



Help  
Musicians

# The Sybil Tutton Opera Awards

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## Who are we?

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Help Musicians is an independent charity, with an extraordinary history. For nearly 100 years, we have provided a broad spectrum of help, support and opportunities to empower musicians aged 18+, at any stage of their career, from times of great need to times of opportunity, providing a lifetime of support when it is needed most.

## Meet our Creative Programme Team

**Claire Gevaux**  
Director of Programme

**Lucy Bampton**  
Head of Creative Programme

**Julia Hayes**  
Creative Programme Manager

**Ellie Moore**  
Senior Programme Officer

**Bex Ransom**  
Creative Programme Officer

**Barnaby Duff**  
Creative Programme Officer

**Shadrack Mutali**  
Creative Programme Assistant

**Help Musicians supports music creators in all aspects of their lives and careers, from creative output, to health & wellbeing, business and professional development needs. We hope that we can help you reach your full potential**

## What are the Sybil Tutton Opera Awards?

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Our Sybil Tutton Opera Awards offer support to students who wish to complete their studies at the leading UK conservatoires and performing arts colleges. Sybil Tutton had a lifelong love of opera, which in later years was expressed as a passionate interest in the training of young singers. Her working life was spent at Mallet's antique dealers in Bond Street, London, where her father was a director and major shareholder. On his death, Sybil inherited his holding, becoming the largest single shareholder.

In 1988 she used her personal funds to set up the Sybil Tutton Charitable Trust, which was to provide financial help for the postgraduate training of outstanding young opera singers who, it was believed, would achieve the standards of excellence she expected in a performance.



## Are you eligible?

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This year our postgraduate awards are open to students who are either hoping to start a postgraduate degree or move in to a second year of postgraduate study in September 2020.

Our postgraduate awards are only open to students who wish to study opera or repertoire at the following conservatoires or performance institutions:

- Guildhall School of Music and Drama
- Leeds College of Music
- National Opera Studio
- Royal Academy of Music
- 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
- Wales International Academy of Voice

To apply for our Opera Awards, students must:

- Be intending to study a postgraduate degree in September 2020. (ie. Mmus, MA, PGDip, Artist Diploma) or will be joining the Young Artist Programme at National Opera Studio
- Have lived in the UK for at least 3 consecutive years at the start of the academic year in which they will be supported by the award
- Be in financial need
- Demonstrate that they have the musical potential and ambition to create a successful and sustainable career within the music industry

Help Musicians strongly encourages applications from students from underrepresented backgrounds, including those from BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) backgrounds, D/deaf and disabled people; and those from lower socio-economic groups.

The maximum number of academic years for which students can receive financial support from Help Musicians towards their postgraduate study is three for instrumentalists and four for singers.

Please contact us if you are not sure whether you are eligible or if you have any queries regarding our eligibility criteria.



