Rap Club Productions C.I.C, London

Turner has changed and inspired so many lives over the years. Starting out as a music teacher, his specialism was jazz - he knew nothing about UK rap in the beginning. Hearing raw UK Drill for the first time in a detention, Turner felt inspired by the passion of kids who were at risk of exclusion. The detentions soon became an after-school Rap Club. Multiple Battle of the Bands wins, performances at Disneyland Paris, the Royal Albert Hall and Wembley Arena followed. Two years later, Benjamin became Director of Music at East London Arts & Music, where many Rap Club kids followed. Now, he focuses full-time on Rap Club (and the flagship 'Spit Game') supporting young Black creativity and managing talent.







Elizabeth J. Birch

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC Birmingham), West Midlands

When crafting her Soundscapes project at MAC, Elizabeth used polls to let the young people vote on the theme of the sessions. In Variety Jam, an online music club for 13-25s, Elizabeth sensitively steers the musical content shared by young people, giving them a sense of respect, professionalism and musical insight.



ticketmaster Live Performance Award



Sponsored by Ticketmaster

For an outstanding live performance by an artist or group from a Youth Music funded project.

Ticketmaster is the world's largest ticket marketplace and the global market leader in live event ticketing products and services. Through official partnerships with thousands of venues, artists, sports teams, festivals, performing arts centres and theatres, Ticketmaster processes 500 million tickets per year across 30+ different countries. Every week, Ticketmaster New Music introduces the hottest new live acts to thousands of new fans via artist profiles, exclusive interviews and more.





ALT BLK ERA

Inspire Youth Arts/Youth Music NextGen Fund, East Midlands

ALT BLK ERA performed 'Obsession: SOLAR' and 'Freakshow' at Metronome for BBC Introducing East Midlands. Their nominator shared the following bio: "Two young Black women (sisters), home-educated and fiercely independent. They started writing alternative music and claiming to be outsiders and celebrating being 'weird' and not in the mainstream. They developed dynamic trap metal tunes and shook the local music scene to its core. Expressing themselves has clearly worked, as the sisters have gained a loyal following in a short amount of time. By refusing to box themselves into a single category, and by taking swings that have never been taken before, they've found that a growing audience are connecting with their fearlessness and authenticity.

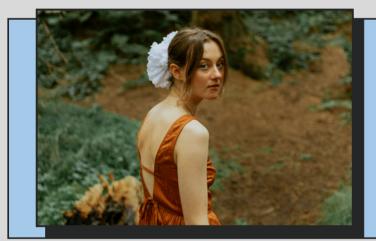


EVA

AudioActive/Youth Music NextGen Fund, South East

EVA's upcoming single 'How Many Times?' was first performed at the Youth Music Give a Gig Week show at Amazing Grace. Shortly after, EVA was shortlisted for the Glastonbury Emerging Talent Competition, where she performed the track for Michael and Emily Eavis during the live finals of the competition. A crowd favourite in all three of EVA's Glastonbury sets, she labels the track as 'financial funk' due to taking inspiration form the 70's disco genre alongside the iconic 2007 Lloyds Bank advert theme music.







Kindelan

Music:Leeds, Yorkshire & The Humber

Kindelan is an independent artist, songwriter and guitarist from Yorkshire. She grew up gigging in York's local music scene, working and collaborating with promoters and other artists, from the age of 13, giving her a deep-seated love for independent artistry and grassroots venues, which has strengthened since experiencing the Leeds scene. She says, "A huge highlight of the last year was a self-produced demo of mine being played on BBC Radio One's Introducing show with Gemma Bradley. I've also had the pleasure of supporting amazing artists such as B-ahwe and Lovescene, and performing at We Out Here festival."



21

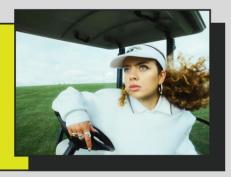


Sponsored by YouTube

For an outstanding music video by an artist or group involved in a Youth Music funded project. The winner of this award was decided by public vote.



Launched in May 2005, YouTube's mission is to give everyone a voice and show them the world. We believe that everyone deserves to have a voice, and that the world is a better place when we listen, share and build community through our stories. YouTube is a Google company.



EVA - My One

AudioActive, Youth Music NextGen Fund, South East

The song's main lyric triggered an association with golfing, linking to 'hole in one'. EVA is a big fan of satire and caricature, so decided to do a whole golf themed music video. A live version of the track was used to enter the Glastonbury Emerging Talent competition and the video premiered in Wonderland magazine.

