

# MOUNTVIEW

**ROLE TITLE:** Musical Director Launch Pad

**RESPONSIBLE TO:** Head of CertHE Training and CertHE Course Leader, Manchester

## **WELCOME TO MOUNTVIEW**

From Sally Ann Gritton, Principal & CEO:

Mountview does things differently. Through our higher education programmes, our participation work, our growing network of regional sites, and our own examination board in Musical Theatre, Mountview Exams, we aim to dismantle barriers to the arts, open access to training for people of all ages and abilities, and engage meaningfully with the communities around us.

We are a vibrant, outward-looking organisation, agile and responsive to a changing sector. Each year we share our space, expertise and resources, learning from and collaborating with the rich cultural ecology on our doorstep and beyond. While our purpose-built home in Peckham remains central to who we are, Mountview is not defined by a single location: it is not a building, but an ethos.

## **OUR MISSION, VISION AND VALUES**

Mountview is dedicated to developing the actors, technicians and practitioners who will shape the future of the creative industries.

Our vision is to be a world leader in dramatic training, making an impact locally, nationally and internationally. We give potential a chance, nurturing bold, curious and purposeful artists, and we work to ensure our teaching remains current, ambitious and relevant. We train our students to the highest standards, developing skills, confidence and individuality through innovative practice, close industry relationships and a deep belief in the power of creativity to change lives.

Our staff team is highly skilled and collectively committed to Mountview's mission. Together, we have built a flourishing, energetic workplace that celebrates kindness and difference, and succeeds through a shared belief in our core values:

- Challenge the Status Quo
- Create Belonging
- Sustain the Future
- Compassionate Collaboration
- Transparent Communication

Inclusivity and belonging sit at the heart of our organisation: we commit to learning, to accountability, and to doing better when we fall short. By investing in our people and our partnerships, we secure a vibrant future for the arts – and for the students and staff who make Mountview what it is.

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## BACKGROUND

Musical Directors are central to the success of musical theatre, shaping performances, leading rehearsals, supporting performers and collaborating across creative teams. Yet there are limited clear entry points into this career pathway. Financial, cultural and geographical barriers can also prevent talented musicians from progressing into professional training.

To address this gap, Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and Mountview are working together to deliver the Musical Director Launch Pad: a one-year, part-time, paid development opportunity offering aspiring Musical Directors an extended learning opportunity within Mountview's training environment. Our aims are to:

- Widen the talent pipeline into musical direction
- Provide practical, hands-on experience in a professional training setting
- Offer structured mentoring and industry insight
- Support progression into further higher education and professional opportunities

## THE ROLE

The Launch Pad participant will be embedded within the CertHE Musical Theatre course in Manchester for two terms (approximately two days per week), followed by a five-day residency at Mountview's London campus during the summer term.

What the Launch Pad Offers

- Practical shadowing and progressive hands-on experience in music direction
- Exposure to rehearsal processes and musical theatre pedagogy
- Insight into professional training pathways, including Mountview's BMus (Hons) Piano for Theatre and MA / MFA Music Direction
- Regular mentorship from Musical Director, Professor Wendy Gadian
- A five-day residency at Mountview's London campus, shadowing the opening of a full-scale Musical Theatre production

This is an extended learning opportunity rather than a salaried staff position. The participant will not hold the responsibilities of a freelance or employed Musical Director but will be expected to uphold Mountview's values and contribute positively to the learning environment.

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

This Launch Pad is for motivated individuals with existing musical talent and a passion for theatrical performance who are looking to develop specialised skills in musical direction before pursuing formal higher education. Formal music or academic qualifications are not essential, but applicants must be able to display a high level of proficiency on the piano. Examples of the kinds of people this programme maybe suited to include:

- School leavers with musical background
- Gap year students considering music or theatre paths
- Career changers with transferable musical skills

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- Musicians looking to specialise in theatre/performance contexts

We are looking for:

Essential Qualities:

- Existing piano skills with a desire to develop stronger technique and sight-reading abilities
- Interest in musical theatre repertoire with eagerness to expand knowledge
- Aspiration to develop musical direction capabilities
- Commitment to personal and professional growth
- Self-motivated with ability to work both independently and collaboratively
- Open to feedback and eager to learn

Desirable Experience:

- Previous involvement in musical theatre productions (school, community, or amateur)
- Basic music theory knowledge with willingness to develop further
- Some experience playing for singers or vocal groups
- Familiarity with or curiosity about theatrical rehearsal environments
- Interest in vocal techniques and accompaniment styles

Career Aspirations:

- Desire to explore a career in music direction for theatre
- Enthusiasm for building practical experience and industry connections
- Interest in potentially pursuing Mountview's BMus (Hons) Piano for Theatre or MA Music Direction

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Applicants must be aged 18 or over before the start of the programme in September 2026.

This post is based at Mountview's CertHE Manchester venue, Z-Arts, Greater Manchester, M15 between autumn 2026 and spring 2027, with a one-week mini residency at our Peckham campus, London, SE15 in summer 2027.

The post holder must always carry out their responsibilities with due regard to Mountview's policy and commitment to Equal Opportunities.

The post holder must accept responsibility for ensuring that Mountview's policies and procedures relating to Health and Safety in the workplace are always adhered to.

The post holder must respect the confidentiality of data stored electronically and by other means in accordance with the provisions of the UK-GDPR (United Kingdom General Data Protection Regulation) 2020 and must abide by any related policies and procedures.

This role description is a guide to the nature of the work required. It is not wholly comprehensive or restrictive and may be reviewed with the post holder and line manager as operationally required.

## **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

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- Award:** A bursary of £5,342 plus a maintenance award of £2,348 (paid in termly instalments).
- Contract:** 1-year fixed term, from September 2026, exact dates to be agreed with candidate on appointment.
- Hours:** 16 per week over 24 weeks (plus one residency week of 5 days), The variable workload may require some variability in weekly commitment, with exact days to be agreed with the candidate on appointment.
- Expenses:** Travel, accommodation and per diems for food and drink will be provided for the London residency in summer 2027.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To apply, you will need to submit:

- A two-minute 'creative task' video
- A one-page cover letter outlining your interest in and suitability for the role
- A copy of your most recent CV
- A completed equal opportunities monitoring form

Your two-minute self-tape should show your current musical ability on the piano. We would like to hear you perform in two contrasting musical styles:

- A one-minute piece performed on the piano in the style of 'legit musical theatre' (a more classical style)
- A one-minute piece in the style of pop / rock which can be played on the piano or an alternative instrument of your choosing

Both tasks should be included within a single video and show clearly your work with the instrument. The video should be uploaded to YouTube as an unlisted YouTube video link and should not exceed two minutes.

## HOW TO APPLY

Please submit a link to your creative tasks, and copies of your cover letter, equal opportunities monitoring form and current CV to Alistair Owen, People & Culture Manager at [recruitment@mountview.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@mountview.org.uk).

The closing date for completed applications is **Friday 26th June at 9am**. All applications will be acknowledged. Late applications will not be considered.

We welcome applications from participants currently underrepresented in theatre and those who possess the skills and experience listed. We encourage applications from people who experience racism and marginalisation, including (but not limited to) those from African, Caribbean, LatinX, South Asian, East and South East Asian heritage, those from lower socio-economic backgrounds, those from the transgender community, those with a disability, those with neurodiversity, those who are care experienced, and those facing intersecting barriers.

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Mountview is committed to being anti-racist and anti-discriminatory. As part of this, we are looking at ways to make our recruitment more inclusive. If you would like this job description in an alternative format, or if you would like to offer any feedback, please don't hesitate to get in touch.