



Young
Composers
A Mentoring Programme



The **Young Composers** Mentoring Programme is a joint initiative between Aġenzija Żgħażaġh and Pjazza Teatru Rjal.

The aim of this programme is to provide professional mentoring by some of Malta's leading composers and professionals in the field of music industry who will act as a source of inspiration for a selected number of young composers.

These guidelines are intended to help those interested in the programme to:

1. Be informed about the programme;
2. Get to know the terms and conditions of the programme before submitting their application;
3. Get to know if they are eligible to apply;
4. Get to know how to apply.

A) Definitions - List of key terms used in the guidelines

Applicant

Only individual applicants are eligible to apply. The applicants should be committed to developing their musical composition skills in one of the following strands: Jazz & Musicals; Pop & Rock; or Classical Art Music.

Application

The application is the form which the Applicant needs to fill in and submit together with other documentation requested. Section e of these guidelines is a list of documents required. Only complete applications submitted on time are eligible.

Eligibility

The Applicant must be between the ages of 16 and 30 by submission deadline and residing in Malta and Gozo, having a minimum of Grade 7 or equivalent and a good theoretical knowledge of harmony, counterpoint, rhythmic notation, etc.. The Applicant is required to present at least one recently composed work that best represents their style and other supporting material (biography, recordings, etc.) that support the application.

Evaluation

Aġenzija Żgħażaġh and Pjazza Teatru Rjal will appoint 3 Evaluators to assess the submitted works. Each Evaluator will be evaluating independently the submitted works by following the Evaluation criteria set by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh. The three Evaluators will then meet to discuss their results, the choice of the best applicants as well as the choice of Mentors best suited for applicants. This discussion will be chaired by the chairperson appointed by Aġenzija Żgħażaġh who will be leading the discussion and ensuring Evaluators will be engaging in fair discussion. The chairperson does not have a right to vote. His role is to moderate and prepare the evaluator's report, which will be sent to the Applicants.

Mentors

The Mentors are those who will be supporting the young persons to develop their skills in musical composition.



B) The Programme

The programme will consist of a series of 3-hour workshops (April-October 2022) which will tackle a variety of topics intended to nurture the skills and competences required for a successful career in music composition.

A limited number of participants will be selected to enrol in this programme.

Participants will be split into three different strands:

- a. Jazz & Musicals (mentor Maestro Paul Abela)
- b. Pop & Rock (mentor Maestro Joe Brown)
- c. Classical Art Music (mentor Maestro Christopher Muscat)

Young composers will attend a number of generic workshops and seminars as well as one-to-one tuition specific to their selected strand. During the course of the programme, composers will also have the opportunity to work with musicians from the Malta Concert Orchestra, a collaboration that shall lead to the production of a finalised score of a work with the possibility of having it performed.

The programme is spread on 26 contact hours with the mentors and/or invited speakers. Mentees are required to attend a minimum of 22 contact hours.

The programme will also feature a showcase event in October where each participant will have the opportunity to present the work/s developed during the course of this programme performed by musicians from the Malta Concert Orchestra, if these are deemed of good quality. Mentees will be expected to sit in during Malta Concert Orchestra rehearsals and assist the mentors as required.



C) Successful Applicants

A certificate of participation will be awarded to all participants who actively attend at least 80% of the sessions.

D) The Mentors

Paul Abela graduated in Professional Music from Berklee College of Music in Boston, U.S.A. He composed some of Malta's most popular songs, as well as numerous other songs for the Maltese and international market which have been recorded by artists from Sweden, Germany, Denmark, United Kingdom and Italy. Abela is the composer of a number of original musicals such as GENSNA, TAHT TLIET SALTNIET, ALI BABA, BASTILJA and 1565 THE MUSICAL. His compositions have represented Malta four times in the Eurovision Song Contest, where he has also conducted the Eurovision Orchestra. He has also conducted the orchestra during a number of editions of Malta Song for Europe and Festival Internazzjonali tal-Kanzunetta Maltija. Abela collaborated with Joseph Calleja, Claudio Baglioni, Gigi D'Alessio, Ronan Keating, Ron, Ivana Spagna, Gabriele Comeglio and others. He taught music theory, piano and improvisation at the J. Strauss School of Music where he

founded and directed the J. Strauss Big Band and also played in jazz festivals in Malta, Italy and U.S.A. Paul Abela was musical director and conductor for a number of musicals as well as several pantomimes and concerts.

Joe Brown is an experienced conductor/arranger with over 20 years experience in studio recordings and television programmes. He has conducted the orchestra for the Malta Eurovision Song Contest and other national festivals, composed the music for various local TV series and collaborated with international artistes such as Johnny Logan, Tracey Shields, T.J. Slater, The Drifters and Brotherhood of Men amongst others. He has conducted also in the UK and Australia and has been involved in over 300 concerts and 600 television programmes.

Recipient of first prizes in the Joyce Dixey Competition (UK) in 2000, the Jaume Dotras Serrabella

Polyphonic Composition Competition (Spain) in 2006 and the APS Bank Composition Competition (Malta) in 2012, **Christopher Muscat** has been described by the local press as "a young composer of outstanding talent" and the "stark originality" of his works has earned him an ever increasing reputation. His works have been performed in many important European and American music centres including the Philharmonie in Berlin, the Oriental Arts Centre in Shanghai and the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory. Christopher Muscat holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in music studies from the University of Malta as well as a Master of Music degree (with distinction) from the University of Surrey where he specialized in composition and conducting. Muscat taught music at the University of Malta and sacred music at the Archbishop's Seminary and is regularly invited to judge international vocal, instrumental and composition competitions.

E) How do I apply for this project?

In order to be eligible the following documentation needs to be submitted:

1. An Application Form complete with all details filled in and all supporting documentation required:
<https://forms.gle/uGxLy4fzVvC6F8mZ7>
2. Copy of ID Card / Residence permit
3. At least one recently composed work that best represents your style and any supporting material (biography, recordings, etc...) that might support your application.

Application for the project is open from 7th March 2022 and must be submitted by 12pm (noon) on the 4th April 2022.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Should you require additional information, please contact **Maria C. Borg** on **maria-carmela.borg@gov.mt** or **2258 6700**.



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PJAZZA TEATRU RJAL