

MUSIC MARK AWARDS

RULES & GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATIONS

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DEFINITION

Music Mark is hosting the third edition of its Annual Awards on 16 November 2026 to celebrate the achievements of those helping to provide inclusive, accessible, and high-quality music education for young people throughout the UK.

NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY

Music Mark members, including organisations (local authority music education leads; music education organisations; Music Mark Schools; Industry Partners and individual members), and individuals within member organisations are eligible to be nominated for any award.

In any category, both nominators and nominee organisations must be current members of Music Mark with active membership before 29 July 2026.

Each member has **up to two votes** in **each category**, though members need not nominate in all categories. Members can choose which categories they wish to nominate in, and how many nominees to put forward (to a maximum of two nominations per category per member).

Members can nominate their own activity/work/staff in any category, however it is suggested they then nominate at least one other member in a category.

ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY

- To qualify for nomination, and unless otherwise stipulated, activity must be relevant in the year before nomination, and should have commenced or happened between 1 July 2025 – 29 July 2026;
- Projects or activity can still be in progress;
- If the member is an organisation, nominations may be submitted by anyone within that organisation, however each member can only nominate up to two times in each category;

- If self-nominating, it is suggested that you also nominate one other organisation or individual (in any category) that is not yourself.
- All nominations are assessed by a panel - the number of individual nominations an organisation/project/individual receives is not a factor (i.e., if a member receives multiple nominations, they will not be looked on more favourably).

DESCRIPTIONS OF CATEGORIES

If you are unsure about which category your nomination most closely fits, we would be delighted to assist. Please contact us on info@musicmark.org.uk

Music Mark reserves the right to move the nomination to a different category if appropriate. Music Mark reserves the right to add, remove or redefine categories if necessary.

Award 1

Description: **This Is Not A Rehearsal Sustainability Award**

Eligibility: Linking with last year's This Is Not A Rehearsal campaign, this award focuses on the climate crisis. We want to celebrate the work that members are doing in this area to highlight challenges, react artistically, and lead the way in enacting creative solutions in how music education responds to climate issues.

Award 2

Description: **Talk Into Action Inclusion Award**

Eligibility: Linking with Talk into Action's ongoing focus on equity and inclusion, we want to celebrate the work of members that is meaningful and innovative in widening access to music education, improving inclusivity and ensuring our young people and communities are well represented in music-making.

Award 3

Description: **Youth Initiative of the Year**

Eligibility: Celebrating youth-led projects, this award seeks to highlight the work of children and young people in making great music initiatives happen. There are no parameters on what projects should be, other than they be led by youth voices.

Award 4

Description: **Digital Project of the Year**

Eligibility: Innovation in how we use technology in a key area for opportunity for many in music education, and we want to share and celebrate some of the most exciting projects and activity taking place around the UK, that have digital and technology as a key component of their success.

Award 5

Description: **Unsung Hero in Music Education**

Eligibility: So much great work across the UK from organisations and individuals goes under the radar. We want to highlight this work, not only to celebrate achievements, but to share ideas and inspire others with what is happening around the country.

SUBMITTING AN ENTRY

- All nominations are to be submitted online via a form, which can be found here: <https://musicmark.wufoo.com/forms/sz2fac31xpazxs>
- There is no entry fee to submit a nomination.
- The deadline for submitting nominations is **Friday 11 September 2026 at 5pm**
- Members can submit up to two nominations per category.
- For Awards 1, 2, 3 and 4 we will require some further information from the nominee about the activity, therefore nominators should ensure they have a contact email/phone number for their nominee.
- For Award 5, the information supplied by the nominator is all we will require.

What we will ask nominators/nominees:
(Information marked with a * is compulsory)

Award 1, 2, 3 and 4 – NOMINATION

1. Name of organisation/individual nominating*
2. Email address of organisation nominating*
3. Name of organisation/individual being nominated*
4. Email address of organisation/individual being nominated*
5. Rationale* *Please give a short description of activity/work and why they have been nominated for this award. 150 words maximum*
6. Date(s) of activity/work (if known)
7. Declaration

Awards 1, 2, 3 and 4 – FURTHER INFORMATION

Once given an initial eligibility check we will be in touch with nominees for some further information in the form of:

1. one PDF document (between 1-2 pages including images) that details the project/activity, including key information, when it happened, who was involved, aims, outcomes and a sense of its legacy (if completed), including images/links to footage and other materials online, as desired.
2. Name and email address of main contact (if different)
3. Social media links
4. Declaration

AWARD 5 – NOMINATION

(No further information will be asked of the nominee for this award)

1. Name of organisation/individual nominating*
2. Email address of organisation nominating*
3. Name of organisation/individual being nominated*
4. Email address of organisation/individual being nominated*

5. Rationale* *Please give a description of person/organisation, their work and why they have been nominated for this award. Around 300 words maximum*
6. Date(s) of activity/work (if known)
7. Declaration

The information provided will be used to promote the achievements of shortlisted applicants. We will use social media to engage with shortlisted applicants throughout the awards process. We will be communicating with various media outlets to generate awareness for our shortlisted applicants and winning projects.

If shortlisted, the nominated member will be asked to provide two short quotes and an image that will be used to represent the submission in our communications.

JUDGING

- Judging will be made by a specially appointed panel, the members of which will be chosen by Music Mark.
- Judging panel will be drawn from Music Mark's staff, board and Advisory Committee, Champions and, where relevant, a representative of the Music Mark Industry Partner who sponsors that award.
- In each category **there will be a final shortlist**, announced in advance of the award ceremony.
- Music Mark reserves the right not to make an award in any category.
- The final decision regarding all aspects of the Music Mark Awards including the interpretation of these rules, resides with Music Mark.

AWARD CEREMONY

The presentation of the awards will take place at Music Mark's 2026 Annual Conference in Liverpool on Monday 16 November 2026.

In each category the winning individual/organisation will be presented with a Music Mark Award.

PRIZE

The awards will be non-monetary in value, and winners will receive a trophy on the evening itself, which they can keep.

PRIVACY

Music Mark will not keep personalised data of nominees or nominators for more than one year after the awards have been presented. Anonymised data may be kept and used for research purposes thereafter. Please refer to our Privacy Policy [here](#).