

# 20 **MERCURY** 26 **PRIZE FRINGE** NEWCASTLE



# **VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT 2026**

**15 – 22 October 2026**

## **BECOME A PART OF THE TEAM:**

Help bring a week of live music, showcases, workshops, industry events and experiences to life, while gaining practical experience in the music and events industry.

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Generator is the North's leading music development organisation. Since 1991, we've been breaking barriers, building careers, and pushing boundaries. We don't just talk about the future – we create it. From grassroots scenes to global stages, we make sure talent from the North is heard, seen, and taken seriously on the world stage.

Collaborating with Generator means being part of a small, ambitious group shaping the future of music and culture in the North. We're creative, collaborative, and driven by the belief that what we do makes a real difference.

From supporting new talent to delivering major events, every day is varied and full of purpose. If you're passionate about music, brimming with ideas, and ready to help us make change happen you'll feel right at home here.

**“AT GENERATOR, WE BELIEVE TALENT IS EVERYWHERE – AND WE’RE DETERMINED TO MAKE SURE OPPORTUNITY IS TOO. WE’RE BUILDING A TEAM THAT’S NOT ONLY CREATIVE AND DRIVEN, BUT FEARLESS IN LEADING CHANGE FOR THE NORTH’S MUSIC AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES.”**

Mick Ross, CEO

# WELCOME

We're looking for enthusiastic people who want to get involved, learn how live music events work and play a part in making the week happen.

You do not need previous volunteering or events experience. What matters most is that you're reliable, friendly, and willing to learn,

## THIS IS MORE THAN A SHIFT

We want you to leave with something useful: new skills, more confidence, a better understanding of the music industry and an experience you can talk about on your CV, in interviews or when applying for future opportunities.

## WHAT IS MERCURY PRIZE FRINGE?

Mercury Prize Fringe is a week of activity celebrating the North East's music scene alongside the Mercury Prize. The 2026 programme includes showcases, workshops, listening sessions, talks, networking, a major industry conference and events in partnership with venues and organisations across Newcastle.

## WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

- People who are interested in music, live events or the creative industries.
- Friendly, approachable people who are comfortable helping others.
- People who can follow instructions and ask for help when they need it.
- Reliable people who can commit to their allocated event.
- People who want to learn – you do not need previous event experience.

# WHY VOLUNTEER?

Volunteering is a chance to get practical experience in a real music industry environment. You'll be part of a team, working alongside Generator staff and meeting artists, speakers, audiences and other people working across the industry.

|                              |                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Build experience</b>      | Get hands on experience supporting live events and music industry activity.                     |
| <b>Develop confidence</b>    | Practice communicating with audiences, artists, speakers and promoters.                         |
| <b>Learn how events work</b> | See what happens behind the scenes, and the roles needed to make events like these happen.      |
| <b>Meet people</b>           | Work alongside other people in the local music scene.                                           |
| <b>Strengthen your CV</b>    | Gain practical experience you can use when applying for jobs, courses and future opportunities. |

# VOLUNTEER ROLES

We'll match volunteers to events and roles based on the needs of each event and the information you give us when you apply. Most volunteers will support one event during the Fringe.

## 01 STEWARD

- Help make sure audiences have a safe, welcoming and enjoyable experience.
- Welcome and direct audiences.
- Help people find rooms, entrances and facilities.
- Support accessibility and keep walkways clear.
- Answer basic questions and refer anything you're unsure about to the Event Lead.

## 02 RUNNER

- Provide practical support to the Event Lead and wider event team.
- Help with small tasks, deliveries and errands.
- Support room set up and pack down.
- Pass information between staff and different parts of the event.
- Help wherever the Event Lead needs an extra pair of hands.

## 03 REGISTRATION & BOX OFFICE

- Welcome attendees.
- Check guest lists or tickets where required.
- Hand out programmes, lanyards or other materials.
- Give basic information and direct people to the right place.

## 04 ARTIST/SPEAKER LIASON

- Welcome artists and speakers when they arrive
- Show them around the venue and backstage areas
- Keep them informed about timings and where they need to be
- Pass on any questions or requests to the Event Lead

## 05 CONTENT CREATION SUPPORT

- Shadowing photographers and the marketing team in content creation.

*The final allocation will depend on the confirmed programme, venue needs and volunteer availability. Some events will need only a couple of volunteers, while larger events such as the Generator Live Conference will need a bigger team.*

## PREPARATION SESSION

Successful volunteers must attend a preparation session before the Fringe. This is designed to make sure you feel confident, know what to expect and understand how to make the most of the opportunity. It is pivotal that you attend this training session to ensure you are fully prepared for the volunteer role. The session will take place on 7th October.

## TRAVEL EXPENSES

All events will take place across Newcastle and Gateshead. A contribution towards reasonable travel expenses may be available, up to a maximum of £15, dependent on the length of your shift. Please note that any travel costs exceeding this amount will need to be covered by the volunteer. You must keep any receipts or evidence to claim back these expenses.

# FAQ'S

## CAN I CHOOSE MY EVENT?

We'll ask about your availability and the types of experience you're interested in. We'll then allocate volunteers where they are most useful. We cannot guarantee a particular event or role.

## DO I NEED PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE?

No. We're looking for people who are reliable, friendly and willing to learn.

## HOW OLD DO I NEED TO BE?

You must be over 18 to volunteer at Mercury Prize Fringe Week.

## HOW MANY EVENTS WILL I VOLUNTEER AT?

The intention is for each volunteer to have one main event shift.

## WHO DO I GO TO IF I HAVE A QUESTION?

Your event will have a named Generator staff member coordinating volunteers on the day.

## WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

Wear comfortable, practical clothing and suitable footwear for your venue and role. Ideally wear all black.

## WHAT IF I CAN NO LONGER ATTEND?

Tell the Generator team as soon as possible so we can arrange cover.

## WHERE WILL THE EVENTS BE HELD?

The events will take place in venues across Newcastle and Gateshead.

# GET INVOLVED

If you're interested in volunteering at Mercury Prize Fringe, please complete the application form.

## APPLICATION

MERCURY VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM

## QUESTIONS?

If you have a question about the Mercury Prize Volunteer programme, please contact [scarlett@generator.org.uk](mailto:scarlett@generator.org.uk)

We would love to have you on the team

# INCLUSION & DIVERSITY

Applications from under-represented groups are encouraged. Generator recognises that particular groups, communities and identities are under-represented in our workforce and we are taking positive steps to address this.

## **As such we would love to hear from you if you:**

- Identify as female, non-binary and other gender minority (in keeping with our Keychange Pledge)
- Are d/Deaf, have a disability, learning difficulty, significant long-term health condition which affects their daily life or would describe themselves as neurodivergent
- Are from a working-class background
- Are from the African, South, East and South-East Asian, Middle East, Latinx or North African diaspora, or have experienced racism

If you're unsure whether your experiences or identity would be considered under-represented, or if you'd like to discuss adjustments or support you might need in the application process – please feel free to contact us.

We're committed to creating an inclusive, accessible and supportive environment for everyone.



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