



The Met – Artistic Policy

Our venue is run by a charity rooted in education and learning. To that end we support and promote live arts and music experience that encourages open attitudes, positive inclusivity and curiosity.

We work to deliver an inspiring programme that attracts and retains audiences and supports talent development – both locally and as part of the touring circuit of which we are an important element as a grass roots community engaged venue. As part of a city region arts ecology we consider The Met to be part of an audience and artist's journey through Greater Manchester music venues and arts organisations.

We will grow an artistic programme which reflects the diverse communities we want to engage with and benefit from our activity. We are open to all artforms which can be supported by our production and audience development team.

The programme is a mix of touring shows, one off shows and supported activity. The organisation's business model relies on ticket income and funded income to balance our budgets each year. We can support performance which is ready for audiences through our programme or we can support development of work through special projects, mentoring, advice and provision of rehearsal space.

Our main programme is predominantly music based with well developed audiences from Greater Manchester and the North West for folk and acoustic music. Alongside shows we present ourselves (offering fees or splits) we work with external promoters and partners to widen our programme (through hires or splits) to engage with more artists and audience.

We measure the success of our programme in the following ways:

- Engagement with Bury communities
- Impact on regional audiences
- Inclusion of under-represented artists
- Presentation of new work
- Contribution (financial) and support to organisational development

We find our programme connects best with audiences when it has a relevance – links to new artist activity or local, regional, national and global social stories.

Access

We hope to develop a programme which is accessible to artists who feel they would benefit from working with us. Although our lead in times can be up to 12 months we will retain opportunities and engage in open calls for programme to encourage more artists approaching us with ideas. We work with Black Lives in Music to improve our welcome to artists and audiences of colour.

We will be transparent in our artistic programming and use open call for artist opportunities.



Key Programme Innovation & Development 2024-2027

Create Commission – Supporting innovative new LGBTQi work
Pride Stages – Co-creating new LGBTQi performance for Pride touring.
Progress Commission – Monthly LGBTQi cabaret including work in progress for GM artists
Emerging Showcase – Monthly mixed bill for emerging GM musicians
Pantomime – A high quality, inclusive production engaging 5500 audience
Work outside the venue – Music, outdoor theatre and performance in non-traditional spaces in Bury town centre.

Key Linked Organisation Policies Informing Artistic Policy 2024

Audience Development Plan
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
Sustainability Action Plan

Partner Organisations and Networks

Big Imaginations
GM LGBTQi+ Arts & Culture
Sound Roots
Brighter Sound
Black Lives in Music
Attitude is Everything

The artistic policy will be reviewed annually by programme management team and board of trustees.