Magic of the Tawd - Skelmersdale Cultural Programme

Creative Brief: Music & Songs of the Tawd (Music Development)

Commission for Songwriter, Music Facilitator & Drum Leader

Programme: Magic of the Tawd
Delivery Period: May Half Term 2027 & July 2027
Commission Type: Youth Music Creation, Community Drumming, Festival Performance
Commission Includes: Festival stage, PA system, and full technical support for community performances.

1. Purpose of the Commission

To create original music, songs and rhythmic compositions inspired by the heritage, ecology and folklore of **Tawd Valley Park**, working with young people and the community to develop:

- **Songs of the Tawd** – original music inspired by heritage trail themes
- **The Pulse of the Tawd** – a rhythmic identity for the programme
- **The Tawd Valley Drummers** – a youth/community drumming ensemble
- **Festival Performances** – live music and drumming at the Magic of the Tawd Festival, including the lantern parade

The commission includes **full provision of the festival stage, PA system, and technical support**, ensuring high-quality community performances.

2. Creative Direction

Music and rhythm should draw inspiration from:

- **Heritage Trail features** (Corn Mill, Mineral Path, Stormy Corner, Devil's Steps, mining heritage, Boggarts)
- **Ecology** (river, woodland, wildlife, bio-blast species)
- **Programme themes** (identity, belonging, nature, movement, transformation, community pride)

Tone: **uplifting, accessible, rhythmic, suitable for outdoor performance and parade movement**.

3. Target Participants

- Young people aged **14 – 25**
- Families and community members
- Community hubs, youth groups, schools
- Optional collaboration with West Lancashire College media/music students

Workshops must be inclusive and accessible for mixed abilities.

4. Key Deliverables

A. Music & Songwriting Workshops

- Minimum **6 workshops** (May half term + July)
- Development of lyrics, melodies, and group compositions
- Creation of **2–3 original Songs of the Tawd**
- Optional demo recordings

B. Drumming Workshops – "Pulse of the Tawd"

- Minimum **6 workshops**
- Creation of a signature rhythmic motif
- Formation of **The Tawd Valley Drummers**
- Rehearsals for festival performance and lantern parade

C. Festival Performance

- Live performance of Songs of the Tawd
- Drumming ensemble performance
- Parade drumming to animate the lantern procession
- Collaboration with lantern artists and storytellers

D. Stage, PA System & Technical Support (Provided by the Commission)

The commission includes:

- **Festival stage hire**
- **PA system (mics, monitors, mixer)**
- **Sound engineer**
- **Stage crew**
- **Basic lighting package**
- **Accessibility ramp**
- **Power distribution / generator (if required)**

Artists will work with the technical team to ensure smooth community performances.

5. Artist / Facilitator Requirements

- Professional songwriter/music facilitator
- Experience with youth music and community drumming
- Strong engagement skills
- Ability to create outdoor-ready music
- DBS and safeguarding compliance
- Public liability insurance (£5m)

6. Outputs Required

- 2–3 original songs
- Pulse of the Tawd rhythmic identity
- Tawd Valley Drummers ensemble
- Festival-ready performances
- Participation records
- Short evaluation summary
- Optional recordings

7. Timeline

Period	Activity
May Half Term	Songwriting + drumming workshops
June	Development + rehearsals
July	Intensive workshops + ensemble formation
Aug–Sept	Rehearsals + festival prep
October	Festival + lantern parade performances

DETAILED Delivery required

1. Songwriting Workshops

Item	Qty
Workshop delivery	6 days
Planning & design	2 days
Materials	
Travel	

2. Drumming Workshops

Item	Qty
Workshop delivery	6 days
Planning & rhythm development	2 days

Item	Qty
Drum hire/percussion kit	Lump sum
Consumables	
Travel	

3. Tawd Valley Drummers Formation

Item	Qty
Ensemble rehearsals	4 sessions
Parade rehearsal	1 session
Artist coordination	1 day

4. Festival Performance Fees

Item	Qty
Songwriter performance	1
Drum facilitator performance	1
Youth ensemble assistants	2
Parade drumming	

5. Festival Stage, PA System & Technical Support (Provided by Commission)

A. Stage Hire

Stage Type
Standard 6m x 4m covered stage
Enhanced 8m x 6m
Maximum 10m x 8m

B. PA System & Technical Crew

Item	Qty
PA system	Lump sum
Sound engineer	1 day
Stage crew (2 crew)	2
Lighting package	

C. Additional Technical Requirements

Item
Generator / power distribution
Weatherproofing / sidewalls

Stage & Technical Total (Standard):

6. Optional Recording & Documentation

Item
Audio recording
Video documentation
Editing

7. Project Management

Item	Qty
Project management	3 days
Evaluation	1 day

TOTAL PROJECT COST (Including Stage & Technical)

Section
Songwriting
Drumming
Ensemble formation
Festival performance
Stage & technical
Optional recording
Project management

Expression of Interest (EOI) Requirements

Indicative Commission Value: £15,000–£20,000

Applicants must submit a **maximum 2-page Expression of Interest (EOI)** demonstrating their suitability, creative approach, and capacity to deliver the *Music & Songs of the Tawd* commission. Email the complete EOI to Helen Juste at **helen.juste@positiveplacemakers.org.uk**

EOIs must include the following:

1. Applicant Information

- Full name

- Organisation (if applicable)
- Contact details (email and phone)
- Website, portfolio or links to previous work

2. Professional Biography

A short biography outlining:

- Artistic background
- Relevant professional experience
- Any specialist skills in songwriting, youth music, community drumming, outdoor performance or festival work

3. Relevant Experience

Clear evidence of experience in:

- Youth music facilitation (ages 10–18)
- Community drumming or rhythm-based ensemble work
- Songwriting and group composition
- Outdoor or festival-ready performance
- Working with mixed-ability groups
- Inclusive, accessible creative practice

Optional but welcomed:

- Experience collaborating with colleges, youth hubs or community organisations
- Experience delivering music for parades or movement-based performance

4. Creative Approach

Applicants must outline their initial ideas for a co create approach:

Youth & Community Engagement

- Workshop style
- Methods for building confidence, creativity and group cohesion

5. Delivery Plan

A concise outline of:

- How the applicant will deliver workshops across May Half Term, June, July and the festival period
- How they will structure rehearsals and ensemble development
- How they will prepare participants for performance
- Any anticipated risks and how they will be managed

6. Volunteer Engagement

A short explanation of how the applicant will:

- Engage volunteers
- Support skill development
- Build confidence in drumming, rhythm and group facilitation
- Contribute to a sustainable volunteer-led model for future festivals

7. Compliance Requirements

Applicants must confirm:

- **Public Liability Insurance (minimum £5m)**
- **DBS certification** (or willingness to obtain)
- **Safeguarding awareness**
- **Risk assessment approach** for all workshops, rehearsals and performances

8. Proposed Fee

Applicants should propose a fee **within the indicative commission value of £15,000–£20,000**, including:

- Delivery
- Planning
- Rehearsals
- Festival performance
- Travel
- Materials (if applicable)

A breakdown is not required at EOI stage but may be requested if shortlisted.

9. Availability

Applicants must confirm availability for:

- **May Half Term 2027**
- **June development period**
- **July intensive workshops**
- **August–September rehearsals**
- **October festival and lantern parade**

10. Added Value

Applicants may outline any additional contributions they can bring, such as:

- Optional demo recordings
- Digital content

- Cross-disciplinary collaboration
- Additional community engagement opportunities