George Bloomfield - Goodnight

Music:Leeds, Yorkshire & The Humber

The music video was inspired by psychedelic animated videos from the likes of Andy Shauf and Tame Impala. Made in true DIY style, George used £5 worth of books from the charity shop and a free stop-motion app on his phone, collating over 2,500 photos.

The song is an exploration of George's grief, depicting the moment before sleep where he often reconnects with the best friend he lost in an accident.







Qazi & Qazi - Forward

Youth Music NextGen Fund, West Midlands

Set in the chapel at their old university, Qazi & Qazi filmed the video on a small DSLR camera in four full takes, and self-edited and colour graded the entire video. It's inspired by gothic art/ literature/film, the Renaissance, paintings by Moreau, vampires, Biblical paintings, and divinity. Based on the song's lyrics, the pair wanted to show "the rituals of daily life, the ritual of surviving, the ritual of prayer, the ritual of surrender, whilst visually referencing the painful or peaceful, often indulgent, human ways we do that, whether lonely or in company."

Sarah Angel - Wistful Tenderness

Reform Radio CIC, North West

The inspiration for this music video came from Sarah Angel's new-found love and the cheesy Mills & Boon books Sarah and her cousin would sneak off with whilst growing up. The visuals reflect the lyrics of Sarah being the main girl in a period romance type drama and both hold deliberate comedic value.





StudioWyzz - SIP

HQ CAN Community Interest Company, East Midlands

The vision for the video was inspired by noir movies from the 1950s. The song included sax and has a jazzy, old-school feel to it, so the goal was to enhance that through the visuals. The idea was to reference the 'Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels' movie, so StudioWyzz plays poker with the extras inside a boxing ring. A lot of crash zoom-ins and rapid cuts were used to make the reference to Guy Richie's work even clearer.

Yv Shells - LOSS

Youth Music NextGen Fund, London

The video is a series of connective paintings. Yv Shells is really inspired by fine art and took references from paintings including Velázquez's Christ in the House of Mary and Martha, and Edward Hopper's Nighthawks to build the frames. The song is about an abusive relationship that comes to an end. As the protagonist, Shells wanted an eeriness to the video that reflected the danger of an abusive relationship. That's why there's lots of cowboy references and the Marina Abramovic arrow reference at the end.







Original Track Award (Solo)

Sponsored by Levi's®



For a track written and recorded by a solo artist.

The Levi's® brand epitomises classic American style and effortless cool. Since their invention by Levi Strauss & Co. in 1873, Levi's® jeans have become one of the most recognizable garments of clothing in the world—capturing the imagination and loyalty of people for generations. Today, the Levi's® brand portfolio continues to evolve through a relentless pioneering and innovative spirit that is unparalleled in the apparel industry. Our range of leading jeanswear and accessories are available in more than 110 countries, allowing individuals around the world to express their personal style. For more information about the Levi's® brand, its products, and stores, please visit levi.com.



Boodz - Inside Step (feat. TL)

Rap Club Productions C.I.C, London

Boodz (real name Tyrelle) says, "This was my first ever release, which features my twin brother. My first verse bars were written for The Spit Game Season 4 Episode 2 cypher. The bars went viral on TikTok and people wanted a full track. When I was working on that, my twin brother TL's bars also went viral so we decided he should feature. 'Inside Step' became the first of a three-track series I made which is about my experiences with girls. The beat is inspired by 90s hip-hop, but flows I use in the bars bring that era of rap with more modern vibes.

Joe Winter - Laughing For The West

Youth Music NextGen Fund, London

Joe says, "Laughing for the West' is a lament on the experience of being a citizen of 'the west', as well as an individual navigating their own emotional landscape. It's about complicity. You're laughing for it — because you work for it, you benefit from being its citizen; it pays you. But it hurts you too; it overwhelms you.

"And above all of this, you're a person living on a planet with which ancient parts of you long to reconnect. But you feel so distant from it, and you live as if it were something else that keeps you alive.

"These outside forces seep into your identity, affecting the ways by which you love and can be loved. But you're so intimately tied up with it that you don't know what you'd do without it. 'When you shake me it hurts my brain, but when you leave me I waste away."





Ni Maxine - Strange Love

Liverpool Lighthouse, North West

Ni Maxine was inspired to write "Strange Love" after having been deeply impacted by the TV series 'I May Destroy You', written by and starring Michaela Coel. Within the song, Ni itemises and explores the different types of love that we often encounter and weaves that multiplicitous journey into the finding of true love that is often right in front of us. The recognition of true love can often start and end with us genuinely loving ourselves and understanding our true worth; only then can we open the door to real love from external sources.

