

## Applying for support for your Opera Studies

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### Who are we?

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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 opera studies?

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Help Musicians' Sybil Tutton Opera 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 an opera specific postgraduate course and associated living costs and expenses.

### Eligibility

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#### Who can apply?

Our Sybil Tutton Opera awards are open to students who are studying opera at Postgraduate level at one of the following UK conservatoires or performing arts colleges:

- Guildhall School of Music and Drama
- National Opera Studio
- Royal Academy of Music
- Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

- 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
- Welsh International Academy of Voice

To apply for our Sybil Tutton Opera Awards, you must:

- Be intending to study Opera at Postgraduate level at a UK conservatoire or performing arts college
- 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](mailto: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 Sybil Tutton Opera Awards. Please read through this section carefully before making your application. We are unable to support:

- Undergraduate courses
- Postgraduate vocal studies courses
- 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**

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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.

## **Voice**

You should prepare at least 2 contrasting arias. Your total programme should not exceed 10 minutes.

Your audition will be followed by a short informal interview.

## **Répétiteurs**

You should prepare a short scene (including at least two characters) from each of two contrasting operas, and perform them, singing the vocal lines yourself. An accompanied recitative and a short secco recitative by Mozart or Rossini should also be prepared. The two scenes and recitatives should be no more than 15 minutes in total. Sight-reading excerpts and language tests in French, German and Italian may also be given. Your performance will be followed by a short interview lasting approximately 5 minutes.

## **After applying**

Applicants will be shortlisted internally based on your responses to the application questions. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for audition on **1 July**. 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.