



Brent Music Academy

Do you know a young person who excels – or has the potential to excel – in music performance or creation? Or a young person who shows an aptitude or interest in the non-performing side of the industry?

Brent Music Academy (BMA) is an exciting new initiative providing professional training and opportunities for young people displaying aptitude for music. Developed by local partners and delivered by a diverse range of industry leaders, the Academy provides outstanding supplementary opportunities designed to develop the skills and knowledge required to succeed in the music industry, whether through performance (all instruments, genres and styles) or behind the scenes (business, administration and production).

Who is it for?

The Academy is for young people who live or study in the London Borough of Brent or surrounding areas and display a high level of commitment and passion for the music industry. There are no formal entry requirements, but Academy students will be achieving or demonstrate musical aptitude above the average standard for their age (see 'BMA Student Characteristics' on the Brent Music Academy [webpage](#)).

Brent Music Academy is not a replacement for individual tuition and aims to provide additional professional opportunities for exceptional young people; students accepted onto the Academy are required to continue their existing musical training and commitments in addition to Academy activity.

How does it work?

The Academy runs in two 'pathways':

- The **Performance Pathway** is designed for young people ages 10-19 who sing, play an instrument or compose their own music, working in any genre or style, with a passion for collaborating and performing with others.
- The **Industry Pathway** explores non-performance elements of the industry, including audio engineering, music production, marketing, talent promotion, event management, and related fields. Participants will range in age from 14-19 years old.



Young people with an interest across Performance and Industry are welcome to take part in both Pathways.

Opportunities for younger (ages 6-9) and older (ages 19-25) young people demonstrating exceptional potential will be developed as the Academy grows.

To join the Academy, young people must be referred by a music (e.g., a private tutor, school teacher, ensemble leader) or youth (e.g., social worker, youth club, faith or community group leader) professional and take part in a 'Taster' workshop for assessment by BMA staff. Recruitment periods will run periodically throughout the year.

Once fully operational, the Academy will run during term-time, with weekly sessions offered on Saturday mornings or afternoons at Brent locations. Additional out-of-term projects and work experience opportunities will be provided periodically during the year.

All activity is designed and facilitated by world-leading industry professionals from diverse backgrounds, genres and sections of the industry. Currently, the Performance Pathway works with five leading music educationalists representing a wide range of genres and backgrounds (classical music, opera, world, jazz, folk), while the Industry Pathway is led by a professional producer, singer/songwriter and entrepreneur. Content and curricula are designed to ensure participants receive a well-rounded music and/or industry education that supplements their existing provision, and that includes the relevant skills and knowledge required for a successful career in the industry.

Performance Pathway

The Performance Pathway aims to support young people interested in creating or performing music using any instrument, genre or style.

All Performance students will take part in weekly Saturday training sessions, grouped in five-week 'modules' (roughly corresponding to school half terms). Each module will include 5x Saturday morning sessions led by a professional facilitator supported by a rotating team of professional musicians from across instruments and genres. Modules will focus on a theme or topic, with participants exploring the topic progressively across the five sessions. Content and activities will aim to add value to participants' existing experience, with a focus on:

- Listening/learning aurally
- Responding creatively through collaborative compositions
- Unpicking theoretical concepts/mechanisms
- Gaining vocabulary to enable communication about musical concepts
- Performance
- Critical reflection

Most modules will also include intensive projects where participants can refine piece(s) for public performance.

Participants on the Performance Pathway will also have access to:

- Out-of-term projects focused on specific opportunities, such as cross-arts events with partner organisations or commissions for public events
- 'Small band' student-led chamber ensembles with professional mentoring



- Large ensemble opportunities
- Independent projects based on student interest
- Masterclasses/visits from guest artists/professionals
- Access to RPO and partner organisation events (open rehearsals, concerts, Q&A with artists, recording sessions)

Industry Pathway

The Industry Pathway offers participants training in the non-performance side of the music industry, including business, administration and production. Referred participants will first undertake knowledge-based lessons around the key areas of industry work, including:

- Rights/monetisation
- Live events
- Marketing products/services
- Audio engineering and production

Participants will attend weekly sessions on Saturday afternoons during term time, which will feature leading professionals exploring their topic of expertise through studying real world examples as well as practical activities.

Once the training stage is completed, participants will enter the 'Laboratory', where young people and professionals will co-design projects to give participants hands-on experience of their area(s) of interest. Projects will vary in line with each cohort's skills and experience, and may range from producing and marketing an album, to planning, programming and managing a live event. Participants will progressively improve their selected industry skills through subsequent projects.

In addition to project-based work, 'deep dive' seminar sessions on specific topics (branding, being a freelancer, etc.) and visits by guest professionals will be scheduled periodically throughout the year, for students to continue to broaden their knowledge and industry lens. Work experience and internship opportunities with industry partners will also be offered to participants as appropriate.

Mentoring and Support

All BMA students will be assigned a mentor who will support them throughout their time at the Academy, including offering career planning and advice, tracking progression and liaising with families to facilitate participation (including financial, travel or other support).

Get involved

The partners hope that BMA will begin delivery in spring 2024, with recruitment opened in late summer 2023. Please email brentmusicacademy@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list to receive information on next steps as they become available.

Brent Music Academy is generously supported by the John Lyon's Charity, with additional support from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Brent Music Service, Institute of Contemporary Music Performance and the Garrick Charitable Trust.

