

Applying for support for your Musical Theatre Studies

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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 have 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 Help Musicians support your musical theatre studies?

Help Musicians' Ian Fleming Musical Theatre Awards offer support to students who wish to complete their studies at leading UK conservatoires and performing arts colleges. You could be awarded between £1,000 and £5,000 towards the cost of one year of study. Our support can be used towards the cost of your final year of your undergraduate course or a postgraduate course, and associated living costs and expenses.

Eligibility

Who can apply?

Our Ian Fleming Musical Theatre awards are open to students who are studying musical theatre at Postgraduate level, or are going into their final year of undergraduate study at one of the following UK conservatoires or performing arts colleges:

- ArtsEd
- Guildford School of Acting

- Guildhall School of Music and Drama
- Leeds Conservatoire
- London School of Musical Theatre
- Mountview Academy
- Royal Academy of Music
- Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- Royal Central School of Speech and Drama
- Royal College of Music
- Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
- Royal Northern College of Music
- Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
- Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
- Urdang Academy

To apply for our Ian Fleming Musical Theatre Awards, you must:

- Be intending to study Musical Theatre at a UK conservatoire in either your final year of your undergraduate course, or a postgraduate course
- Be a UK resident*
- Be in financial need and without significant backing (by this we mean not receiving significant financial backing from a private investor and not having over £16,000 in savings)
- Demonstrate that you have the musical potential and ambition to create a successful and sustainable career within the music industry.

If you are not sure if you are eligible, sign up for a 1:1 support session with a member of our Engagement team here or contact support@helpmusicians.org.uk.

*Help Musicians refers 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 need to have the legal right to live and work in the UK.

Ineligible activities

There are a number of courses/activities that we are unable to support through our Ian Fleming Awards. Please read through this section carefully before making your application. We are unable to support:

- Undergraduate courses (apart from your final year)
- PhDs, MPhil, DMus, Doctorates
- Non-music performance degrees such as composition, music technology, music education, music therapy, arts administration, and music business
- Study from the previous academic year

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. Guidance for what we are looking for can be found below.

The deadline to apply is **9am on Monday 6 June 2022**

What are we looking for in an application?

Biography

We are looking to understand your key achievements to date, including any notable performances or collaborations. Tell us about any competition successes you may have had or any masterclasses you have attended. You might want to include information on academic achievements or the repertoire you have worked on so far.

Reasons for study

We want to understand why you want to continue studying and the opportunities you will embrace whilst at college and outside of your studies. You should identify goals you would like to achieve by the end of this year of study. You might want to include details of any technical aspects or repertoire you would like to work on during this time or highlight the people you would like to work with. If you have studied an undergraduate degree at the same institution, explain why you want to continue there.

Career aspirations

We want to know what your future plans are. You should include your short-term goals after graduation as well as your longer-term career ambitions and the steps you need to take to reach these goals.

Financial need

This is where we want to see how you hope to fund your studies. You should detail any financial difficulties you might face and the impact support from Help Musicians will have on your next year of study.

Budget

This section gives us an idea of your financial situation. You should provide us with as much detail as possible, including how much your rent will cost and whether you are applying for support from elsewhere. Your budget is likely to calculate a shortfall of how much you will need to fully fund your next year of study.

Your audition programme

Should you be shortlisted for audition, you must provide us with your proposed audition programme.

Singers

You should prepare 2 contrasting musical theatre songs and 1 short monologue. Your total programme should not exceed 10 minutes.

Your audition will be followed by a short informal interview.

Musical Directors

You will be assessed on your rehearsing, directing, keyboard and sight-reading skills. You will need to prepare the following from the musical *West Side Story*:

Ensemble piece 'Gee Officer Krupkee', which you will talk through how you would approach rehearsing this piece with the panel. Be prepared to demonstrate how you might direct certain sections

An extract of no more than 2 minutes from any of the Jets and Sharks dances, to demonstrate keyboard ability

You may also be asked to sight-read a short musical theatre song provided on the day, lasting no longer than 3 minutes.

The panel may ask any questions they may have at the end of your audition.

Musical Director auditions will last approximately 25 minutes.

After applying

Applicants will be shortlisted internally based on your responses to the application questions. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for audition on **30 June**. The final decisions will be based on musical potential shown at audition, your financial need and your ambitions to create a sustainable career in music.