



Community Participation Producer

Job Description

formidAbility

formidAbility is (to our knowledge) the UK's only majority disability-led opera company. Our trailblazing work putting accessibility at the heart of the creative process is attracting interest from a number of major arts organisations.

Our vision is a sector where it is normal to see disabled people working in all areas of our industry; and where disabled audiences feel welcome and included at all performances. By putting accessibility at the heart of the creative process and giving it artistic life of its own, we enrich the experience of all our artists & all our audiences.

Song in Sign UK Tour

Our Song in Sign UK Tour runs from January to March 2024 and is all about bringing people together, breaking down barriers and challenging perceptions of inclusion in the arts.

Our concerts merging classical song with BSL are designed to span the D/deaf and hearing experiences in new ways. Opera singers and D/deaf actors will interact centre stage, the actors signing the words to the songs, with their signing matching the pace and mood of the music as a visual expression of its energy and emotion. Every performance will be audio described.

A key part of this work is to reach audiences who may not have experienced live classical music or opera, or have engaged with our tour venues. We will be using our lived experience as disabled people to ensure our venues understand how to make D/deaf and disabled people feel welcome in their spaces and encourage them to adopt this inclusive approach in their work going forward. We will work with our venues to understand the impact of our project, aiming to lead to long term impact and engagement with more diverse and underrepresented audiences.

We want to engage with D/deaf and disabled community groups local to our tour venues in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow. We plan to hold one day of creative workshops for these groups in each city prior to our Song in Sign concert visit.

The role

We are looking for a Community Participation Producer to

- Introduce formidAbility to D/deaf and disabled community groups for adults and older children in our four tour cities
 - London
 - Birmingham
 - Manchester
 - Glasgow
- Help us build positive relationships with these groups
- Visit community groups in advance of workshop dates accompanied by one of our workshop leaders. The aim of these visits is to establish warm relations and find out what these groups would like to cover in a creative workshop. Our workshop leaders are professional musicians with experience leading workshops for D/deaf and visually impaired participants.
- Book groups for our creative workshops: 1 day in each city to include 2 workshops of 2 to 2.5 hours duration
- Encourage these groups to come to our concerts - we are creating these concerts to build bridges between communities, so their attendance is key to the success of Song in Sign
- Gather and collate feedback from workshop participants for inclusion in formidAbility's reporting to Arts Council England

- Work remotely from their own base and make in-person visits to community groups as described above.

The Person

Essential:

We are looking for someone with

- An experience of working in the arts
- An interest in arts-based social change
- Experience in working with D/deaf and disabled people
- Excellent organisational skills
- Excellent communication skills and the ability to build warm relationships with community groups
- A current subscription to the DBS Update Service at Enhanced Level

Preferred:

We hope you will have

- A track record of building warm relationships with community groups in an arts setting, or other transferable version of this
- Experience of working in multidisciplinary arts settings

In line with our primary artistic mission, we want all of our workforce to reflect the diversity and inclusion we work so hard

to present onstage. We welcome applications from people from communities currently underrepresented in the opera industry, especially those identifying as D/deaf or disabled, LGBTQI+ and people from the Global Majority. Please let us know how we can facilitate your application, any access requirements you have, or if you are concerned that something impedes your capacity to apply. We will do everything we can to mitigate the issues and welcome you to the organisation.

Fee

Up to 23 days work @ £250 per day plus expenses for travelling to visit community groups as part of this role.

Dates of work

Start date: Immediate

End date: 15-03-2024

Specific dates for work within this date range are negotiable, but work to broker relationships with community groups needs to begin immediately. Workshop dates in each city should be negotiated to fall shortly before each Song in Sign concert date. Post-workshop feedback from participants will need to be collated and received by formidAbility by 15-03-2024 for inclusion in our reporting to Arts Council England.

How to apply

Please send a CV and covering letter or a short video (no more than 5 minutes duration) telling us why you would like to join us as Community Participation Producer for our Song in Sign UK Tour and what skills and experience you could bring to our project. Please bear in mind that our Creative Director is partially sighted, so sending material in an accessible format would be appreciated (sans serif font, at least 14pts with 1.5 spacing).

We'd love to hear about

- Why our work and the role interests you
- The experience you bring to the role of Community Participation Producer
- What your passions are and what inspires you

Please complete our Equal Opportunities Monitoring form [here](#).

Please email your application to

contact@polyphonyarts.com by 12pm on Friday 3rd

November.

Shortlist interviews will be held online on Wednesday 8th

November.

Safeguarding

FormidAbility acknowledges its responsibility to prevent all forms of abuse and to have clear and robust measures in place to minimise the risk and deal with any incidents.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone. We will work together to prevent and minimise abuse.

We see safeguarding as a broad duty of care to each other, and will ensure that all safeguarding matters and processes are informed by care, respect, and kindness.

We are proud to support the ISM-MU [Code of Practice](#).

DBS checks at an appropriate level will be undertaken for all roles that involve working with children or vulnerable adults.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
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