**High Peak Community Arts**

**Tall Tales - the Opera**

**Background**

High Peak Community Arts have been awarded a two year grant from Youth Music Open Programme to deliver music making activities on target estates in the High Peak district. In each year we will complete a brand new musical adaptation of a well known children’s story, for performance around the district.

This programme is a development from collaborative projects under the Youth Arts Network High Peak, which in recent years have seen community drama performances in 2011; We Make Our World at the Pavilion Arts Centre, Buxton and in 2012; Darkness at Peak Cavern, Castleton.

This new work will work with one of the same groups, in Fairfield, Buxton and develop a new relationship with a group of young people in Gamesley, Glossop, who took part in pilot music activity in the summer of 2013.

**The programme**

The programme will start in Glossop in January 2014, with 12 weekly tea time or evening sessions.

It will then move to Buxton in April or May for a further 12 weekly evening sessions.

In these sessions the participants will be gaining new musical skills and writing material, lyrics and songs on the themes of the chosen story.

All this new material will feed into the Summer School when participants from both groups will travel to the Hope Valley for 6 full days of workshops and be joined by pupils from the local High School in Hope village. During this summer school the full story will be dramatised, dialogue and more music will be written and roles will be given out to participants for the final performance.

During September there will be further rehearsals to pull the performance together and the final show will happen in the October half term.

**The musician team**

We are looking for three members of a musician team to work together on the first year of this programme. We are looking for one lead musician, who will work on all sessions and act as a lead to bring the musical material together. Two other musicians, will be at half the weekly sessions each, and come together for all three musicians to work on the Summer School. We are looking for a mix of musical backgrounds, including opera, classical instrumentals and rock / pop instrumentals. We are looking for each of these musicians to be experienced in creative facilitation in a range of settings, including engagement with hard to reach young people. Our working methods are collaborative and open, and this programme will need to use an inclusive practice, where all participants and the whole wider team feel an ownership of the final performance.

**The Story**

We are currently looking at a number of story ideas including: The Giant with no Heart in His Body or other Norse or Dutch folk mythology; Tatty’s River Journey; The Moomins; Wizard Punchkin; The Singing Mermaid and others – we will produce a short list for the youth panel (see below) to make the final decision.

**The Communities**

The communities we will target have a history of participation in High Peak Community Arts projects, either in drama performances over a number of years, or in recent pilot music activity.

The Dreamscheme in Fairfield is a voluntary run youth club for young people on an estate in Buxton where educational attainment and future life chances through employment are well below their peers in other parts of Buxton, and below the national average.

We ran pilot activity in the summer with junior age young people on Gamesley, where statistics on the multiple index of deprivation are amongst the worst in Derbyshire, and where there is a culture of non-engagement with outside school activity.

**Developing young leaders**

The programme will also work with local schools and colleges to offer shadowing and volunteering opportunities for musical and performing young people to get experience of community music making. This small number of young people will be paired with members of the artist and musician team to learn some delivery and help with aspects of finalising the performance.

**Role of the musicians**

Musicians need to have a good availability for evening work between January and June, particularly Tuesdays.

The Lead Musician will:

* Work with High Peak Community Arts (HPCA) staff to shape the programme in each location.
* Plan and deliver 24 workshops (12 in each place) in collaboration with the other two musicians and, as appropriate, young leaders.
* Work with HPCA to use an appropriate method to write up or record the new material produced in sessions.
* Work with HPCA, the other musicians and young leaders to agree the selection of music and best methods of shaping the performance.
* Plan and deliver 6 full days of Summer School workshops to create the shape of the final performance, in collaboration with the other musicians, young leaders and other artist team members, still to be funded.
* Plan and lead the final rehearsal sessions and agree roles in delivery of the performance amongst the entire team.

Second & third artists will:

* Take part in planning and delivering 12 workshops (6 in each place) in collaboration with the other two musicians and, as appropriate, young leaders.
* Work with the lead musician to use an appropriate method to write up or record the new material produced in sessions.
* Take part in the selection of music and best methods of shaping the performance.
* Take part in planning and delivering 6 full days of Summer School workshops to create the shape of the final performance, in collaboration with the other musicians, young leaders and other artist team members, still to be funded.
* Lead elements of the final rehearsal sessions and take part in agreeing roles in delivery of the performance amongst the entire team.

**Budget and fees**

The budget for all artists fees across the workshops, summer school, rehearsals and performance is £11,550.

This breaks down to £105 per half day session / artist (including lead artist). The lead artist will be paid for extra session time to complete the extra planning and coordination of this role.

**Further funding being sought**

We are now seeking additional funding for additional artists at the summer school. We would like a storyteller with some theatre background; a production designer; budget for additional equipment at the performance for projection and other sound equipment, as required. We have not yet fixed the performance venue and are open to both traditional and non-traditional performance spaces. This may also incur extra cost.

**Optional extra link.**

There is also an option to link collaboratively with some residency work currently being planned for the International Community Arts Festival 2014 (ICAF) in Rotterdam, Mach 2014. Funding is being sought by the East Midlands Participatory Arts Forum (EMPAF) to pay for flights, accommodation and festival tickets for artists involved in these residencies. There is an option for the Lead Musician (or one of the others if the Lead cannot take the opportunity) to be funded to attend, on the understanding that they contribute their time.

**How to apply**

Please apply with your CV and a written proposal which details how you would approach this work, your musical experience and your experience in work in community settings and collaboration in teams of artists.

Please also include a ‘pitch’ to the young people who you would be working with.

The deadline for proposals is: 15th November 5pm.

Please send your documents to: mail@highpeakarts.org, or by post to:

High Peak Community Arts

High Lea Hall

New Mills

SK22 4EH

**Youth panel**

All proposals submitted for this work will be seen by a youth panel – they will look in particular at your ‘pitches’ and between them, our staff, youth club volunteers and parents we will short list musicians to come for a short interview.

The interview is a chance for a small group of young people to meet applicants and have their say about who they would like to work with.

Interviews will be held early in December, on a week day around 5pm.