

PLATFORM SOUTH - A JAZZ SOUTH SCHEME

About the scheme

Platform South is an open application scheme to support jazz musicians from the Jazz South region to perform across that region. The scheme aims to strengthen artists' offer, enabling them to engage new and existing promoters, encourage promoters to book as widely as possible and develop jazz audiences across the sector.

How it works

Performances by artists selected for the Platform South scheme are subsidised by a set amount per musician, which reduces the financial risk to promoters and encourages them to book high-quality artists from the region.

Jazz South has secured sufficient funds for two rounds of the scheme over the period of the Jazz South project. It is anticipated that the available funding will provide an average of places for six bands on each round. Bands can be of any size from duos to a maximum of ten members.

The Round 1 period for bookings will be from 1 April 2019 to 1 September 2020. The Round 2 period will overlap and run from autumn 2019 to spring 2021.

Diversity

Jazz South welcomes Platform South applications from artists of all genders and all ages. Jazz South would emphasise its pursuit of balance and diversity and encourage applications from female bandleaders and instrumentalists, artists from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, those living with disability and artists from outlying and rural areas.

Making an application

Firstly, Guidance Notes and FAQs will outline the parameters within which applications will be accepted. Before applying the leader/applicant should ensure that all band members are available for the showcase day as part of Bristol Jazz and Blues Festival at the Colston Hall on 24th March 2019 .

Before starting you will need to have full information ready to fill in about your band members; have audio tracks which you can link to in the application form; and have a high resolution image of the band ready to upload. We require a band photograph saved in JPEG format with the resolution of 300 dots per square inch.

The application form is accessed through the Jazz South website www.jazzsouth.org.uk All information and links necessary for your application can be entered the form which you will submit online when it is completed.

For any questions that are not covered in this document and FAQs or for advice about making an application please contact info@jazzsouth.co.uk

Application dates

Applications close at Midnight on Friday 14 December 2018.

Notification by email with the result of your application will be with you by 25 January 2019.

Checklist of eligibility criteria for Platform South artists' applications

Artists need to be able to agree with all the following statements to be eligible to apply:

- At least 50% of band members live and work in the South of England in the region covered by Jazz South (see the map and list)
- All musicians have a minimum of 18 months' professional experience
- None of the musicians are in full time education.
- The band is no larger than 10 musicians
- The band will be gig ready by March 2019 – i.e. fully rehearsed with a full set of material
- The band has a website or a dedicated page on a website.
- You have a professional profile on social media - e.g. band/artist Facebook page, Twitter, YouTube Channel etc
- You have a high quality colour photograph to upload.
- The band leader is available to attend the induction day between 10:30 am - 5:00 pm which will be arranged in the week beginning 11 February 2019. (See Essential Dates)
- The full band is available all day on 24th March 2019 for the showcase in Bristol as part of Bristol Jazz and Blues Festival (See Essential Dates).

Make a video introduction?

You have the option to make a 2 minute video and use a link to it rather than write about the band and your future aspirations on the application form.

We've included the video option as we understand that some people might prefer to do something creative with video rather than in writing. Remember - the most important part of your application will be your music so don't worry about which option you choose.

How Jazz South will assess applications

The Platform South Selection Panel will be drawn from members of the two Regional Advisory Panels that Jazz South is appointing.

The key assessment priority will be Musical Excellence, for example:

- standard of instrumental ability
- expressive power of the performers
- improvisatory skills

In pursuit of ensuring a 'level playing field' and avoiding conscious or unconscious bias in assessing applicants' music, Jazz South will work to establish an initial listening stage of the selection process designed to obviate potential discrimination.

The Selection Panel will firstly attend to the elements of Musical Excellence as above and then will also take into account:

- how committed artists are to developing their careers and the jazz scene in the Jazz South region.
- a performance track record
- the extent to which the band is 'gig ready'
- evidence of social media activity to promote professional musical activity

The Selection Panel will be aware that the final selection – of an average of six bands per round of Platform South – should provide a balanced range of bands on offer to promoters.

Essential Dates

Successful applicants will be required to be available for the following dates. If not able to attend, you would forfeit your place on the scheme and would need to reapply for the next round.

Platform South Induction Day – to be arranged (in liaison with the selected bands) for one day during the week beginning 11th February 2019

All band members are encouraged to attend, but a minimum of the band leader must attend the Platform South induction day (10:30am - 5:00pm). This event will introduce you to key members of the Jazz South team and take you through how the scheme works, offer advice on securing gigs and will help you make the most of being on Platform South.

Platform South Showcase Day – Bristol 24th March 2019

If selected, your entire band needs to be available for the full day (9am - 11pm) on the Platform South Showcase day as part of the Bristol Jazz and Blues Festival. All musicians will be paid a standard performance fee for this public event.

The showcase day will feature performances of all Round 1 artists to festival audiences, promoters from the region and Jazz South organisational partners. If your band needs material for your digital Electronic Press Kit (EPK) this is where it will be possible to record audio, video and photo shoot. There will also be a networking session with promoters.

Feedback from our friends at Jazz North, whose Northern Line programme has been running for several years and on which the Platform South scheme is based.

These are points that crop up most frequently during the Northern Line selection process and which you may wish to take account of in your Platform South application.

Audio

Make sure the three tracks you choose to share with us show a variety of tempo and mood.

Avoid tracks with long introductions.

Make sure the improvisation starts early on in your selected tracks.

Video

Only include a video link if it enhances your application - think twice before directing us to wobbly, hand-held, poor audio and unedited video clips.

If a video doesn't show you and the band performing in the best light then don't use it in your application.

Band photograph

If you need to take a photograph here are some tips.

Pictures taken outside under natural light - not sunlight, generally look better than an indoor photograph.

Think about the location and composition of the photograph. To get some ideas look at examples of other bands and on jazz festival websites.

Will the picture help give a viewer an indication about the type of music you play?

Try to avoid the cliché of standing in front of a brick wall.