Ni draws on a combination of lived / witnessed experience and imagination. The lyrics are tightly married with the music which ruminates in a 6/8, bass-heavy jazzy dream-space before a bossa nova awakening, acknowledging love that's "right beneath your noses, away from validationseeking."





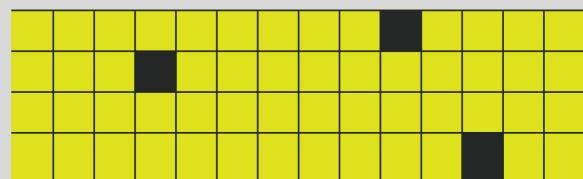
Yv Shells - LOSS

Youth Music NextGen Fund, London

Yv Shells says, "ILOSS' deals with the destructive nature of addiction to another person or a substance. Romantic riffs and punchy drums portray how the mind can be fooled into staying in a bad situation. It's about the push and pull of abuse.

"For me it is a reflection on an addictive relationship and looking at how you can lose yourself in these situations. It's a song about trying to separate the bad from the good and the paradoxical nature of wanting to stay in a bad situation.

"I used a combination of real guitar and bass and then played the rest of the instruments electronically to create a neo-soul and post-punk influenced sound. I recorded, produced and mixed the song myself."





Rising Star Award (Industry)



Sponsored by Songkick

For a young person who is making waves in a behind-the-scenes role within the music industry.

Songkick has been a trusted home for live music since 2007. We've set about making it as easy, fun and fair as possible for you to see your favorite artists live. Right now, more than 18 million music fans across the globe use Songkick to track their favorite artists, discover concerts and buy tickets with confidence. Songkick is a part of the Warner Music Group family.



George Buckthought

Harbourside Artist Management, South West

George joined Harbourside's Disability Empowerment Programme after leaving their studies at a music business school, where they felt the course was inaccessible for a person with their disabilities. Their perceptive A&R skills made them the perfect manager for the programme. Their work with TU3SDAY was dedicated, highly skilled and compassionate. George applied their specific experience in neurodiversity as an aid to manage a likeminded artist.

George was a major factor in the success of the programme and upon completing the internship, was offered their first full-time job in the industry, at Black Acre Records.

Maria Torres Saffron Records, South West

Maria took part in the Saffron Springboard Project in 2021/2022, which propelled her music industry career. She launched her own artist management business, Sakura Artists (managing female and queer artists) with the help of Saffron's project, launched her website and participated in business development courses. One year later, she was offered a job at Mother Artists as an Artist Manager, now working on IDLES, 86TVs, Heavy Lungs and more. This project allowed Maria to make a mark in the music industry as a manager, and build her portfolio and career. She also aims to inspire other young people in the industry, especially through mentoring schemes, now she's a mentor at Saffron and regularly participates in industry panels. Maria has also taught masterclasses for Saffron and BIMM.





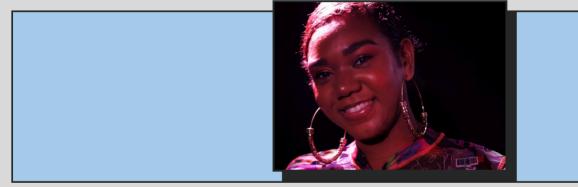




Youth Music NextGen Fund, Wales

Owain says, "Music has always been a great passion of mine - especially new, emerging music. Coming from a Welsh language background, fusing both fields together in creating Klust - a bilingual music website that gives a platform to Welsh artists - was something that I'd always wanted to do.

"Through Youth Music's NextGen Fund, I was able to produce Klust's first print edition - standing alone as the only bilingual music publication in Wales. Released in December 2022, the zine was an authentic, bilingual collection of reviews, interviews, and short essays championing Welsh artists, put together by an eclectic mix of Welsh writers. Featuring stunning photography and independent journalism, Klust's first magazine shed light on ten different artists from Wales and came with a unique physical print by photographer Rhys Grail. I was therefore delighted to learn that the first edition had sold out - inspiring me to continue to grow and develop Klust in an inclusive, sustainable way".



Rianne Lewis

Youth Music NextGen Fund/RUN IT, London

Rianne has broken through social and racial barriers to launch a successful career, challenging stereotypes in a male-dominated field with limited financial support and resources. She has delivered consistent and memorable events for her RUN IT series, resulting in support from Red Bull, Youth Music, The Hard Rock Cafe and monthly partnerships with Box Park.

