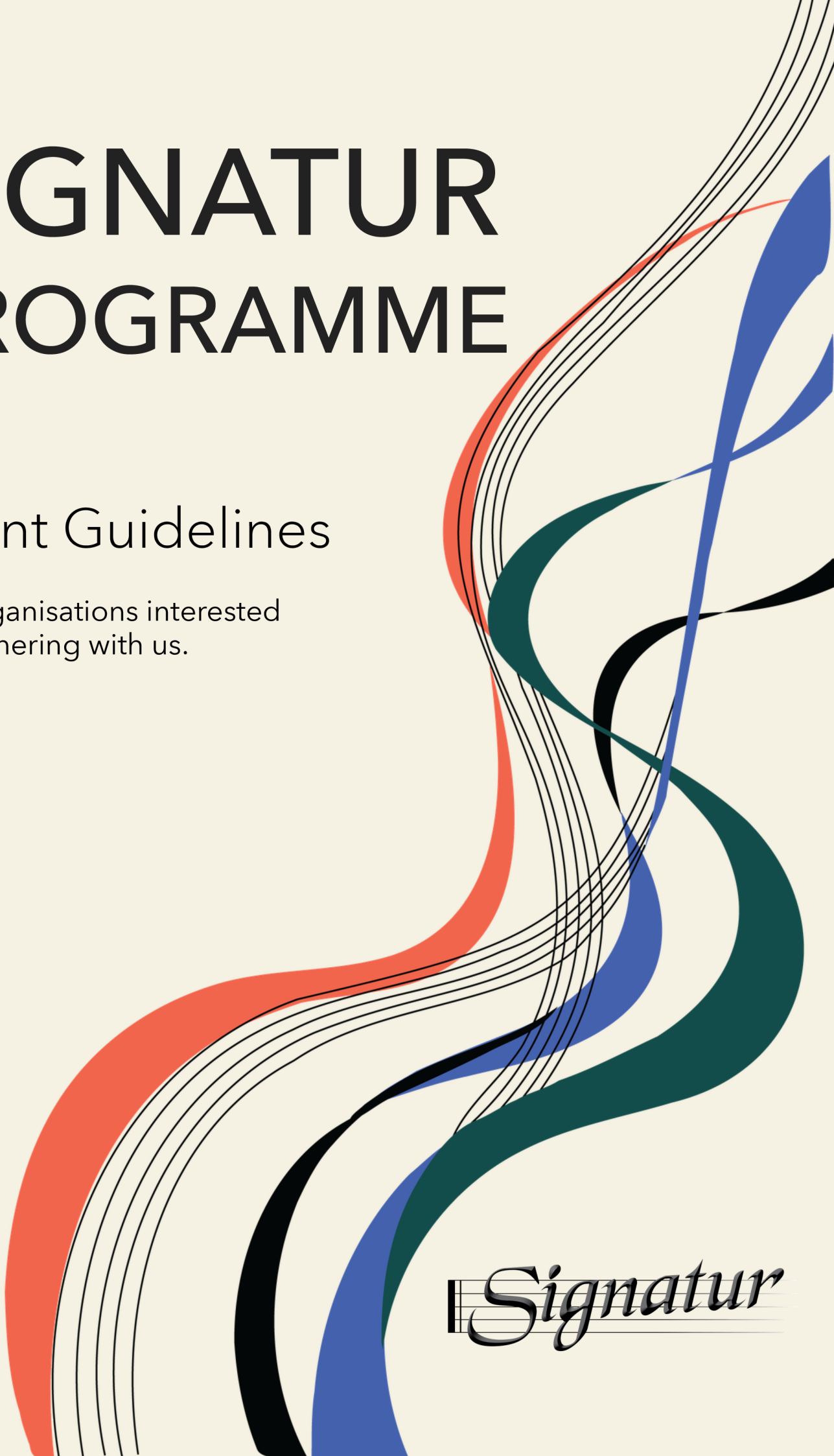
SIGNATUR PROGRAMME

Grant Guidelines

For organisations interested
in partnering with us.



Signatur

About this guide

This guide is designed to introduce the Signatur Programme and our approach to developing partnerships. It describes the types of organisations and areas of work we support and our grantmaking philosophy. Whether you are a potential partner or are new to Signatur, this guide is a useful starting point.

Programme Mission and Vision

The Signatur Programme works together with like-minded partners to create a better society through the unifying power of music. We want to make the world of music accessible to everyone, especially children, young people and other groups who often lack the opportunity to participate in or enjoy high-quality music and education. Through well-defined projects and collaborations, we create new avenues for musical experiences and development. We want to be a counterforce to superficiality and intolerance in society and believe in music and musicianship's ability to unite people across generations and cultural boundaries. Together, we are building a more inclusive and vibrant music scene for the future.

