

Milestones 2026

Are you keen to develop your ability to put on incredible live music events and build your experience within the industry? We are looking for the motivated aspiring event producers to become part of our professional development programme, Milestones, for participants aged 18-25.

The project offers masterclasses in all aspects of the live events industry, delivered by Serious's team of experts. You will th

en be given the opportunity to programme, produce and deliver your own event taking place at the EFG London Jazz Festival in November 2026.

Milestones is an exceptional opportunity to build the skills and experiences needed to develop your own career within the music and live events sectors. You will have the chance to attend industry masterclasses, work with exciting artists and programme and produce an event as part of one of the biggest jazz festivals in the world.

PROJECT PLAN

The project begins with 6 workshops covering all areas of the live music industry – including programming, event production, budgeting and marketing – delivered by members of the Serious team, freelancers and other organisations in our network. Following on from these initial skills building sessions, we will run programming, production and marketing meetings, enabling participants to plan and deliver their own live event, as part of the EFG London Jazz Festival 2026.

The workshops will be held in-person at our offices in London Fields and follow up meetings will be held online or in-person by arrangement. All participants must be able to commute to London Fields as well as the gig (central London venue) so we expect participants to be based in London and the surrounding area. We will reimburse travel and food costs throughout the project.

We will offer work experience and shadowing opportunities at Serious shows throughout the year. This will include supporting show managers and artist liaisons to deliver shows across our year-round programme of events, in addition to opportunities in the programming and marketing teams. During the EFG London Jazz Festival (14-23 November) there will be a number of additional volunteering opportunities.

Milestones offers participants the chance to:

- Take part in masterclasses with industry professionals
- Oversee the planning and delivery of a high-profile event
- Gain backstage access to some of the UK's top arts venues with backstage tours
- Gain an insight into how a leading live music producer & promoter operates
- Work and socialise with the other young professionals
- Develop organisational and communication skills

- Receive ongoing mentoring and support from the Serious team

BURSARY AND EXPENSES

The project is free and all participants will receive a bursary of £250 each for their time programming and producing the event. This is dependent on attendance and may be deducted if participants miss multiple sessions. This bursary will be paid at the end of the project.

If the concert makes a profit, this will be shared equally amongst the participants.

We will also cover travel and food expenses during in-person workshops and on the day of the gig.

WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We are looking for applicants who are committed, hardworking and passionate about live music and events. We want to work with people who can get the most out of this programme, who can showcase a love of live music and a want to build a career in the industry.

Applications are open to people from London and the surrounding areas. Attendance at the in-person workshops and the gig are mandatory.

We are open to applications from people of all backgrounds and circumstances. We want to diversify and enrich the live events industry and will therefore prioritise people who have faced additional challenges or are under-represented in the industry.

We will be looking for applicants who:

- Can demonstrate a keen interest in music and the arts
- Have an aspiration to build a career in the sector, and a desire to develop arts administration skills.
- Can showcase some initial experience, or significant interest, in arts administration, live music and event management
- Have a committed, driven and enthusiastic attitude

DATES

The deadline for applications is 29th May.

We may want to meet applicants before accepting them on to the project in which case we will have arrange short online meetings. This will be an informal chance to discuss your interests and suitability for the project

All applicants will be informed of the decision by 3rd June.

Successful applicants must be able to commit to the following dates

Workshop dates (6-8pm), our London Fields office:

Wednesday 10th June

Wednesday 17th June

Wednesday 24th June

Wednesday 1st July

Wednesday 8th July

Wednesday 15th July

Programming, production and marketing meetings

We will arrange programming, production and marketing meetings as required – approximately every fortnight. These will mostly be held online although we will arrange some in-person meetings throughout the process.

In between, there will be some decisions that need to be made over email and some tasks that need to be completed independently.

Event in EFG London Jazz Festival

We are still confirming the date and venue of the concert. It will be between 13-22nd November at a central London venue. These will be confirmed as soon as possible.

There will be other work experience and shadowing opportunities to be arranged through the project.

APPLICATIONS

Up to 8 people will be selected to take part in this programme.

To apply, please complete the application form and equal opportunities form. Please email with any questions: creativeengagement@serious.org.uk.

The deadline for applications is 29th May 2026.

If you have any difficulties completing the form, or would rather apply via video, voice recording or other means, please do not hesitate to get in touch and we will do our best to help.

