

Dear applicant

19 October 2018

Post of Artistic Director

Thank you for your interest in the post of Artistic Director at Streetwise Opera. You will find enclosed the Application Pack. Remember to also download the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form from our website.

Please apply by sending:

- Your CV
- A supporting statement of up to two pages, detailing your suitability for the role, and your vision for Streetwise Opera
- Up to two links to video, audio and/or images of your previous work
- A completed Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form

Please send your application to info@streetwiseopera.org, with "Artistic Director" as the subject line.

The deadline for applications is **12 noon on Monday 3 December 2018**.

Interviews for the role will take place in London, and are scheduled on:

- **Thursday 10 January 2019**
- **Monday 21 January 2019**

The final shortlist of candidates will also be invited to attend a Streetwise Opera workshop in London at 5:30pm on **Wednesday 16 January 2019**.

Having read the Application Pack, if you have any questions about the role, or would like to arrange an informal conversation, please contact either Susie Gorgeous or Bridget Rennie on 020 7730 9551.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Yours faithfully



Susie Gorgeous
Co-Executive Director



Bridget Rennie
Co-Executive Director

Application Pack - Artistic Director

Role:	Artistic Director
Appointment:	Renewable 4-year fixed-term contract, 0.4 FTE (2 days per week equivalent). Days can be allocated flexibly throughout the year, depending on the needs of the company.
Start Date:	1 April 2018
Responsible to:	Co-Executive Directors
Line Manages:	Creative Director of Workshops
Salary:	£40,000 p/a pro rata
Annual Leave:	21 days p/a pro-rated, plus 8 days pro-rated for public holidays
Notice Period:	6 months on either side Probationary period of 6 months with 1 month's notice on either side



Tell Me The Truth About Love. Sage Gateshead, 2018.
Photo: Mark Savage

The Role

Streetwise Opera is at a pivotal point in its development as we prepare for our Founder and Artistic Director, Matt Peacock, to leave the organisation to launch With One Voice, our international arts and homelessness movement, as a new charity.

The Artistic Director will bring creative leadership to Streetwise Opera as we embark on this exciting new chapter in our development, working with Co-Executive Directors Susie Gorgeous and Bridget Rennie.

This is an opportunity to shape the artistic vision of a pioneering company working to redefine opera and who it is for. We are seeking an experienced and inspiring Artistic Director whose ideas and passion will play a vital role in Streetwise Opera's development.

Background

Streetwise Opera is an award-winning performing arts charity for people who are or have been homeless. We run creative programmes in five regions across England and stage critically-acclaimed operas.

Streetwise Opera has developed a reputation as a leading commissioner and producer of contemporary opera, with 22 commissions over the past 16 years from composers including James MacMillan, Anna Meredith, Will Todd and Mira Calix. Our productions have all received four- and five-star reviews in the national press. Our staging of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* with The Sixteen in 2016 was directed by Penny Woolcock, screened on BBC Four and seen by a total audience of 140,000. In April 2018 we staged *Tell Me The Truth About Love*, a new opera at Sage Gateshead in partnership with Royal Northern Sinfonia. It received public and critical acclaim, and was described as 'a powerful and inspiring show' (*The Guardian*) and 'a joyous and passionate celebration' (*The Stage*).



The Passion. Campfield Market, Manchester, 2016.
Photo: Matt Webb

Programme

Our artistic cycle currently involves:

- a biennial professional opera production which takes place in one of the five Streetwise Opera regions
- an annual Opera Hour series with a performance in each region
- a biennial Composer in Residence scheme
- small-scale performances and projects with artistic partners throughout the year (c. 30 performances p/a)
- year-round weekly music workshops in homelessness centres and arts venues in five regions across England (c. 430 workshops with 650 people p/a)

We are currently delivering our third [Composers in Residence scheme](#) and will produce a series of Opera Hours in our five regions featuring the new commissions the composers create with our performers in spring 2019. Our biennial 2020 production is in development and we have confirmed some key members of the creative team. Details are yet to be announced but will be shared with shortlisted candidates.

Streetwise Opera's Strategic Priorities 2017-2021

- **Regional Development:** To build a stronger presence in each of our five current regions, that enriches the service we are able to offer to our performers, and has been developed in association with partners;
- **Progression:** To set out and deliver a clear and established and well-defined progression programme that can respond to our performers' needs in each region, offering them clear journeys they can take through Streetwise Opera;
- **Communication:** To build a refreshed communications strategy that enables us to have a higher profile, greater web presence and local presence, and a confidence in how we talk about the work we do, including messaging for performers, funders, staff and the general public;
- **Diversity:** To create a more diverse team and board, including people who have been homeless and representing all of the regions we work in;
- **With One Voice:** To explore whether With One Voice remains part of Streetwise Opera or becomes an independent charity with its own constitution. With One Voice will become independent on 1 April 2019.



Streetwise Opera workshop, Middlesbrough.
Photo: Kev Howard

Artistic Policy

Streetwise Opera aims to create productions that are of **equal social and artistic excellence**. We believe it is important to involve our performers in projects which are entirely inclusive and where the process is safe and nurturing but also where the final product is of high artistic quality. This dual focus helps shine a light on the achievements of our performers, and people who are or have been homeless, rather than their needs.