Rianne's events aid in the promotion of freedom of expression and protection of cultural arts. It can help in the healing process, dismantling boundaries, reconciliation, and education. Rianne and her events are the glue for social change and bringing communities together through music.





SPORTO BY PRS FORM

Lyricist Award

Sponsored by PRS for Music

For outstanding lyrics in an original track by an artist or group involved in a Youth Music funded project.

PRS for Music is a world-leading music collective management organisation representing the rights of more than 165,000 talented songwriters, composers and music publishers around the globe. Headquartered in the UK, it works diligently on behalf of its members to grow and protect the value of their rights. With a focus on innovation and integrity, PRS for Music is redefining the global standard for music royalties to ensure creators are paid whenever their musical compositions and songs are streamed, downloaded, broadcast, performed and played in public. In 2022, PRS for Music collected £964m and paid out £836.2m in royalties. www.prsformusic.com



J4 - Little Bro Romsey Mill, East of England

J4 worked on this song for several months to perfect the message he wanted to portray. The song is a combination of various stories of young people he knows and sees as his little brother. The stories it tells hit deep and show the real consequences of young people's actions.





TL - Time Will Tell

Rap Club Productions C.I.C, London

One of TL's best friends, Damzy, was murdered in summer 2021. He had just finished his GCSEs (and ended up getting higher grades than expected). However, he had gotten mixed up with dangerous people, a big part being through a girl he was going out with. "Time Will Tell" expresses TL's emotions around this, how the events went down and how it still affects him to this day. It is in part a way for him to keep memory of his friend alive. It uses TL's hard hitting raw wordplay, (internal) rhymes and range of intelligent flows. It is a deeply emotional song that has not yet been released. The raw emotional power behind this song really stands out.



Qazi & Qazi - Forward

Youth Music NextGen Fund, West Midlands

Inspired by a documentary about the struggles of an orphaned child from a war-torn country, Qazi & Qazi were moved so deeply that they wrote a song about it. They say: "We wrote 'Forward' ahead of extremely difficult circumstances for us, and little did we know that this song would serve itself as our beacon of light, and strength in finding our reason to go 'forward', together, and continue on our path to make and release music, despite all odds.

"We wrote, recorded, produced and mixed this entire song at home from our bedroom studio. All aspects of our recordings are captured live, in one take, and we build production with harmonies and instrumentation."



#YMAS23

J TikTok Outstanding Project Award

Sponsored by TikTok

For a Youth Music funded project that pushes the boundaries to promote inclusive music making.

TikTok is the leading destination for short-form mobile video. Their mission is to inspire creativity and bring joy.



STANDING PROJECT PURP

SONSORED BY TIK

AutismAble CIC - Future Collaborations

North East

Future Collaborations by AutismAble equalises access to music for young people across the North East, those who typically face barriers to music without an outlet to express themselves. Many members who attend the sessions are neurodivergent and struggle with social anxiety and poor mental health.

The project goes far beyond music tuition, allowing members to take leadership of their learning, build confidence and self-esteem through performing, make decisions, gain new skills and develop friendships. The project has supported so many young people from different backgrounds and brought neurodivergent and neurotypical people together over a shared passion for music.





Beacons Cymru

Wales

Beacons Cymru offers valuable services for young people in South Wales, enabling them to learn skills, make mistakes and grow whilst entering the creative and music industries. Projects like those under Beacons Cymru provide crucial support to music creators with funding, education, access to equipment, introductions to a variety of creative networks, work placement opportunities, mental health support and friendship.

Beacons is so vital in ensuring that sustainability within our industry is ensured and that there is support available to those who might not know what their next steps are in making a dream career a reality. They listen to young people and work in active change to see them equipped with what they need to not only survive but thrive in today's industry.





Music For Good - Music in a GP Surgery South West

Music For Good delivers 1:1 Music for Wellbeing sessions at St Austell and Mevagissey GP surgeries as part of their Social Prescribing programme. Together, they are developing a new approach to both music education and healthcare, breaking down barriers to participation in both.

The young people involved face significant barriers to musical and social engagement. They have complex needs, and many are living with Adverse Childhood Experiences. In addition, the St Austell area is one of the most deprived in Cornwall. These young people are excluded from the current music education system but this programme looks beyond our sector for new answers to inclusion, challenging the normal ways of working to adopt a holistic approach to music social justice. Another innovative aspect of the programme is ensuring our music practitioners are themselves supported in a trauma informed way, so they are offered regular reflective group supervision led by a clinical adolescent psychotherapist.



