

Call for Composer – *Shape Shifters*

We are looking for a **composer** to join the creative team of *Shape Shifters* – a joyful, visually striking new performance for early years audiences (ages 3+), blending contemporary dance, visual storytelling, and quick-change illusion to explore identity, diversity, and self-expression.

Produced by the **Edinburgh International Magic Festival**, *Shape Shifters* is a collaboration between choreographer **Eszter Marsalko**, costume designer **Alison Brown**, and director **Svetlana McMahon**, with creative support from North Edinburgh Arts.

Who We're Looking For

We're seeking a composer who is:

- Able to compose and produce approximately 45 minutes of original music for playback on a standard PA system
- Excited by interdisciplinary collaboration (especially with dance, costume, and visual design)
- Confident working with non-verbal and narrative-driven performance
- Sensitive to early years audiences and the emotional/sensory journey of young children
- Able to create playful, textured, emotionally rich soundscapes

Experience working on early years productions is welcomed but not essential. We're open to a range of styles as long as it's grounded in sensitivity, imagination, and a willingness to explore.

Project Details

Rehearsals (R&D):

- *27 October – 9 November 2025*
- Composer is not required to attend daily but will be invited to visit rehearsals, observe the creative process, and respond to the developing material
- Reference tracks or temporary mood music will be provided during R&D to help guide tone and texture

Tech & Performance:

- *15–20 December 2025* (tech week and two work-in-progress performances at North Edinburgh Arts as part of MagicFest)

- Final compositions to be delivered in advance of or during the tech week for playback on a standard PA system

Location:

- Edinburgh-based preferred for in-person sessions, but hybrid/remote working is possible
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Fee

- **£2,000 fixed fee**
 - Includes all composing, editing, and delivery of final audio for performance
 - **Travel costs may be covered if agreed in advance**
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Inclusion & Access

MagicFest is committed to creating a diverse, inclusive, and accessible working environment. We welcome applications from individuals of all backgrounds, identities, and lived experiences — especially as *Shape Shifters* centres on themes of diversity and belonging.

If you have any access needs, please get in touch with **Svetlana McMahon** at svetlana@magicfest.co.uk to discuss how we can best support you.

How to Apply

Please send:

- A few sentences about yourself and why you're interested
- Links to a few examples of your work
- A CV or website if you have one

To: svetlana@magicfest.co.uk

Subject: **Shape Shifters Composer Application**

Deadline: 22 September 2025 6pm