

Applying for Support towards Music-led Creative Collaboration

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Who Are We?

Help Musicians is a charity that loves music and for 100 years has been working hard to make a meaningful difference to the lives of musicians across the UK. We want to create a world where musicians thrive.

We're Here to Support You

If you've any questions about the support we can offer, want to talk through your plans, or are looking for advice about the application process, you can book some time to talk it through with one of the team [here](#).

How Can We Support You to Explore Music-Led Creative Collaboration?

Collaboration between musicians and creatives such as lighting designers, choreographers and visual artists can make music even more powerful. However, financing these activities can be a barrier to making them a reality, which is why Help Musicians can provide financial support to help develop new ideas and create a collaborative end product with music at its heart.

What Can You Apply For?

Musicians can apply for up to £5,000 to undertake a UK-based collaboration between themselves and another non-music artists, for example storytellers, lighting designers, choreographers, technologists, scientists, gaming designers, theatre directors, visual artists etc.

You can apply to cover costs for:

- Venue and rehearsal space
- Recording costs (live or documentation - but not studio recording)
- Travel
- Access

- Accommodation
- Fees for musicians, artists or collaborators' time to allow for your collaboration to happen
- Any other reasonable costs associated with your creative collaboration

There should be an end result of the collaboration, such as a body of work created for an upcoming recording or a new performance. Overall, the collaboration should push the boundaries of what you do as a music creator or performer, exploring or testing something that you are not currently able to achieve without support.

Eligibility

Who Can Apply?

This support is available to musicians of all genres and disciplines, including but not limited to: instrumentalists, composers, producers, conductor, vocalists, singer-songwriters. You can also apply as a group of musicians if you're looking to develop your skills collectively.

To apply you must:

- Be aged over 18
- Be in financial need and without significant backing
- Already have an active career and be able to clearly demonstrate your work to date
- Be a UK resident*

*We refer to the UK residency rules noting that you are eligible for our support:

- If you are a UK National living in the UK you automatically qualify
- If you are a non-UK National, you have been living in the UK for at least 183 days and have the legal right to live in the UK

If Applying as a Group

- 50% must meet the criteria as above
- You must have been established and playing together regularly for at least 1 year
- The group should be made up of no more than six members

Ineligible Activities

There are a number of activities we are unable to support through this strand of our work, listed below. Please read through this section thoroughly before applying.

- If you have received financial support towards music-led creative collaboration from Help Musicians in the last 12-months, you are not eligible to apply at this time

- Activities that take place within three-months of a submitted application
- Applications relating to loss of income as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak
- Activities that are not primarily music-based or which do not involve collaborations with other art forms, disciplines or wider sectors
- Activities that will act as a commission for an artist rather than making new work collaboratively
- Activity that is not primarily creative in nature (this includes PR, purchasing merchandise, creating music videos, promotional campaign)
- Formal courses of study, training or research (this includes undergraduate study, postgraduate study, year-long courses, costs associated with PhD study)
- Purchase of equipment
- Studio recording costs

Making an Application

To apply for this support, you can start your application [here](#).

We understand that musicians will have different preferences in how they communicate their ideas, so you can choose to answer some of the key questions either in writing or by video upload. [Check out our blog](#) to understand more about video applications.

What are we looking for in the application?

• Biography

We're looking to understand your career in performing or creating music so far. Show us your achievements and career highlights, share what you're proud of. Bear in mind that we won't know you or your music, so the clearer you can be and the more examples you can give us the better! This can include performances, collaborations, tours, festivals, showcases, commissions, recent releases, reviews (inc. press quotes & radio play), evidence of your growing fanbase (mailing list subscribers, social media followers) and prizes or awards. Remember to share links to any websites or socials you want us to see.

• Your Activity

The details of the activity you're applying for financial support towards. Remember to include a timeline and double-check that it's achievable.

• Impact

Our support is here to help you make the next step, so we're looking to understand why this activity is crucial for your career at this point. Help us to understand what you are trying to achieve in the short and long-term through the collaboration and how it will benefit your progression as a music creator.

• Musical Submissions

You will be asked to provide examples of your music in the form of recordings, videos and weblinks. At least one must be from within the last 12-months and you should submit the music you feel best demonstrates your creative direction at this time. Does the musical quality of this recording best represent your creative potential?

• Budget

We know a budget can be tricky but it's also incredibly useful for focusing and understanding your plans. Try to think about the costs associated with each activity. Make it clear where you require financial assistance from Help Musicians, as well as elements that may be supported by other organisations or yourself.

Please note: If applying after a break or a change in circumstance we will take into consideration your past achievements, but you will also need to demonstrate that you are committed to reinvigorating and sustaining your career as a music creator.

After Applying

Applicants will be shortlisted internally and may be presented to a panel of industry experts. The final decisions will be based on the strength of your music and what you've told us in your application. Applicants will be notified of the outcome within 8-10 weeks.

You will receive a confirmation email once you submit your application. If you haven't received this then please get in touch with creative@helpmusicians.org.uk who can check for you.

Please also email the team if something has changed in your plans after having submitted your application.

If your application is not successful you are able to re-apply as soon as you are ready. We advise you to read the guidance notes and blogs and book a phone call with a member of our Creative team [here](#).