



SNAPPY
OPERAS

ARTIST OPEN CALL: SNAPPY OPERA COMMISSION 2025

[Snappy Operas](#) is Mahogany Opera's award-winning opera programme for primary schools, winner of the Primary School Achievement Award in **The Creative Learning Guild National Awards** 2018/19 and Outstanding Music Initiative finalist in the **Music and Drama Education Awards** 2020. Since 2016, we have commissioned 13 new Snappy Operas – 10-minute pieces created by primary school children working with leading composers and writers. We have delivered Snappy Opera programmes in over 100 schools with 8,500 children to date.

In 2025 we will be working in partnership with **Dunedin Consort** on the creation of a new Snappy Opera. This new co-commission will draw together the priorities and expertise of both Mahogany Opera and Dunedin Consort, to create a brand-new piece to join the Snappy Operas canon which draws inspiration from Baroque music in a fun, exciting way.

We are seeking **expressions of interest** from composers and writers/librettists, to form part of a small, collaboratively minded creative team, who will be commissioned to create a **new Snappy Opera** with and for the pupils at a mainstream primary school in Cumbernauld, Dunbartonshire. We are open to hearing from individual composers and librettists, or from existing composer/writer teams.

Snappy Operas promotes an **interdisciplinary and play-based approach** to our commissioning programme, creating access points for children of all abilities to be able to contribute to the making of the work. The composer and librettist will work closely with our Snappy Operas Programme Artistic Director (Frederic Wake-Walker) and Associate Music Director (Stephen Deazley), who will guide the creative team in devising the new piece in a way that incorporates these inclusive principles.

We are not looking for prospective artists to pitch a particular idea at this stage – content for the new Snappy Opera will be developed in in-school workshops with the young people involved. This opportunity will be of interest to established artists who value and understand the nature of **inclusive arts practice**, who are able to adapt their approaches for children of all abilities and are able to transform the children's ideas into a meaningful participatory opera work.

Mahogany Opera values diverse perspectives and welcomes applications from a broad range of artists. For this project, we welcome expressions of interest from artists based across the UK, but **we are particularly keen to hear from people who live or work predominantly in Scotland.**

A full Commission Brief can be found [HERE](#).

Time commitment / fees: the team will deliver two full-day, in-school workshops between January and March 2025 to gather and develop ideas with the children, and deliver the completed work by May 2025. An in-school sharing of the new piece will take place in June 2025, after which final amends to the score and libretto may be required. Further details can be found in the Commission Brief.

A flat fee of £3,500 for composers and £2,000 for librettists is available, plus access costs, travel, accommodation and reasonable expenses as required. Please note, we are unable to cover travel costs from outside the UK.

If you would like to submit an expression of interest to work on this project, please send us:

- A CV
- One side of A4 or a video up to 3 minutes explaining why you'd like to be part of this project and what skills and experience you'd bring
- Links to two projects or pieces of work you've been part of that help evidence your relevant experience for the project
- Any access requirements

Please send to Marc Dunleavy at Mahogany Opera marc@mahoganyopera.co.uk by 12pm on Monday 4 November 2025.

In person or online interviews (depending on location) with shortlisted candidates will be held during week commencing 18th November 2025.

*This commission is funded by **Garfield Weston Foundation***