

# Inclusive progression routes into the music industry



# Who we are

Inspire Youth Arts (IYA), offer inclusive high-quality music, dance, and digital art opportunities for young people across Nottinghamshire and from our base, The Old Library (also known as TOL), Mansfield.

**Rebecca Streets:** Inspire Youth Arts Manager

**Megan Dawes:** Creative Producer

**Tom Shawcroft:** Artist

**Jess Fisher:** Artist

**Cryoflame:** Artist

**DRING:** Artist

Description: Two men sitting next to each other, one with headphones on his head and a microphone to his mouth.  
Photo Credit: Brendon Gravell



# Inspire Youth Arts Music Programme

- School Singer-Songwriter sessions
- Singer Songwriter Academy at TOL
- Rock Schools at TOL
- Electronic Music Production online
- Recording opportunities
- Accessible music making
- Able Orchestra
- eNGine Room Label
- Pathways into industry

Description: A man singing into a microphone on stage wearing a white T-shirt.  
Photo Credit: Brendon Gravell



# Able Orchestra (AO)

Able Orchestra (AO) is an inclusive music and digital art project, which supports young people from Nottinghamshire aged 11-25 to develop skills and confidence in making and performing music and digital art through inclusive and accessible approaches.

AO has a tiered approach developed, with engagement opportunities for young people at different stages of their musical development. This includes:

- Discover - [Taster and school sessions](#)
- Explore - [Weekly AO ensembles and AO at TOL \(The Old Library\)](#)
- Excel - [AO Pioneers \(Young Leaders\)](#)

Description: A boy laughing



# AO Pioneers

Able Orchestra (AO) Pioneers are a group of young leaders.

The 2024-2026 AO Pioneers are mentored by Kris and Nicci Halpin of Dyskinetic.

The group consists of young independent musicians who also come together as a band for collective collaborations.

Each Pioneer is developing their own music pathway and have developed skills and confidence in:

- Leadership and decision making
- Co-leading music sessions for other young people
- Developing, creating and performing their own music
- Advocacy and promotion work
- High quality collective collaborations with other artists/musicians.

Description: A young woman wearing a blue checked shirt in a wheelchair raising her left hand high in the air.

Photo credit: Tom Morley





# Case Studies:

## Jess Fisher

**Jess Fisher** is a dynamic and innovative musician with a passion for creating digital music. Her journey began with the Able Orchestra, where she first explored her musical talents. From there, Jess embarked on a solo career, crafting unique sounds using CMPSR, an instrument developed by [Digit Music](#).

## Cryoflame

**CryoFlame** is a passionate musician dedicated to creating music that leaves a lasting impact. As a disabled artist, his journey is driven not by fame or fortune but by a deep love for music and a desire to prove what's possible. Through his work, CryoFlame aims to inspire others, sharing their passion and making their mark on the world — one song at a time.

Description: A woman in a wheelchair playing CMPSR with a projection of the instrument behind her.

Photo Credit: Tom Morley



# Singer-Songwriter Opportunities

Singer-Songwriter sessions are delivered in Secondary schools during term time.

