



MUSIC IN HOSPITALS

SCOTLAND

communicating through live music

The aim of Music in Hospitals is to take live music performed by small groups of professional musicians to people who, because of their age, illness or disability, are unable to attend a concert in the community. Most of our hospital concerts are for elderly people in permanent care and for patients with mental or physical disabilities. We also arrange concerts in residential care units, hospices and day centres for disabled people or those suffering from dementia.

Not all musicians are suited to this work. A warm, friendly approach is required, ability to deal with all kinds of situations and a wide repertoire including a selection of Scots songs. Artists are carefully selected for their ability to communicate, for the flexibility of their approach and the wide range of their programmes. Audience participation is encouraged and the therapeutic value of these events is widely recognised by the medical profession. Although hard, this work can be extremely rewarding.

Please note

- (1) With the exception of folk and Scots traditional performers, applicants must be professionally qualified to performance diploma level or equivalent.
- (2) Music in Hospitals is not able to guarantee a set number of engagements for its artists and would like to stress that bookings are made on an occasional basis.

Concerts last from an hour to an hour and a half with the artists taking time to chat to the patients. As a registered charity, we pay only a relatively small fee - £48 for a soloist; £41 per artist for groups of two or three. 25p per mile is paid to artists travelling by car and a standard fare to artists travelling by train. Expenses are also paid for meals en route and overnight accommodation where required.

The next auditions are likely to take place in Edinburgh in **Spring 2011**. Each audition lasts about fifteen minutes and should include items suitable for frail elderly audiences, introduced slowly and clearly. Singers and instrumentalists **must** provide an accompanist who will be able to take part in the concerts, playing one or two solos. **We regret that we do not pay travelling expenses to and from auditions.**

Please prepare carefully the kind of programme you would present. At previous auditions, the most common reasons for failure were either because the approach was too intellectual or academic for this type of audience, or in other cases, although the approach was right, the standard was not sufficiently professional.

If you are interested in auditioning for this work, please fill in the enclosed form and return, along with your recorded material, to:

Chief Executive, Music in Hospitals, 10 Forth Street, Edinburgh EH1 3LD.