



Help
Musicians

The Pop and Traditional Music Awards

Contents

[Meeting our team](#)

[What are the Pop and Traditional Music Awards?](#)

[Are you eligible?](#)

[What we can't fund](#)

[Your application](#)

[Video Submissions](#)

[Your award](#)

[Timeline](#)

[Contact Details](#)

Who are we?

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 Pop and Traditional Music Awards?

Our Postgraduate Awards offer support to students who wish to complete their studies at the leading UK conservatoires and performing arts colleges. We have been making awards to postgraduate music students of between £1,000 and £5,000 for almost 100 years. Funding is available for course fees and associated living costs whilst studying.

Are you eligible?

This year our Popular Music and Scottish Traditional Music 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.

We are currently only able to fund students who wish to study performance at the following institutions:

- Leeds College of Music
- Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
- Royal Northern College of Music

To apply for our Postgraduate Awards, students must:

- Be intending to study a postgraduate degree in September 2020 (ie. Mmus, MA, PGDip, Artist Diploma)
- 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.

Please note that 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?

Through our Postgraduate 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

Applications open on **24 April 2020** and the deadline is **Monday 25 May 2020 at 5pm**.

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 two 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 for application forms and references 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

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.

You should provide online links to two good-quality video submissions. These videos can be of a solo performance or you can provide a video with an ensemble or band providing it is obvious who you are amongst the other musicians. We will also accept submissions with a backing track as an accompaniment.

Your two video submissions 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 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.

Your award

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

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

Contact details

Lead contact

Bex Ransom

Creative Programme Officer

bex.ransom@helpmusicians.org.uk

General contact

creative@helpmusicians.org.uk

020 7239 9119