Marshall.

Original Track Award (Group)



Sponsored by Marshall Amplification

For a track written and recorded by a group (two or more people) from a Youth Music funded project.

Marshall Amplification has a vibrant and dynamic history within the music industry and is celebrated by some of the greatest artists in the world. Catapulted from humble beginnings in Hanwell, London, Marshall is now a global brand achieving manufacturing excellence. Creativity and innovation are at the heart of the business and every product they create. With over 60 years of amplification experience, Marshall continue to push the boundaries of possibility for the musicians of the future.



Big Den, Nemo, Oscar & King Dre – Love Letters

Finding Rhythms CIO, Finding Rhythms x Rugby Portobello Trust, London

The group formed through a music workshop run by the charity 'Finding Rhythms'. Together, with other artists, Big Den, Nemo, Oscar and King Dre wrote, sang and produced an album ('Ladders of Life'), from which 'Love Letters' is one of the songs on the album. The chorus and second verse were written and sung by Oscar, the intro by Nemo, the first verse by Dennis and the bridge by D'Andre. 'Love Letters' is about teenage angst of lost love, the pain of nostalgia and remembering happy memories with someone who now is the reason for your sadness.

FORM - Confused

Offshoots East Midlands C.I.C, East Midlands

FORM attended the first Circle of Light Youth Music funded project thinking they were "going to be backing singers" to a group of male rappers who had also enrolled on the project. This soon changed as each member of FORM recognised they had a talent, something to offer and voices that needed to be heard.

They locked themselves in a room, put a notice on the door saying strictly 'NO MEN ALLOWED' and at the end of the day presented this track to the group. This track won the Young Creative Awards 2020 and FORM have since gone onto be an inspiration to other young women, fighting the fight in a maledominated industry.





GOMID - NO ONE (ft. QOVOP)

Reform Radio CIC, North West



The name GOMID comes from 'A Hunter in the Forest of a Thousand Daemons', the first Yoruba novel ever written. "NO ONE" digs into the mythology of this book and the wider Yoruba mythologies.

GOMID says: 'NO ONE' is a snippet from the life of a creature also called GOMID. It is about the tragedy of never being known, but always craving the sensation. 'NO ONE' goes on an erratic, erotic rant recalling the many ways people have misunderstood him, causing him to retreat into music. Drawing from and interpolating the words of Sampha's 'No One Knows Me Like the Piano', QOVOP serves up a wise and tempered retort in her native language of Creole. A reminder to stop forcing yourself to transform for someone else.





Qazi & Qazi - Forward

Youth Music NextGen Fund, West Midlands

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Treeboy & Arc - Retirement

Music:Leeds, Yorkshire & The Humber

Treeboy & Arc say, "Retirement was one of the final songs we wrote for the album. The instrumentation was mainly constructed in the studio in just one day. The majority of the lyrics were hastily thrown together from note pages that evening and then recorded the next day.

"We recorded the album in winter and at the time I was working at a cafe/restaurant. It was frustrating that I had to work this job in order to survive but wasn't able to commit the time and effort to the things I actually cared about. Being any kind of 'creative' often takes a lot of hard work, and to do it properly is almost like a full-time job in itself, except usually minus the financial gain. Many people are in a constant battle between survival and finding the time to do the things that truly matter to them, this is what Retirement is about."







Rising Star Award (Artist)



Sponsored by Dr. Martens

For a rising musical group or solo artist from a Youth Music funded project that is making waves in the music industry.

The first pair of Dr. Martens boots rolled off the production line on the 1st April 1960. With its trademark yellow stitch, grooved sole and heel-loop, it was a boot for workers, initially worn by postmen and policemen; comfortable, durable and lightweight in comparison to its competitors at the time.

Throughout Dr. Martens history, the brand has been adopted and subverted by diverse individuals, musicians, youth cultures and tribes. These are the people who stand out from the crowd and their journey of self-expression has always been accompanied by a pair of DM's.



ALT BLK ERA

Inspire Youth Arts/Youth Music NextGen Fund, East Midlands

ALT BLK ERA won Nottingham's Future Sound of Nottingham event at Rock City in 2022, resulting in a main-stage slot at Splendour in front of thousands. Their live shows are spectacular but they have heart. They collaborated with Able Orchestra artist Jess Fisher to release a tune on International Women's Day 2023. They have featured in Left Lion Mag and are soon to have an hour's slot on Radio Nottingham. They have performed at two BBC Introducing events and have been invited to play in Switzerland. This summer, ALT BLK ERA played the Shangri La stage at Glastonbury.