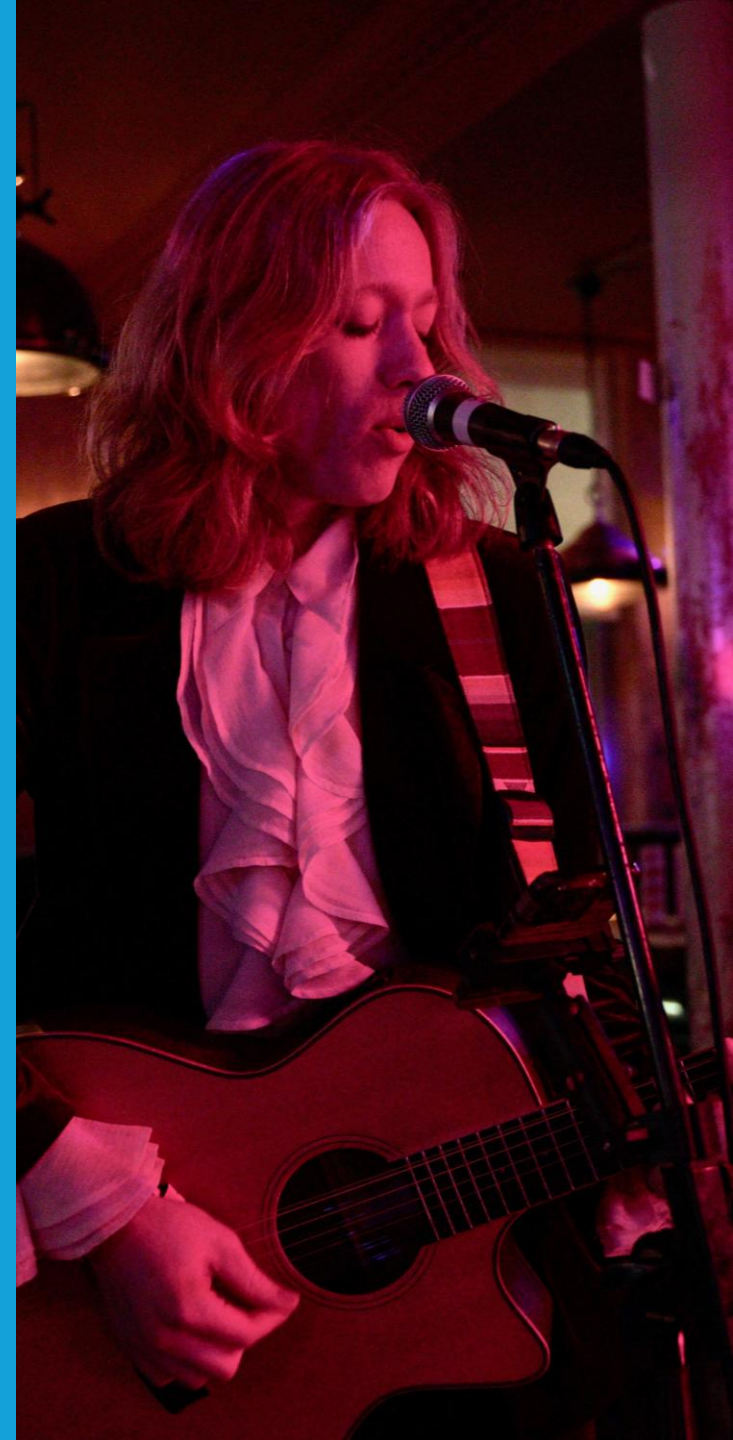
The Singer-Songwriter Academy (SSA) is hosted at The Old Library for young people aged 11-18 wanting to develop their singer songwriter skills.

Delivered by experienced, professional artists, young people are supported to develop:

- Original songs in genres led by the Young People
- Recordings
- Performance opportunities

Description: A man with long hair and a white frilly shirt and velvet jacket singing into a microphone on stage and playing a guitar.

Photo Credit: Brendon Gravell





# eNGine Room Label

Designed to support emerging young artists in their first steps toward releasing music, eNGine Room Label provides support and direction to develop plans tailored to individuals. Working with industry professionals, young people are supported to:

- Develop creative direction and record original tracks
- Work with professional music producers to record, mix and master
- Release new tracks on music distribution sites
- Develop specialist music release marketing campaigns to increase reach
- Rehearse and take up performance opportunities
- Launch the tracks at the eNGine Room Label Showcase in partnership with **BBC Introducing**

eNGine Room Music Industry Days connect industry professionals with young Nottinghamshire based artists.

Description: Four people sitting on a sofa having a discussion. One person is holding a microphone. There are plants and a banner behind them that says IYA, Music, Dance Digital. Audience members are in the foreground.

