

Re:Discover London Director call-out

Background

Streetwise Opera is an opera company that enables people who've experienced homelessness to find inspiration and empowerment while they rebuild their lives and identities. We support participants to develop as creative people and, as we amplify their voices, change how society views homelessness.

We engage world-class artists, both established and emerging, to co-create bold new work and reimagine traditional repertoire. We create opera that is for everyone and, by bringing together diverse voices, change how society views opera.

The Re:Discover festival

Re:Discover is a triple bill of new operas, co-created by people with lived experience of homelessness working side by side with world class artists, inspired by the music of composers of African and Caribbean heritage.

The Re:Discover festival will explore, draw inspiration from, and respond to the music of Ignatius Sancho, George Bridgetower, Joseph Bologne (Chevalier de Saint-Georges), Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Florence Price, Margaret Bonds and Shirley Thompson.

A librettist and three composers have been commissioned to co-create new stories and music, alongside Streetwise Opera performers, culminating in three new short operas.

Streetwise Opera is contracting a Director in each of the regions we work in – London, Manchester and Nottingham – to engage with individuals who have experienced homelessness, to bring these pieces to life and to work with the performers to stage them.

We envisage each opera being approximately 12 - 15 mins in length, and our aim is to present each piece as part of a festival of work in the summer of 2024.

We seek to be representative of the communities in which we work. For this reason, we particularly encourage and welcome applications from artists of African and Caribbean heritage and dual heritage.

Director brief

The Director contracted in London will work with between 15-30 individuals who have experienced homelessness, in sessions at the Southbank Centre.

The group meets weekly, and the initial rehearsals will be scheduled in these sessions, across 10 weeks (dates below), from January to March 24. There will then be a series of further rehearsals, from April-June leading up to a festival performance weekend (dates below)

- Directors in the three regions will work with a designer to create a festival design, in collaboration with Streetwise Opera performers
- Through the project the Director will be stage a 12 to 15-minute opera for performance, working in collaboration with Streetwise Opera performers and a musical Director
- The Director will work in collaboration with other artists on the project, including the librettist, the composer, the Festival Director and the Artistic Director of Streetwise Opera
- Consideration should be made to showcase the creative strengths of the Streetwise Opera performers
- The director will contribute to the digital Re:Discover festival by sharing the process of their work through interviews or blogs
- The director will adhere to the Theatre Green Book One: Sustainable Productions principles, including attending a Green Card Model Showing.

Dates

Weekly rehearsals: January - March at the Southbank Centre

Wednesday 17 January	4-6pm
Wednesday 24 January	4-6pm
Wednesday 31 January	4-6pm
Wednesday 7 February	4-6pm
Wednesday 14 February	Half-term
Wednesday 21 February	4-6pm
Wednesday 28 February	4-6pm
Wednesday 6 March	4-6pm
Wednesday 13 March	4-6pm
Wednesday 20 March	4-6pm
Wednesday 27 March	4-6pm

Weekly rehearsals: April - May (TBC)

Wednesday 17 April	4-6pm
Wednesday 24 April	4-6pm
Wednesday 1 May	4-6pm
Wednesday 8 May	4-6pm
Wednesday 15 May	4-6pm

3-day intensive rehearsals (TBC)

Wednesday 22 May to Friday 24 May	10am-6pm
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Festival Performances at St John's Waterloo

Monday 27 May and Tuesday 28 May	All day
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Fee

The fee is £3,125 and breaks down as follows

Sessions	Unit	Event	Cost	Total
10 sessions	1	10	£125	£1,250
5 sessions	1	5	£125	£625
3 days intensive rehearsal	1	3	£250	£750
Preparation and meetings	1	1	£500	£500
Total				£3,125

Eligibility

- Streetwise Opera want to reimagine and redefine the boundaries of what opera can be to demonstrate that opera can be for anyone and everyone. We welcome submissions from artists who are excited to join us on this journey
- Directors must be 18 years or older
- They must be British citizens or residents in the UK for the duration of the project
- They will need to be available to travel to workshops and performances
- Directors should be able to demonstrate a strong track record in participatory work
- We particularly welcome applications from people who have been affected by homelessness. Those who can demonstrate that they meet the eligibility requirements, and have lived experience of homelessness, will be guaranteed an interview. If this applies to you, please tick the relevant box in the application form

Application details

The application deadline is 5pm on Friday 6 October.

We will be holding in-person interviews in London on Friday 20 October.