EVA

AudioActive/Youth Music NextGen Fund, South East

A musician and visual artist from Brighton, EVA began producing at the age of 15. In 2022, she released her debut single paired with a video she shot at her local boxing gym. Since receiving funding from Youth Music and AudioActive, EVA has released a total of 4 singles, each with a video directed and produced by herself.

In less than a year of releasing music, she was chosen as a finalist for Glastonbury Festival's 2023 Emerging Talent Competition, where she secured 3 performance slots. She has also made several festival appearances and been championed by some of the nation's biggest DJs such as Fatboy Slim and DJ Target.

Her most recent single 'My One', was praised by CLASH magazine for turning the Jersey Club genre, a bold and brash sound, into something ethereal. Indeed, EVA's sonic style has been developing into a bouquet of bounce that pairs angelic vocals with playful, punchy rhythms.





Michael Diamond

Ministry Of Life Education CIC, Levelz Up, Wales, Youth Music NextGen Fund

As a DJ and live performer, Michael Diamond earned a residency at one of Oxford's most time-hallowed club nights, 'Simple', playing monthly alongside the likes of DJ Stingray, Ben UFO, Batu & Call Super. He has played on Rinse FM twice as well as HÖR Berlin, Refuge Worldwide, Ransom Note, Balamii and more. He was also named one of Gilles Peterson's / Worldwide FM's 'future bubblers'.

Michael has released four vinyl records to date, the most recent being his debut concept album 'Third Culture', exploring themes of his heritage through music, literature and visual art. The album received widespread press coverage and made end-of-year 'best-of' lists and play on radio (BBC Radio 1, Radio 3 and 6Music, NTS, Rinse, WWFM etc).

TU3SDAY Harbourside Artist Management, South West

TU3SDAY is a Black, genderqueer, and Disabled electronic music artist, producer, and DJ. Their debut EP, "LOVE + RAGE," co-produced with Mono Joe under Harbourside Artists Management's Disability Empowerment Programme (DEP), merges House, Garage, Drum and Bass, and Gospel influences. This EP, independently distributed by Virgin Label and Artist Services, received radio play on BBC 6 Music, BBC 1XTRA, and SWU.fm.

Recognised in Jamz Supernova's 'Class of Supernova: ones to watch for 2023', they've graced stages at Birmingham Pride and debuted internationally at Sins Limites Festival in Oviedo, Spain. Now, TU3SDAY is pursuing a degree in Electronic Music Production at BIMM, supported by a Spotify scholarship, to align their technical skills with their passion.







Social Action Award

Sponsored by Hal Leonard Europe



For an individual, collective or project that has made an outstanding commitment to local community and/or social justice issues.

Hal Leonard Europe is part of the Hal Leonard group of companies – the world's largest source of music publications, representing many of the world's best-known and most respected publishers, artists, song writers, arrangers and instrument manufacturers. Hal Leonard Europe publishes and distributes an extensive catalogue of printed and digital sheet music products, music education resources, instruments, gear, software and accessories around the world.



Pan Intercultural Arts, Amies Freedom Choir

London

The Amies Freedom Choirs support female survivors of human trafficking to find joy, belonging and community through the collective act of making music.

Many members referred to the choir start their journey with Pan Intercultural Arts at a point in life where they are struggling with confidence, self-worth, anxiety and depression and have many challenges in life which they cannot control. The challenges include housing, benefits, legal asylum processes, family and health. Most participants have English as an additional language often only at a very basic level, or not at all.

Members who have never sang before go on to performing in public, training in Opera singing and joining other choirs.





The Music Works, Knife Angel

South West

In response to the Knife Angel sculpture of 100,000 seized blades, The Music Works Making It project made an album with 6 young people whose lives have been impacted by knife crime and violence.

They wrote and produced music and conducted spoken interviews with their peers to create an archive of stories about knife crime and violence. In collaboration with Squidsoup, Knife Angel's immersive light and sound artists, the content was transformed into an installation. The result of the project was a series of hugely thought provoking spoken word and rap pieces over tracks they produced themselves. These were performed at the launch of the installation that was hosted at the cathedral for the duration of the Knife Angel's residency.







