



THE OCFY YOUTH PROGRAM 2011

The Ontario Council of Folk Festivals Youth Program is an annual program which will take place this year in **Niagara Falls** at the Marriot Gateway to the Falls Hotel and runs concurrently with the OCFY Annual Conference. The program is open to **residents of Ontario** and the **National Capital Region** between ages **15 and 21**, who are chosen for their interest, ability and experience. The program has two streams: Youth Performer and Youth Presenter. **Interested applicants must commit to attending the program from 7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 13, 2011 until 1:00 p.m., Sunday, October 16, 2011.**

In the **YOUTH PERFORMER** stream, young performers are teamed with established artist mentors for the entire weekend – they will spend many hours with the mentors in one-on-one sessions developing a showcase performance, attending a special conference orientation on Thursday evening, and participating in workshops and master classes on Friday and Saturday. The highlight of the performer stream is the **Youth Showcase** on Saturday afternoon, in which the young performers each perform a 15 minute set accompanied by their mentors. Participants are also encouraged to take part in a youth- and alumni-produced, after hours showcase on Friday and Saturday night, as well as the Gala dinner and networking events that take place on Friday and Saturday of the conference. The program provides young folk/roots performers with an excellent opportunity to shadow an established artist, to experience hands-on learning at the workshops and master classes, and to integrate into this tightly knit musical community.

We are looking for Youth Performer participants who are:

- Comfortable with performing in front of an audience, and interested in improving their live performance skills and adding to their onstage ease by working with an established artist and performing in a professional quality showcase
- Interested in improving their live performance skills in a hands-on showcase experience
- Ready and/or interested in learning more about the recording process
- Already composing and interested in learning more about developing original compositions
- Interested in learning more about the business side of being a performing artist/musician

If you are chosen to be a Youth Performer participant, you should expect:

- To connect with your mentor in the weeks before the conference to introduce yourself; establish your own 'tailor-made' schedule of activities; and discuss your expectations for the program as well as your Showcase performance
- To prepare and practice three songs to perform in the showcase
- To come to the conference well rested
- Not to bring homework – you won't have time for it
- To bring a parent or guardian if you are under 18 years of age – they are invited and encouraged to participate in the conference at the reduced Youth rate (there will be some opportunities for parents/guardians to connect with each other while Youth participants are busy with mentors)
- To bring writing material for taking notes, a refillable water bottle, snacks for your hotel room
- To work hard, play hard, sleep little, attend as much of the conference as you can stay awake for, network with other youth and conference delegates
- To be prepared to promote yourself - bring promotional material (electronic press kits, hard copy press kits, business cards, demo CDs, videos and mp3 samples of your work, etc.)
- To make their own arrangements for accommodation – at the conference preferred rate
- To have access to a CREDIT CARD for checking into the hotel (hotel policy)
- To provide your own meals – except the Gala dinner on Saturday night which is paid for as part of the conference registration

SCHEDULE

- Thursday evening Youth Orientation session – we will introduce the youth and mentors to the group, familiarize the group with the schedule and expectations for the weekend, and give a brief overview of the conference. This will be followed by a round robin style song circle and jam – bring your instruments!
- Friday
 - youth business-oriented workshop
 - one-on-one sessions with mentors during which you will work on preparing a showcase performance
 - the remaining time on Friday is to be scheduled with your mentor prior to the conference
- Friday and Saturday evenings you can attend the Official Showcases and optionally participate in the afterhours Youth showcase with Youth program alumni
- Saturday – one-on-one sessions with mentors, Youth Showcase, Gala dinner; Official Showcases; option after hours private Youth showcase
- Sunday morning – Youth program wrap-up session and check-out

In the **YOUTH PRESENTER** stream, participants are teamed with several industry professionals in one-on-one mentoring sessions and are offered access to the conference networking events, Gala dinner and access to all the showcases. Wherever possible we offer the young Presenter an opportunity for hands-on experience, either at the sound board or in assisting with the various official and sponsored showcases. The youth Presenters are also expected to participate in the Youth orientation session on Thursday night.

We are looking for Youth Presenter participants who are:

- Experienced with some level of presenting music events in their community, church, school, festival, clubs, etc.
- Interested in learning more about what it's *really* like to have a career in the music industry as a presenter, promoter, producer, artistic director, stage manager, booking agent or artist manager, publicist, sound and lighting engineer
- Interested in learning more about the music business

If you are chosen to be a Youth Presenter participant, you should expect:

- Before the conference, to tell us as much as possible about what your expectations are – who would you like to connect with, what kind of presenter work are you most interested in, what previous experience you have – so that we can set up a program that is tailored to you and your interests
- To come to the conference well rested
- Not to bring homework – you won't have time for it
- To bring a parent or guardian if you are under 18 years of age – they are invited and encouraged to participate in the conference at the reduced Youth rate (there will be some opportunities for parents/guardians to connect with each other while Youth participants are busy with mentors)
- To bring writing material for taking notes, a refillable water bottle, snacks for your hotel room
- To work hard, play hard, sleep little, attend as much of the conference as you can stay awake for, network with other youth and conference delegates
- To attend scheduled one-on-one mentoring sessions with music industry professionals from across the country
- To make their own arrangements for accommodation – at the conference preferred rate
- To have access to a CREDIT CARD for checking into the hotel (hotel policy)
- To provide your own meals – except the Gala dinner on Saturday night which is paid for as part of the conference registration

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES - The OCFF will be accepting five youth delegates in the Performance Program and two youth delegates in the Presenters Program this year. Applications can be submitted by individuals, festivals or venues from across Ontario. If more than five Youth Performer applications or more than two Youth Presenter applications are received, the applications will be considered through a juried process administered by the OCFF office.

YOUTH PERFORMER applicants - Please submit the following, along with the application form:

- Description (500 - 750 words) of your musical interests and expertise: include any pertinent information including years of experience, type and level of training, musical genres you are involved and/or interested in, instruments you play, and any other information which you deem relevant to your musical career;
- Description of your other interests – e.g., poetry, acting, painting, athletics, etc.;
- Your reason(s) for interest in the OCFF’s Youth Program;
- CD with a sample of your music (does not need to be professionally recorded);
- Your tech requirements for the showcase (whether you need a vocal mic, a DI, line or mic for your instrument, etc.);
- Letter of recommendation from a teacher, festival director or presenter.

YOUTH PRESENTER applicants - Please submit the following, along with the application form:

- Description (500 words) of any previous industry experience and reasons for interest in the OCFF’s Youth Program;
- Detailed ‘wish list’ – who or what kind of folk/roots music industry professionals would you like to meet with one-on-one?
- Letter of recommendation from teacher, festival director or other music/arts presenter.

If you are interested in applying for the OCFF Youth Program or would like more information, please contact Chris MacLean, Community Outreach Manager at cmaclean@ocff.ca or by phone at 1-866-292-6233 or 613-560-5997

Deadline for applications: June 17, 2011

Rates: \$85 for members, \$185 for non-members