The company has developed further values that are present in all productions:

- **Artistic ambition** – in striving for artistic excellence in our productions, we want to be ambitious and innovative. This might be achieved by commissioning new music and exploring new ways of producing and presenting operas including using film and exploring site-specific work.
- **Focusing on the art, not on homelessness** – the lives of our performers can be dominated by negative experiences that have happened to them. We invite our performers to leave those issues at the door and, in a supported environment, be treated as artists, not homeless people. Productions will therefore not be about homelessness or issues experienced by people who are homeless. When difficult issues/themes come up, we help performers work on those issues through characters/the third person rather than their own personal experience.
- **Partnerships with professional artists and support workers** – all our productions have a core of professionals behind-the-scenes and on stage performing with the Streetwise cast. We aim that the quality of the performance is the result of this collaboration – the sum of the parts being greater than the constituent sections. Meanwhile our performers are always supported by professional support workers who are present in every session, and our productions fit into the overall support structure of our performers.
- **Performers and audiences interacting** – every Streetwise Opera production will give opportunities for audience and performers to interact with each other. This might be achieved through the staging, audience participation or creating interactions as the audience arrive or leave.



With One Voice at the Royal Opera House.
Photo: Curtis Gibson

Job description: Artistic Director

Responsibilities

Strategic role

- Create and communicate an artistic vision for Streetwise Opera, ensuring that this matches the strategic plan and the values of the charity
- Work with the Co-Executive Directors and the team on the artistic content of future Streetwise Opera strategic plans
- Oversee, review and deliver the company's Artistic Policy
- Work with the Creative Director of Workshops to ensure a consistency of vision across the programme
- Work with the team to establish and manage meaningful partnerships with leading arts organisations, venues and performing ensembles
- Provide an inspiring vision for working with the homelessness sector in a creative way, interrogating and innovating the role that the arts can play in people's journeys out of homelessness

Biennial productions

- Generate a concept for each production, deciding on narrative themes, music, commissions and partnerships
- Identify and commission exceptional artists and provide appropriate advice and support to ensure they are maximising their creative potential while working for Streetwise Opera
- Working with the creative team, oversee the musical material to ensure a coherent piece which is accessible for Streetwise Opera performers
- Oversee the commissioning and casting processes
- Develop an understanding of Streetwise Opera groups, ensuring that they are at the heart of the process
- Attend production meetings and any creative meetings, guiding the production from an artistic point of view
- Attend workshops and rehearsals (including the intensive rehearsal period before the production and all performances)
- Contribute to the evaluation of productions from an artistic point of view

Workshop programme and other projects

- Work with the Creative Director of Workshops to define the themes for the artistic content of the workshop programme
- Generate ideas for new creative projects and opportunities for Streetwise Opera
- Provide an artistic overview of all creative and commissioning projects produced by the company, providing advice and support to the Creative Director of Workshops, Head of Programme and Projects Producer where necessary.

Communications and Advocacy

- Support the company in raising the profile of Streetwise Opera across the arts, homelessness and government sectors by speaking and presenting at events
- To ensure that the work of the charity is as widely known as possible, and to represent Streetwise Opera in press, publicity and other activities
- To ensure that the message and vision of the charity is clearly articulated.
- To represent Streetwise Opera to the media and at conferences
- To develop relationships with government agencies, the public sector and other stakeholders in the homeless, arts and third sectors.

General

- Articulate the company's artistic vision, productions and projects for programmes and reports
- Contribute to fundraising by providing content and copy, and attending donor meetings when required
- Attend company meetings including quarterly Board meetings, team meetings, forums, and senior management meetings
- Attend Streetwise Opera workshops periodically, getting to know leaders and performers
- Collaborate with the team and communicate artistic decision-making
- Involve Streetwise Opera performers in artistic decision-making

Person specification

Essential

- Ambitious and able to realise distinctive and creative productions and projects that maintain and develop Streetwise Opera's reputation for artistic excellence
- Track record of delivering professional productions as a Director, Artistic Director, Musical Director, composer, dramaturg or other creative role
- Strong operatic experience and musical background
- Good professional networks in opera, contemporary music and theatre
- Confidence and gravitas to negotiate and establish partnerships with major arts organisations
- Sensitivity, understanding and passion to work with people who are or have been homeless
- Ability to collaboratively explore creative ideas with colleagues and performers
- Commitment to commissioning and working with diverse artists
- Commitment to social change through the arts
- Understanding of operating within agreed budgets
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

Desirable

- Experience of strategic planning
- Experience of line management
- Experience of reporting to a Board of Trustees
- Commitment to regional audiences and the development of new audiences.
- Experience of working with and reporting to major funders such as Arts Council England

Applications

How to apply

To apply for the position of Artistic Director, please send us the following:

- Your CV
- A supporting statement of up to two pages, detailing your suitability for the role, and your vision for Streetwise Opera
- Up to two links to video, audio and/or images of your previous work
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The deadline for applications is **12 noon on Monday 3 December 2018**.

Data protection

The information you choose to share with us will be used to evaluate your suitability as a candidate. Your application will be reviewed by authorised Streetwise Opera staff and if it is unsuccessful, your personal data will be destroyed three months after the end of the recruitment process.

Data in the equal opportunities monitoring section of the form will be anonymised and analysed to improve our recruitment processes.

If your application is successful, your personal data will be held. We will regularly review the personal data we possess, to ensure that it is still required. If not, we will delete it. Find out more about how we process your data at www.streetwiseopera.org/privacy.

Diversity and equality

Streetwise Opera is an inclusive organisation and actively promotes equality. We welcome applications from a wide range of candidates, particularly those who have been homeless. Candidates with lived experience of homelessness who can demonstrate that they meet the essential criteria in the person specification will be guaranteed a first-round interview. Please ensure that you communicate this clearly in your application.



The Passion, Campfield Market Manchester, 2016. Photo: Matt Webb