The Together Project CIO, Songs & Smiles

North West

Songs & Smiles brings together 0-4-year-olds, their grown-ups and older adults for uplifting weekly music groups. Held in care homes and retirement schemes, the sessions create an inclusive, welcoming and joyful environment in which all ages are free to learn and express themselves through music-making, dance and song.

Free to attend, Songs & Smiles offers children who might otherwise miss out the chance to participate in a high-quality music class, designed by experts in Early Years teaching. The majority of groups within the north west operate at venues that are within the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in the country, calculated by Indices of Deprivation. Because of the intergenerational aspect, Songs & Smiles layers additional elements on top of the usual benefits that participation in music brings: the chance for young children to benefit from the friendship and wisdom of older people, to develop important traits such as respect, empathy and kindness and to make ageing and disability a natural part of life, rather than being 'scary' or 'other'.



Prepare for unmissable performances from Youth Music Awards 2023 nominees including:

- Treeboy and Arc (p.33)
- Kindelan (p.21)
- EVA (p.21, 22, 35)
- ALT BLK ERA (p.20, 34)
- J4 (p.28)
- Qazi & Qazi (p.23, 29, 33)
- YV Shells (p.23, 25)
- StudioWyzz (p.23)

And, Youth Music NextGen Fund recipient, Richard Carter:



Richard Carter

Youth Music NextGen Fund, London

At age 2, visionary artist Richard discovered a piano in the rain and has been playing ever since. His music seamlessly blends hip-hop, orchestral, pop, indie, and gospel, creating an enchanting and unforgettable sound. With his production, he brought to life the biggest horror film of 2023 with his creation 'Le Monde', topping charts globally. In his artistry, Richard explores mental health, love, and power struggles through poignant lyrics and captivating melodies. He's performed sold-out shows at O2 Islington and Brixton Jamm, delivering emotionally charged live performances. With a goal to tour globally, Richard's latest single, 'BLUE', released in August, offering a glimpse into the depth of his musical artistry.



AFTER PARTY

Sponsored by:

DOWNTOWN

Downtown is the world's leading music services company with over 2 million clients in over 145 countries with a catalog of over 38 million music assets in a wide variety of genres and languages. Downtown's service offerings support creators and businesses in all facets of the music industry including music creation, distribution, marketing, royalty collection, financing, accounting and payment services. Downtown clients can choose to opt-in for only the services they need, in any territory they want, for as long as they want, without having to give up ownership or control of their work.



Priya Ragu

Priya Ragu is a BBC Sound Poll-nominated Swiss-Tamil artist. With breaking artist accolades from MTV, Amazon Music, Spotify, VEVO and Deezer to her name, Ragu is a sensational live performer who made her TV debut on 'Later... with Jools Holland' and has sold-out headline shows in London, New York, and LA. Ahead of the release of her debut album, 'SANTHOSAM', Ragu will close the Youth Music Awards with a special live performance.

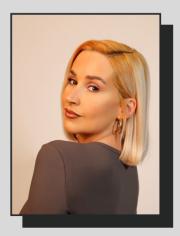
Kennedy Taylor

Kennedy Taylor is a Presenter, DJ and voice over artist from Manchester, based in London.

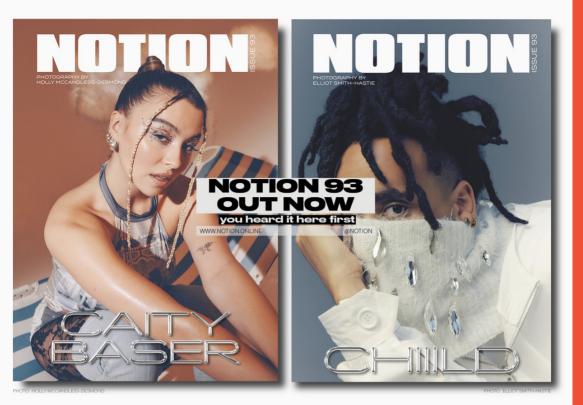
Her weekly breakfast show on Foundation.FM has seen her interview some of the biggest names in UK & US music including Aitch, Vic Mensa, GloRilla, IAMDDB & more.

Kennedy most recently appeared on this year's series of Tonight with Target on BBC Three and is a regular on DR Sports. She hosted & opened the main stage at Size? Festival, warming up for the likes of Nines & AJ Tracey as well as DJing for Ms Banks, Raye & Spotify.

With experience playing in London, Dubai, Lisbon, featuring on BBC 1Xtra and KISS and voicing The Official Chart show on MTV, she has quickly become an in-demand name.