Our support

We support UK-based education, cultural and nonprofit organisations whose work aligns with our mission to expand access to music and the performing arts.

At Signatur, we believe that participation in music and the performing arts has the power to transform lives and strengthen communities. We are interested in work that helps people engage with music and the performing arts in meaningful ways, whether as participants, learners, creators, performers or audiences.

We are particularly interested in organisations that are creating opportunities for people who may face barriers to participation and are developing approaches that respond to the needs and aspirations of the people and communities they serve.

We prioritise partnerships and initiatives with the potential to create sustainable change for individuals, communities and society. Many of our partners are exploring new ideas, developing innovative approaches, or creating opportunities that would not otherwise exist.

We do not have fixed ideas about what successful programmes should look like, and we do not expect organisations to fit their work into a predefined model of impact. Rather than setting goals, outcomes or indicators on behalf of our partners, we start with conversation.

Common partner areas of work

1. **Expanding access to music and performing arts in all forms.**
   Opportunities for more people to explore and experience music, particularly in places and for people where access is limited.

2. **Strengthening music and artistic education.**
   Access to high-quality music and arts education for all, both in and beyond formal settings, supporting creative, social and personal development.

3. **Expanding the role music and the performing arts play in health and wellbeing.**
   From music therapy to creative mental health support.

4. **Creating new pathways into music and the creative industries.**
   More young creatives are supported to develop their artform through new pathways into music and creative industries.

5. **Engaging more communities in music and the arts.**
   From live performances and events to participatory experiences.

Applying to the Signatur Programme

We typically develop new partnerships through a process of research and relationship-building. As an engaged funder, we take time to understand whether an organisation's philosophy, values and objectives align with our own, and we may approach potential partners directly. The steps below give a general indication of how new partnerships may develop. Timings vary, but the process generally takes between three and six months.

1.

Read this guide

Please review the information here, visit our website and connect with us on social media to learn more about the Signatur Programme,.

2.

Contact us

If after step 1 you think your work could be of interest to us, please send an email with an overview of your organisation and the project or programme you would like us to support. We are only interested in hearing from organisations that can clearly demonstrate how their work aligns with our aims and current priorities. Where there appears to be a strong fit, we may arrange a follow-up conversation.

3.

Follow up

If we believethat there is potential for a partnership, we will follow up to learn more about your organisation and your ideas for work we can support. This could include a visit to see the work, a request to meet with the senior leadership or delivery team, or a review of reports and evaluations.

4.

Send an outline proposal

At this stage if we want to proceed further, we will request a short narrative proposal with costs where appropriate so that we can assess whether we are the right funder for the work and better understand how we could work together.

5.

Submit full application

If the proposed work aligns with our aims and objectives and there is potential for a partnership, then we will invite you to submit a full application with details of the work, project plans, and budget.

6.

Programme Board review

Applications are discussed and reviewed at the Signatur Programme Board Meeting. After the application has been reviewed at the meeting the board may request additional information. The programme manager will get in touch to advise if this is the case. If a decision is made at the board meeting, this will be communicated within two weeks.

What we look for in an application

We are interested in supporting work that aligns with our aims, objectives, and current priorities and we carefully consider:

1. Does the organisation's philosophy and mission align with the Signatur Programme?
2. How the work could complement or increase the impact of the work we support with our partners.
3. Where the work will be delivered. Does the programme reach areas of the UK where Signatur is not currently active for instance.
4. What could be achieved by awarding a grant and does that align with our current priorities?
5. Is the work feasible? Are there realistic and robust plans in place to deliver the project or programme?
6. Could our support contribute to expanding or scaling up a new initiative?
7. Do we currently support this area of work? Could we significantly increase our impact if we supported another organisation working in the same area?
8. Who will benefit from the work? Does the programme prioritise people with little or no access to music and creative activities?
9. Has our research convinced us of clear evidence of the impact and quality of the work?
10. How has or is the work contributing to wider change?

We are a flexible funder but we are unable to support:

- Organisations that are unable to demonstrate the capacity to deliver the proposed work and a commitment to the ongoing dialogue, learning, and engagement that form an important part of our funding approach.
- Organisations that are not registered UK charities
- Work delivered outside the UK
- Grants for individuals
- Capital costs

For questions or to explore a potential partnership, please get in touch with us through our website.