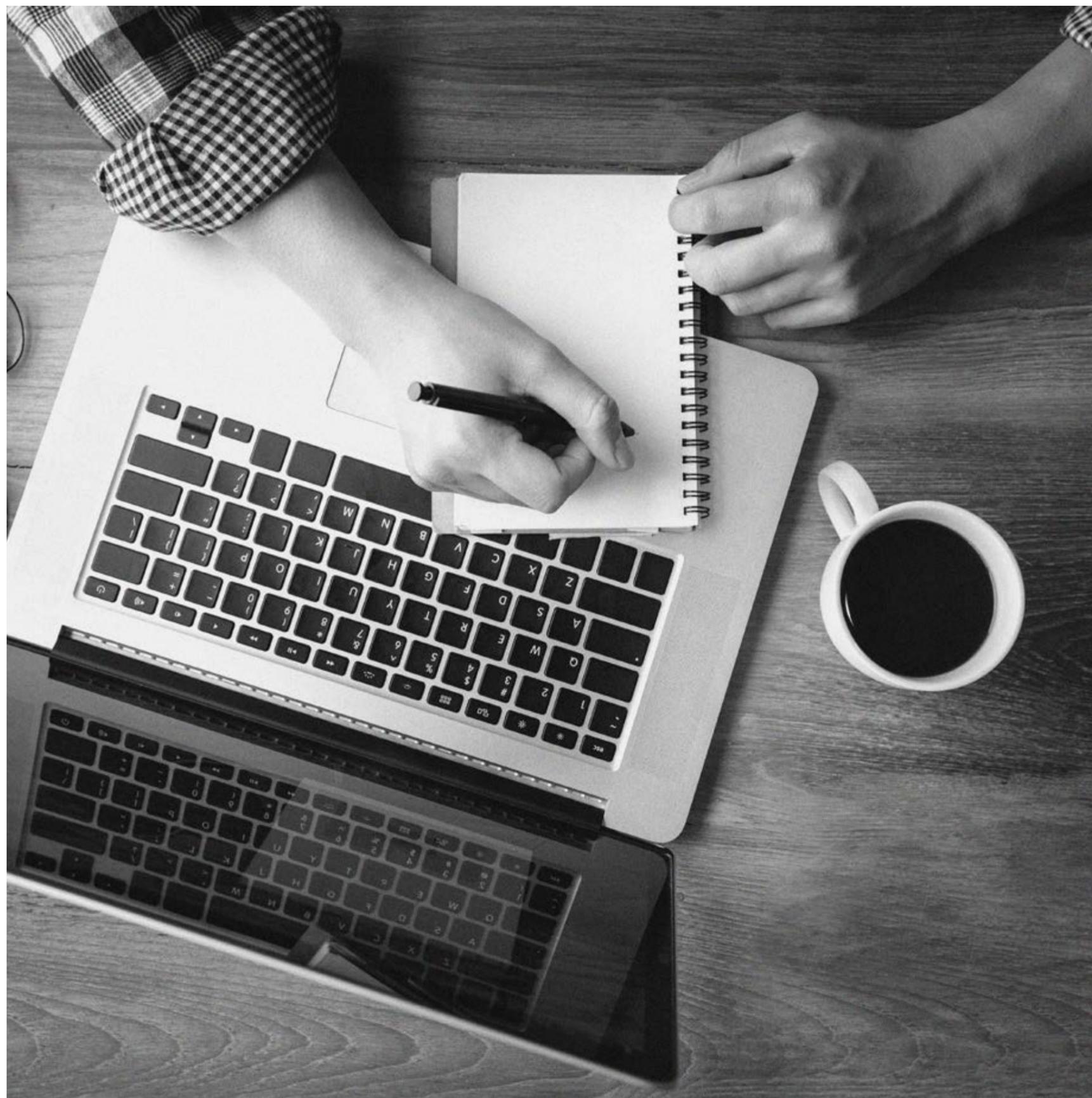


## What we can't fund

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Through our Opera Awards, we are unable to fund:

- Non-music performance degrees such as composition, music technology, music education, music therapy, arts administration and music business
- Undergraduate courses
- PhDs, MPhil, DMus, Doctorates
- Study from the previous academic year
- Applications from students not intending on studying at the above institutions



## Your application

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To apply for our Postgraduate Awards, you must complete our [online application form](#). You will be asked to:

- Provide a short biography
- Outline your key achievements to date
- Tell us why you have chosen to undertake postgraduate study and what you hope to get out of another year of study
- Detail your longer-term ambitions and how you hope to achieve these after graduation
- Provide financial information and a statement on what difference an award from Help Musicians will make to your studies
- Provide up to three good quality online video links to recent recordings

You should also ask a referee to [submit a reference via this online form](#) to support your application. This could be a teacher, lecturer or head of department. Choose somebody that knows you best.

The deadline to complete the application form is **5pm on Monday 25 May 2020**. Any applications submitted after this time will not be accepted.

After the deadline has passed, we will assess your application. Applications will be scored based on:

- Financial need
- Ambition to create a sustainable career

If your application is shortlisted, your video submissions will then be forwarded to our external panel for assessment. The panel will be assessing musical potential.

Extra consideration will be given to applications from students from underrepresented backgrounds, including those from BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) backgrounds, D/deaf and disabled people; and those from lower socio-economic groups.

Extra consideration will also be given to students studying outside of London.



## Video submissions

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Due to the current situation regarding COVID-19, we have suspended all in-person activity this year. If you are shortlisted, your application will then be forwarded to our external panel who will focus on your video submissions. The panel will be looking for individuals who can demonstrate that they have the musical potential and ambition to create a sustainable career within the music industry.

### **Singers**

You must provide links to three good-quality online videos consisting of three arias. All three videos should last no longer than 10 minutes in total.

Bear in mind the background of your videos and make sure you entitle each video with the name of the song and its composer. We would prefer videos of solo performances with piano accompaniment or recorded backing track. We are aware that some people may not be able to record anything new during this period and therefore we may accept other recordings if discussed with the creative team prior to submission. Please make sure you have checked your online links work before you submit your application.

Please note that once you have submitted your application, you won't be able to change your recordings.

### **Répétiteurs**

You must submit a CV to accompany your application and you will also have space to provide online links for up to three video recordings. One of these recordings should demonstrate your keyboard skills. The other video recordings could include:

- A video of a short scene (including at least two characters) from an opera. You should sing all the vocal lines yourself and accompany yourself on the piano.
- A video of an accompanied recitative and a short secco recitative by Mozart or Rossini.
- A video of you talking through how you would approach learning an entirely new opera prior to the first rehearsal

Please email a member of the creative team to discuss your video links prior to submission.

If your application is shortlisted, you may be invited to a video interview with the panel where they will ask further questions. During this interview, they may also provide language tests in French, German and Italian.



## Your award

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If you are offered an award it must be used towards postgraduate study costs for the next academic year (2020/2021). You must inform us if your study plans change and we reserve the right to alter or withdraw the award offer. **We will request evidence of place acceptance and enrolment before releasing your award.** Awards are paid directly to students. Awards of £3,000 or above will be paid in three instalments, in October 2020, January 2021 and April 2021. Smaller awards will be paid in one instalment in October 2020.

## Timeline

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Date	Activity
24 April	Applications open
25 May	Applications close
26 May - 16 July	Assessment period
17 July	Results

## Contact details

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### Lead contact

#### Bex Ransom

Creative Programme Officer

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### General contact

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