YOUTH MUSIC

> Youth Music NextGen is our community for young creatives who aspire to build and work in the music industries of the future. It offers access to development, opportunities and even funding for those who face barriers because of who they are, where they're from or what they're going through. Find out more at youthmusic.org.uk/nextgen.

> Every year, we hire 18-25 year old creatives to help execute the Youth Music Awards, alongside a team of experienced professionals. Their roles include hosting, video editing, production support and more.

Our NextGen team this year includes: Abigail, Ashleigh, Charlie, Connie, Daniel, Ellie, Julia, Kara, Leonie, Livy, Livvy, Mark, Natalie, Raj and Sabareesh.

Photo by Will Ireland





Jade Barnett @ jadebbarnett



Jade is successful young speaker and facilitator who consistently advocates on behalf of young people. She works tirelessly to make and see a change for young Londoners. Jade raises awareness to practitioners on how to use inclusive and intentional practice to empower, motivate and stand with young people. She highlights the importance of investing in our young people through sustainable resources and the lack of support for Care Leavers and Looked After Children.

Jameel Shariff @jam_sharifff

Jameel is a proud Brummie who won the Future Presenter Award at the Edinburgh TV Festival New Voices. He was a Journalist on-air at BBC Asian Network and presented his own Music segment on BBC Radio WM. Jameel has also presented at festivals such as Wireless and has interviewed big names including Raye, Bugzy Malone, Mabel and Ms Banks. He loves talking with artists and likes to delve deep into their stories.



The Youth Music Awards 2023 NextGen team is sponsored by LCCM.

Above all, at LCCM we value originality and innovation, not a one-size-fits-all model for mass music education. Our passion for innovation extends from our belief that every musician, vocalist or producer is uniquely themselves and can pursue a sound and style that is compelling, fresh and true.

Graduate opportunities and the skills demanded by employers today are radically different than in the past. Our unique approach recognises this, giving you a practical education that not only helps you master your chosen subject or instrument, but actively encourages collaboration, communication, initiative and hard work. With a reputation for nurturing creative talent, we have successfully bridged the gap between traditional universities, conservatoires and rock and pop schools, by combining the best elements of all three into a modern centre for artistic, creative and academic excellence. We are the highest-ranked provider of music performance and music business degrees in the UK by student satisfaction (NSS 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022).





	WITH THANKS TO											

Without the generosity of so many people, all sharing our vision to ensure every young person can change their life through music, this event wouldn't happen. Thank you especially to:

- The Troxy team
- Barry and Casey Brown
- Beats by Dre
- FAE grp
- PMT
- ATC Live
- Shure
- Meduulla



Thank you to Turtle Bay for kindly providing food for our NextGen team and Youth Music staff working at the Awards.

Turtle Bay is inspired by the rich and diverse culture, food and music of the many islands of the Caribbean. The philosophy is simple: to create Caribbean good times and bring it to the UK! Food for the soul; rum, reggae and jerk. Their motto "One Love" is not just a slogan, it is who they are. They champion unity and respect for all people, their teams, guests and local communities.

42 This brochure was designed by Anna Foxabbott (annafoxabbott.com)





HOW TO BECOME A MUSIC TEACHER

Musicians can have multiple roles to help build a sustainable and professional portfolio career. There is a considerable number of transferrable skills from being a performing musician to being an educator. You've already identified the ways of being successful on your instrument and have put the years of practise into honing your craft... why not pass that knowledge on to the next generation of musicians?



We want to continue building the most dedicated community of music teachers, offering the most professional service to their students. At Rockschool, we have a range of resources and opportunities to help you get started teaching for free, as well as materials

that have a proven track record of keeping students engaged on their instruments.



Get Started today and access free resources!



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Our Graded Music series have a proven track record of keeping students engaged in their instruments, so you, the teacher, can help them progressively master their craft

Planning Your Teaching We've developed schemes of work to help you plan up to three months' worth of lessons per grade, so you can focus on what matters most... teaching!



INSTRUMENT DRUMS GRADES DEBUT - GRADE 8 LOCATION BRIGHTON SPECIALISM POP / ROCK / METAL



Advertise Your Services

The RSL Teacher Registry provides teachers of Rockschool across the Globe with a fast, free service to promote their teaching expertise. Let students in your area find you!

Earn a Qualification

Make the most of our CPD Teacher Training or work towards a Professional Diploma, recognising high level achievement of working in or preparing for a professional environment.