Photo Credit: Tom Morley





# Case Study - DRING

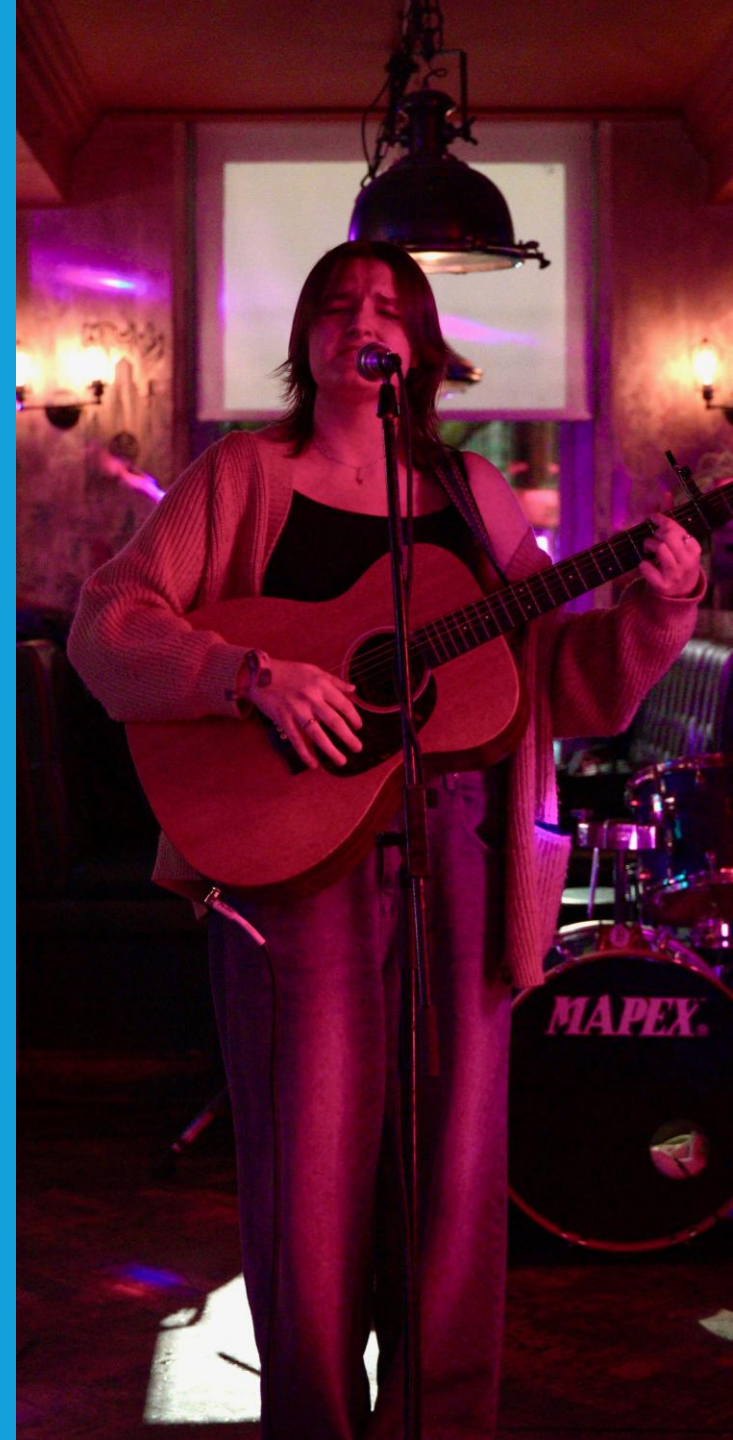
DRING (Chloe Dring) is a rising artist first discovered at a performance and then invited to join the Singer-Songwriter Academy (SSA).

- Mentored by artists Matt Blick and Nina Smith, she has developed her craft for the past year.
- Performed at IYA Music Industry Day, Inspire Christmas Concert, Hockley Hustle Festival, Beat the Streets and Catapult Dance Festival.
- DRING is now recording her debut EP with acclaimed Producer **Ash Jezhurst**, whose credits include **Gabrielle Aplin, Tom Walker, Little Mix, Maisie Peters**, and **Leona Lewis**
- DRING has secured a record deal with **Lionbear**, a label founded by former Managing Director of A&R at EMI.
- Under management of Nina Smith.

This is a huge step forward for DRING and a testament to her growth and dedication over the past year.

Description: DRING stood behind a microphone singing and playing guitar in a dark room with pink lighting.

Photo Credit: Brendon Gravell



# Have a go!



**Tom Shawcroft** is a music artist, consultant, and practitioner with experience in songwriting, music production and sound design.

He is currently the Musical Director for Able Orchestra North Ensemble.

Since 2018, he has delivered music sessions to young people and adults across a range of organizations including Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire County Council, Children in Care Council, YMCA and Inspire Youth Arts.

Description: A man wearing a black jumper leaning over a table with two participants in wheelchairs playing CMPSR and using iPads.

Photo Credit: Brendon Gravell



# Get in touch

Please contact:

**Rebecca Streets - Inspire Youth Arts Manager**

[Rebecca.streets@inspireculture.org.uk](mailto:Rebecca.streets@inspireculture.org.uk)

**Megan Dawes, Creative Producer**

[Megan.dawes@inspireculture.org.uk](mailto:Megan.dawes@inspireculture.org.uk)

**[www.inspireculture.org.uk](http://www.inspireculture.org.uk)**

@inspireyoutharts



Call 01623 644 377