

# ELFM 24-hour musicathon

24 hours of live, local, music – broadcasting on [www.elfm.co.uk](http://www.elfm.co.uk) between 3pm Saturday 4th April and 3pm Sunday 5th April 2009

**So you want to be a curator<sup>1</sup>**



## Background

ELFM is a community radio station broadcasting in East Leeds since 2003. As a development of our local live music strand, we are organising the musicathon at the beginning of the Easter holidays<sup>2</sup>.

## A feat of organisation

We are used to organising broadcasts – and we've had a lot of musicians playing live ... but we recognise this is on a different scale. We're putting a lot of energy into the production – technical teams, venue management ... and making sure there is lots of tea.

But that means nothing without interesting, thoughtful and well-managed programming – and that's where the curators fit in.

## Curating teams

We are splitting the broadcast into 24 1-hour chunks; each 1-hour programme to be curated by a different team of people. That involves theming the hour; deciding on the musicians and getting them to agree to take part; programming and developing a running order... (everything that a guardian or overseer would do!)

It is a big responsibility – but we will give you all the support that you need.



## Experience needed?

It's only an hour of radio – but it's not for the faint-hearted. If you are interested but not sure, talk to us. And remember – it's a curating *team*. If you're worried about particular skills, we can find other people to work on your team and provide the support you need – that's what we're good at.

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<sup>1</sup> Curator is originally Latin and means guardian or overseer. *A person who manages, administers or organises a collection - at a museum, library, archive, zoo - or, in this case, one hour of the ELFM musicathon!*

<sup>2</sup> For more information - see the sheet "[An invitation to take part](#)"



## Guidelines for curators

Every hour of the broadcast will be unique, but – at the same time – we need some continuity throughout the whole broadcast, and for each hour to retain some core elements. So here are our starting points

1. You will need to decide a **theme** for your hour – and eventually a title
2. We expect a bit of **flow and variety**. So we would expect at least 3 genres (or sub-genres) of music in each hour<sup>3</sup>
3. **Participation** is the theme of our work. In each hour we are going to set a target of 30 performers<sup>4</sup>
4. **Performers** – you will have ideas of who to ask – bands, singers, choirs etc (and we can help as necessary). We expect most of the performers to be Leeds-based (or maybe a bit further afield) and in every hour there **must** be some performers from East Leeds.
5. We're going to do the whole broadcast **acoustic/unplugged**<sup>5</sup>
6. We'd like you to encourage performers who are confident/experienced to create **something specific** to the place ie a beautiful chapel with its own organ and a chance to sing from the pulpit!
7. We will be working with **two studios**: the vestry forms the main broadcast studio (1) set up for presenters, interviews, etc – equipped with all you'd expect including a phone line into the desk<sup>6</sup>. That's also where we would put individual performers and people with less experience. The Chapel itself (studio 2) forms our live studio for bands/choirs etc.  
When you do your running order you will need to think through how it plays between different studios. For now we will just say one thing - your hour should start in Studio 1 and finish in Studio 2 – that'll make our changeovers run smoothly.



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<sup>3</sup> We are not expecting every hour to have jazz, heavy metal and classical music! But, for example, rather than an hour of flamenco, your hour might include salsa and a bit of tango or even some Villa Lobos. Think journeys...

<sup>4</sup> Yes - that's a challenge, but take it as an opportunity. Ask bands to bring some friends along to add a bit of extra percussion or some backing singers; think choirs, etc

<sup>5</sup> The main issue is that we're not going to do drum-kits. Percussion yes - but we won't have time to mic up drums, and we're not doing fold-back monitors. More technical details later. Any issues/queries call Music Director Ed on 07947 272 589

<sup>6</sup> There has already been talk about getting performers on the phone from foreign parts (and even one former ELFMer who is in prison at the moment ... it is all possible!

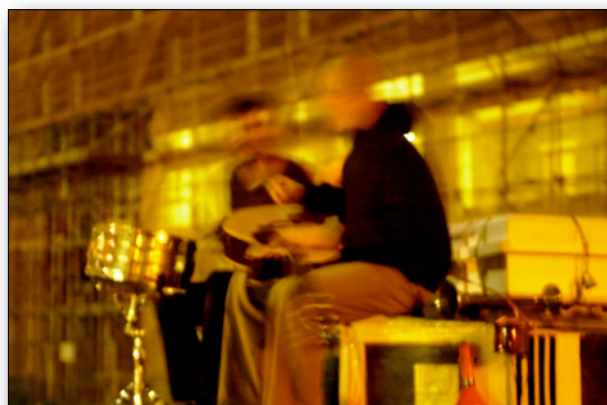
8. Your exact **time slot** will be agreed by negotiation (depending on practical and artistic considerations) – but you are welcome to suggest time eg early Sunday morning etc.
9. We will work closely with you throughout. After agreeing your initial ideas, we will be asking you to complete a **programme outline**; and, closer to the broadcast, a detailed programme running order. We will be getting all the curating teams together a couple of times to share notes/ideas and you will need to find a time in the week before the broadcast to come in for a rehearsal.
10. You will get **full technical support** during the broadcast – someone running the broadcast desk and someone else mixing Studio 2 – as well as an ELFM producer working with you
11. You will have to work out who is **presenting**. Our house style is simple ... be yourself. Again we will provide any training necessary.
12. The **musicathon** side of it: we are asking people to make donations during the website - by donating online through the website [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) (or into the bucket provided!). We will be asking you to help us make this happen (more later).
13. We are planning to have a **small studio audience** throughout (20-30 people). So, yes you can invite your friends and your musicians can stay and support each other.
14. It's a live broadcast but everything will go **straight up on the ELFM website**<sup>7</sup> for for you and your friends to listen to and download.

### It's over to you then

As you probably guessed – the ELFM website is key in all this. For all the latest information, check out the latest news on the home page and hit the musicathon tag.

To get in touch...

email: [musicathon@elfm.co.uk](mailto:musicathon@elfm.co.uk)  
 phone: **08709 90 50 90** for the office or  
 call Ed on **07947 272 589**  
 website: [www.elfm.co.uk](http://www.elfm.co.uk)



East Leeds FM is supported by **Leeds City Council**: Inner East and Outer East Area Committees; also by the **Tudor Trust** and the **Scurrah Wainwright Charity**. We are grateful for project support from **East North East Homes** and **Connect Housing** and we have recently been awarded a grant from the **Youth Capital Fund** – LSCash – which will help with equipment; and support for hires and marketing from the **UNLTD** fund through the **LS14 Trust**.

East Leeds FM is a **Heads Together** production with support from the **Arts Council of England**

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<sup>7</sup> Of course this all depends on permissions and copyright - most musicians we work with are only too happy to allow us to put their songs up on the website - but even cover versions are an issue - so we need to think it all through carefully – more later.