



TOGETHER WE ARE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

JOIN OUR YOUTH COLLECTIVE

Are you passionate about music and want to connect with the Edinburgh International Festival? We are looking for enthusiastic 16–18-year-olds living in Edinburgh to join us for the second year of Youth Collective and help us develop exciting activities for young people.

We'd love to hear your ideas about how the Edinburgh International Festival could be more relevant to young people! Join us for the second year of our Youth Collective and play an important role in developing our work with young people and growing our audiences. Along the way, you will gain professional skills, build a creative network, have the chance to work alongside arts professionals and international artists and form new friendships with like-minded peers!

From January to September 2026, you'll work on key projects with your peers, collaborate with staff, and meet artists from next year's festival. You'll also get special access and free tickets to the August 2026 International Festival.

[Click here to apply by Monday 1 December 2025](#)

or see page 4 for a link and QR code

ABOUT YOU

- You must be aged 16-18 (in January 2026), interested in music, and live in Edinburgh or The Lothians.
- You must be able to commit to most of the dates. If you have a regular commitment which clashes with the dates you should consider what you would like to prioritise.
- You don't need to have any experience, but enthusiasm, eagerness to work in a team, and passion is a must!

IMPORTANT DATES

The Youth Collective will meet every few weeks from 4.30pm – 7.30pm at The Hub, Castlehill, Edinburgh, EH1 2NE. During holidays and exam leave, we have not scheduled meetings. Meetings include a free evening meal when there will be time to chat.

Scheduled dates are:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Wednesday 14 Jan | 4. Wednesday 18 Mar | 7. Wednesday 3 June |
| 2. Wednesday 11 Feb | 5. Wednesday 1 Apr | 8. Wednesday 17 June |
| 3. Wednesday 4 Mar | 6. Wednesday 20 May | |

...and further meetings to be scheduled in **July** and **August** to be agreed by the Youth Collective.

WHO WILL YOU WORK WITH?

- You will be guided by the Edinburgh International Festival's Youth Connections team to plan and deliver events and activity for young people.
- You will work with the Edinburgh International Festival's wider team, including our senior staff.
- You will meet international artists who will be performing in the Festival in 2026.
- You will work with your Youth Collective peers.

WHAT PROJECTS WILL YOU WORK ON?

- Help develop projects, plan events, and create ways to engage young audiences with the Festival's music programme.
- Help shape and promote our Young Musician's Pass, a membership scheme for young people aged 8-18 which gives them free access to music performances at the Festival.

WHAT WILL YOU GET?

- Develop your CV.
- Skills and experience in teamwork, event planning and communication.
- Make new friends and develop your confidence.
- Learn about careers in the arts.
- Build a network of peers and professionals to help you develop your connections, knowledge and employability.
- Access to free music performances throughout the year, and a VIP pass for the Edinburgh International Festival 2026.
- Connect with world-class artists performing in the Festival in 2026.
- Lots of free merch!

HOW TO APPLY?

Fill in this application form either using the link below or the QR code: https://form.jotform.com/Learning_Engagement/YC2026

The deadline to apply is 5pm, Monday 1 December 2025.

If you would like assistance, more information, or to submit an application in a different format, such as a video, please email:

connect@eif.co.uk



INTERVIEWS

If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to a short informal interview after school with our current Youth Collective members. This is a chance to hear more about what it's really like to be in the Youth Collective and ensure it's a good fit for you!

These will take place at The Hub, Castlehill, EH1 2NE between the 8-10 December.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What's it really like to be part of the Youth Collective?

We've had a great first year with our Youth Collective. One of them said that,

“being able to meet the actual people who make the festival work completely expanded and shifted my outlook on how concerts work, how music works, how the festival works and that, combined with being able to go to so many free shows made a profound difference on what I understand about the festival and music”

You can also check out our [News & Blogs](#) page to read a blog post by one of our members.

How are members selected?

We choose applicants who show passion and detail in their applications, aiming for a mix of experiences and backgrounds. Some members from last year will stay on, forming a group of around 15. We are also aiming to create a Collective that reflects the diverse backgrounds and experiences of our community. This helps us to better understand and meet the needs of our young audiences.

Edinburgh International Festival presents opera, theatre and dance as well? Why is the Youth Collective just focussed on music?

This is our second year, and we're keeping the focus on music to make the most impact. In future, we may expand to include opera, theatre, and dance.

Do I get paid to be part of the Youth Collective?

No, but we cover food, travel, and tickets. You'll also get training, networking, and support with personal development. Other reasonable expenses can be discussed.

How long is the commitment for the Youth Collective?

The commitment is for 9 months, during which you will participate in the meetings scheduled in this document and further meetings in July, August and early September. We will be mindful of when exams are happening, and we expect you will be busy. There will be more opportunities to do more during August 2026 when the Festival is on.

Can I join if I have no experience in the arts?

Absolutely! We welcome all backgrounds. Enthusiasm and a willingness to contribute are what matter most.

What if I can't make all the meetings?

Let us know as soon as possible. We understand things come up, but if you have regular conflicts, consider whether someone else might benefit more.

What if I have ideas but don't know how to share them?

Don't worry! We'll support you with different ways to express your ideas and make sure everyone's voice is heard.

Can I leave the Youth Collective if I decide it's not for me?

Yes, just talk to us and we'll work it out together.

Will I have the chance to meet artists and professionals?

Yes! You'll connect with international artists and arts professionals through workshops and events. Our staff at the Edinburgh International Festival are excited to work with you!

I'm a musician. Will I get to perform as part of the Youth Collective?

No performing is involved, but you'll meet other musicians and share your passion.

What happens after the Youth Collective programme ends?

We'll evaluate the project and explore future opportunities. We love staying in touch and will support your next steps.

What should I do if I have additional questions?

If you have more questions, please reach out to the Discovery & Participation team, and we'll be happy to assist you: connect@eif.co.uk