

# the iona community

## **JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE POST OF MUSICIAN**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Iona Community maintains a group of Resident Staff Members on Iona and Mull (sometimes referred to as 'the Resident Group') to run its island centres, welcoming guests and some of the more than 190,000 visitors who come to Iona and the Ross of Mull each year. Between March and November the Resident Group shares its common life with hundreds of guests who come from all over the world to stay at one or other of the centres, usually for a week at a time. They are also joined by many voluntary staff, who come to serve the Community and share in the common life, usually for between six and twelve weeks, but sometimes for longer. On Iona staff are part of the wider Iona Community's task, seeking new ways of living the Gospel in today's world, going about their part in the task by inviting people to come and share in the common life of work and worship on Iona.

To be a member of the resident group of The Iona Community is not just a job, it is a way of life. But the job is only part of the whole. It is essential that those who decide to join the resident group be aware of the nature of the work we are engaged in, and the wider implications that has for the whole of our life here, further details of which are on our website.

### **THE PROGRAMME TEAM:**

The Programme Team is responsible for providing a range of services for guests, visitors and staff including the provision of workshop-style programme sessions and helping to resource worship.

Each member of the team has specific responsibilities, however a degree of flexibility is required, in order that all of the functions of the team are carried out at all times. The work is very much engaged with guests on a day-to-day basis and the team also participates fully in the common life of the resident group and its ministry of hospitality.

### **THE POST:**

The task of the Musician is: to provide a range of music suitable for worship and the common life activities of The Iona Community on Iona; to act as a resource and enabler for guests and staff; and to explore creativity through musical expression. They work under the support and supervision of the Abbey Warden who has responsibility for the Community's worship on the island.

### **CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Coordinate music for all services. Ensure that music in services challenges and expands the horizons of participants and introduces them to the Iona Community's musical resources and ethos.
2. Run music focused programme sessions (including Big Sings) and enable guests to be involved in the musical opportunities available (eg worship, concert, ceilidhs etc).
3. Provide coaching, support and encouragement to staff, guests and the public to ensure people are enabled to fully participate in worship, and in liaison with worship leaders arrange for all musical input, arranging parts for specific instruments as required.
4. Support and promote Wild Goose worship material. Provide weekly worship resource information sessions for guests in the Iona Community Shop.
5. Manage all music material and resources for worship, seek new materials from sources in Britain and abroad, advise on copyright issues and record their use.

6. Maintain musical instruments and amplification equipment. Ensure their fullest and correct use – liaise as necessary with visiting musicians.
7. Any other duties which are appropriate to the post, which as agreed.

### **GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Common to all Resident Group posts, the Musician participates fully in the shared life of the Island's Resident Group, the responsibilities of which cross the different centres. The shared life will include chairing meals, helping lead pilgrimages and ceilidhs and interacting with guests. The worship of the Iona Community on the island is the responsibility of the Abbey Warden, however all other resident group members will be expected to share in the conduct of worship, for which training will be given. More information on the general responsibilities of Resident Staff is given in the Resident Group Notes and these should be read in conjunction with this job description.

### **RESPONSIBLE TO:**

Members of the Resident Group are responsible to each other for their participation in the common life. The work of the Musician will be supervised and supported by the Abbey Warden. Ultimately the post holder is responsible to the Iona Committee of the Iona Community.

### **PERSON SPECIFICATION:**

- Piano skills at minimum Grade 6 (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) or international equivalent, though preferably Grade 7 or 8 (*subject to practical test at interview*).
- Demonstrated experience as an accompanist, particularly on the piano.
- Good sight reading skills an advantage and other instrumental ability desirable.
- Experience/ability to confidently teach songs and music to large and small groups.
- Ability to enable others to engage musically, especially those with little musical background.
- A knowledge of the world and church music scene and the work of the Wild Goose Resource Group is desirable.

This role requires a creative, spontaneous, innovative and flexible approach and previous involvement in creative and inclusive worship is desirable.

Applicants should share the Iona Community's open and inclusive Christian commitment and understand its aims, values and ethos. Applicants must also be willing and able to share fully in the Common Life of hospitality and welcome, which extends beyond our roles and tasks and into our daily life.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act and any appointment will be subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Office check.

### **CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:**

This post is offered on a 1 year contract commencing September 1, 2008. Full details of terms and conditions of employment will be made available on request to shortlisted candidates.

Accommodation for Resident Staff is in shared accommodation. Staff receive a bedroom of their own, but share living, kitchen and bathroom areas with up to 6 other staff members.

*(Revised April 2008)*