

# Awards for Ensembles and Groups

# Application Guidelines



The Musicians Benevolent Fund makes awards to emerging performing groups who are generating a significant impact within their chosen field of music, have a genuine commitment to building a career as a professional group, and who can demonstrate recognised musical excellence. Awards of between £500 and £3,000 are available.

Please read the guidelines below for full details of who may apply and how applications will be assessed.

## 1. Who can apply?

The awards are open to groups with between two and ten members (not soloists and their accompanists) who are able to meet the following criteria:

- Are in the final stages of study or the first five years of working professionally (the Musicians Benevolent Fund defines a professional ensemble as a group of musicians whose members are paid to perform, compose, or work in any other productive manner related to music, and who earn the majority of their income from musical activity).
- Have been together for at least one year but no longer than five years
- A minimum of half the members are British/Irish or have been resident in the UK/Ireland for at least three years

## 2. What can you apply for?

Awards are available for projects that clearly show how they will enhance the musical development of the group. Examples of projects that may be considered for funding include:

- Participation in high profile competitions or auditions
- Coaching or mentoring sessions in the UK or abroad
- Participation in prestigious showcases in the UK or abroad
- Recording and releasing costs for an album, EP or single (unless the group has financial backing from a label)
- A tour or a series of concerts in the UK or abroad
- Fees for short courses

Awards **will not** be offered towards instrument or equipment purchase, recording demos, full-time course fees, or one-off performances.

## 3. Your application

- A representative for the group should complete the application on the group's behalf and agree it with them before submitting
- Groups must provide details of a highly respected musician or music professional who is familiar with the group's work and is able to act as a supporting referee. On receipt of a completed application the Musicians Benevolent Fund will approach the referee directly. The referee must be unconnected to the proposed project.
- Financial records should be submitted with the application. These should consist of either the most recent set of audited accounts or if the group does not have accounts, a separate spreadsheet showing a year's worth of income and expenditure, displaying an accurate record of group activity. If the group has a joint bank account, a copy of the most recent statement should also be submitted.
- Supporting materials (such as CDs, DVDs, press cuttings, CVs, tour dates) should be submitted with the application

## 4. Submitting your application

The Musicians Benevolent Fund will not fund retrospectively. There is no deadline but applications should be submitted **at least two months** before the project start date and if an award is offered, should be completed within an agreed timescale. Applications will be assessed by the Director of Awards & Professional Development and an appropriate external panel using the following criteria:

- The artistic credibility of the group and their proposed project
- How well thought out the project is
- How achievable the project seems
- How the project will benefit the group's musical development

Please submit the completed application form and supporting information by email to [awards@mbf.org.uk](mailto:awards@mbf.org.uk) or by post to Awards for Ensembles and Groups, Musicians Benevolent Fund, 7-11 Britannia Street, London, WC1X 9JS