



Call for musicians

WHAT invites applications from suitably qualified musicians to join a panel of musicians to perform for and with patients of University Hospital Waterford as part of our *Healing Sounds on the Wards* programme from March 2019 for one year.

The successful applicants will be mentored in bringing live music to the bedside of patients by musicians Liam Merriman and Eoin O Meachair. Liam qualified as a trainer of hospital musicians with *Musique et Santé*, Paris. Eoin has trained as a hospital musician with Kids Classics and under the mentorship of Liam Merriman in the *Healing Sounds* programme. Both musicians have vast experience of working within the music and health context.

Healing Sounds on the Wards

Waterford Healing Arts Trust (WHAT), based at the WHAT Centre for Arts and Health at University Hospital Waterford (UHW), is one of Ireland's leading arts and health organisations. In 2000, WHAT established the *Healing Sounds* programme with the aim of reducing stress and anxiety for patients, staff and visitors of UHW through live music. The programme involves a range of musicians and musical styles and, where appropriate, encourages patients and staff to engage with the musicians. In 2014, WHAT introduced mentoring for musicians and has since mentored six musicians to play music for and with patients.

Musicians who have participated in this programme said:

"It was apparent to me at this particular session that the music was a very welcoming aspect of the day for both patients and staff. One gentleman spent the entire session singing with us and we only learned afterwards that he had difficulty with speech. The music and song seemed to strike a very happy chord with him."

"As always, a beautiful way to spend a few hours. Each time I learn something new. We had a few of the patients' visitors express their appreciation. The good spirit generated in the hospital through the music was a definite high point for me."

And a sample of feedback from staff on the ward: *"It encourages the patients to be more interactive, builds rapport, brings them to a happy place"*.

Please note:

Healing Sounds is not a music therapy programme, nor is it a participatory music programme. It is a performance programme where the musicians are asked to adapt to the hospital environment and respond to patients' needs. The programme is funded by the Arts Council and the National Lottery Good Causes Fund.

Selection criteria

The successful applicants will have the following:

- A high level of musical competence, performance experience and repertoire, including an ability / willingness to use voice
Please note: Due to the existing provision among our musicians, priority will be given to applicants from a string and/or woodwind background.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including patient-centred approaches to performance
- Commitment to developing their practice within the context of music and health
- An understanding of the ethos of the *Healing Sounds* programme

Roles and responsibilities

The selected musicians will:

- Actively participate in the *Healing Sounds* programme and the mentoring process
- Build an appropriate repertoire of music for playing in an acute hospital context
- Reflect on their learning via a journal
- Undergo a Garda clearance process

WHAT will:

- Liaise with the staff of UHW in scheduling *Healing Sounds* sessions
- Provide mentoring support throughout the programme
- Brief the musicians on music and health, infection control, security, health & safety, ethical and child protection issues
- Pay each musician an honorarium for each session. Sessions take place on Mondays or Tuesdays, 2.30pm-4.30pm or 6.30pm-8.30pm. Sessions begin with a warm-up at the WHAT Centre before going to the ward, and end with a de-brief at the WHAT Centre afterwards.

How to apply

Interested musicians are requested to submit by written application only:

- A current Curriculum Vitae / biography, to include, where relevant, links to recordings (maximum three)
- Expression of interest (max 200 words) stating your motivation and suitability for working in the acute hospital setting
- Names and contact details of two relevant referees

Applications should be submitted to:

Music Co-ordinator

Waterford Healing Arts Trust

University Hospital Waterford

Dunmore Road

Waterford

or emailed to WHAT@hse.ie no later than **Monday 18 February 2019**.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an **interview and audition on Monday 25 February**.

Candidates will be further shortlisted and invited to a **half-day workshop on Monday 4 March 2019**, following which the final selection of successful candidates will be made. Applicants should be available for both of these dates when applying.

For further information on WHAT, see www.waterfordhealingarts.com
Contact 051 842664 or email WHAT@hse.ie if you have specific queries.

