



manchester
international
festival
2025 3-20 Jul



PRESS RELEASE:

FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2025

MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2025 CALL OUTS



Factory International is the organisation behind Manchester International Festival (MIF) and the city's landmark new cultural space, Aviva Studios.

One of the world's leading arts festivals, and the first to be entirely focused on the commissioning and producing of ambitious new work, MIF is staged every two years, with the next edition (and first curated by Factory International's Creative Director **Low Kee Hong**), taking place this summer from 3-20 July 2025 at venues all over Greater Manchester, with the upcoming programme announced 11 March.

Since its inception, the creatives and volunteers of Greater Manchester have been central to the festival, with their energy and enthusiasm helping us to stage cutting edge art and events across nine festivals and counting.



If you'd like to get involved in this year's edition, there's exciting opportunities coming up on the horizon, from performing at the now iconic Festival Square, to joining our awesome team of volunteers.

We'd love to hear from you!

More info with key dates below.

MIF25 FESTIVAL SQUARE – CALLING ALL CREATIVES

Festival Square is the beating heart of Manchester International Festival – a place where audiences gather to discover new artists, experience incredible performances and celebrate the energy of the city.

Back and bigger than ever, from 3–20 July, the festival is taking over the Social and the Undercroft, the outdoor space at Aviva Studios, turning these spaces into vibrant hubs of live performances, workshops and events that showcase the incredible talent of Greater Manchester.

We want to hear from performers, musicians and creatives across all genres who **live in Greater Manchester** — whether you're a steel band, folk musician, hip hop collective, dance troupe, community choir, classical ensemble, DJ, or something completely unexpected.

We're also looking for artists who can bring music workshops, dance sessions and even live podcasts to the space. If it's exciting, engaging and brings people together, we want to hear about it.

Whether you're leading a workshop, performing live or hosting a podcast, this is your chance to be part of a major international festival — **and all performances are paid.**

We actively encourage applications from those who reflect the diversity of Manchester, including musicians from all areas of the city, marginalised communities and genders, and those with disabilities.

To find out more, or to apply [please visit our website](#)

KEY DATES

Applications Open: 24 February, 12 noon (BST)

Deadline: 23 March, 12 noon (BST)

Applicants Notified: w/c 14 April



VOLUNTEERING AT MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2025

Manchester International Festival (MIF) returns this summer and we're looking for 400 people to join our awesome team of festival volunteers.

Volunteers have been part of the MIF story from the very beginning. Their energy and enthusiasm have helped us to stage cutting edge art and events across nine festivals and counting.

There are lots of ways to get involved as a volunteer from helping behind the scenes to greeting the public at our events. Volunteering is fun, varied and flexible enough to fit around other commitments. It's a great way to pick up new skills and make unexpected connections.

Whether you love art, music and culture, or you just want to try something new, we're looking for Mancunians of all kinds to join the team.

To find out more, or to apply to join us as a Volunteer at MIF, [please visit our website](#)

KEY DATES

Deadline for applications: 28 April 2025

VOLUNTEERING AT AVIVA STUDIOS

As well as volunteering with us at MIF, we also have opportunities to join our volunteer team at Aviva Studios.

Get involved in a year-round programme of incredible events and see what it takes to put on everything from large-scale warehouse gigs to intimate performances in the Hall.

Apply now to join our team from Spring / Summer 2025, [please visit our website](#)

KEY DATES

Deadline for applications: 9 March 2025

For more information on our equal opportunities policy, [visit our page here](#)

ENDS.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND MEDIA REQUESTS PLEASE CONTACT:

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ABOUT FACTORY INTERNATIONAL

Factory International is the organisation behind Manchester International Festival (MIF) and the city's landmark new cultural space, Aviva Studios.

Factory International commissions, produces and presents a year-round programme of original creative work and special events at Aviva Studios, its landmark new home in Manchester, online, and internationally through its network of co-commissioners and partners. It also stages the city-wide Manchester International Festival every other year.

Factory International builds on the legacy of Manchester International Festival, one of the world's leading arts festivals, and the first to be entirely focused on the commissioning and producing of ambitious new work. Staged every two years in Manchester since 2007, world-renowned artists from different art forms and backgrounds create dynamic, innovative and forward-thinking new work in venues and spaces across Greater Manchester.

A space for invention and discovery, Aviva Studios was designed by the world-leading practice Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA), with Ellen van Loon as lead architect – their first major public building in the UK. Its development was led by Manchester City Council, with backing of £99.05m from HM Government and £7m National Lottery funding from Arts Council England.

Ultra-flexible in design, the building is based around large, open, adaptable spaces that can be constantly reconfigured, enabling artists to develop and create large-scale work of invention and ambition of a kind not seen anywhere else in the world. A unique canvas to make, explore and experiment, audiences can enjoy the broadest range of art forms from major exhibitions and concerts to intimate performances and immersive experiences.

Factory International plays an important role in the lives of Greater Manchester residents, bringing jobs, skills, training and creative opportunities. Through the Factory Academy, Factory International is training the creative workforce of the future, while its pioneering creative engagement and artist development programmes create year-round opportunities for local people to get involved, from participating in flagship commissions to shaping the organisation through involvement in its public forums.

Factory International is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.



factoryinternational.org

ABOUT ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. From 2023 to 2026 we will invest over £467million of public money from Government and an estimated £250 million from The National Lottery each year to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

www.artscouncil.org.uk

ABOUT MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

3-20 July 2025

Aviva Studios and venues cross Manchester. Full programme to be announced in March 2025

2025 will also see the return of the world-renowned Manchester International Festival - first edition to be curated by Factory International **Creative Director Low Kee Hong**. One of the world's leading arts festivals, and the first to be entirely focused on the commissioning and producing of ambitious new work, MIF has been staged every two years in Manchester since 2007, and has commissioned, produced and presented world premieres by artists including Björk, Jeremy Deller, Akram Khan, David Lynch, Wayne McGregor, Steve McQueen, Yoko Ono, Maxine Peake, Skepta, Christine Sun Kim, and The xx.

The 2025 edition of Manchester International Festival (MIF) will include a host of world premieres and special events by artists from around the world unveiled in venues and spaces across the city. For the second time the festival will also take place at Aviva Studios – the new permanent home of Factory International – including the much-loved Festival Square which will take over the riverside outdoor spaces of Aviva Studios with free live music and a wide variety of food and drink.