

Applying for
support for your

Postgraduate Studies

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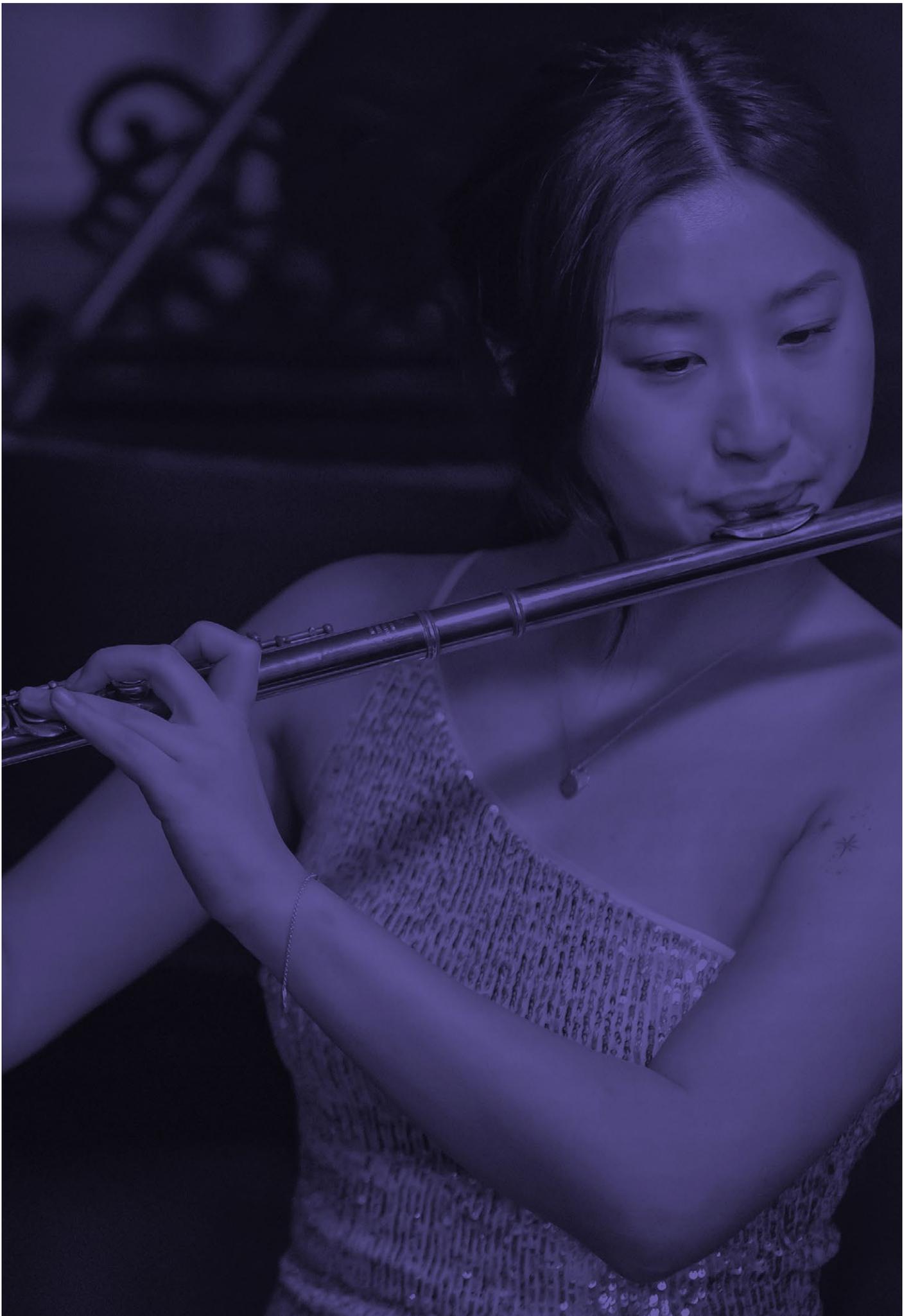
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Who are we?

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 study 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](#).

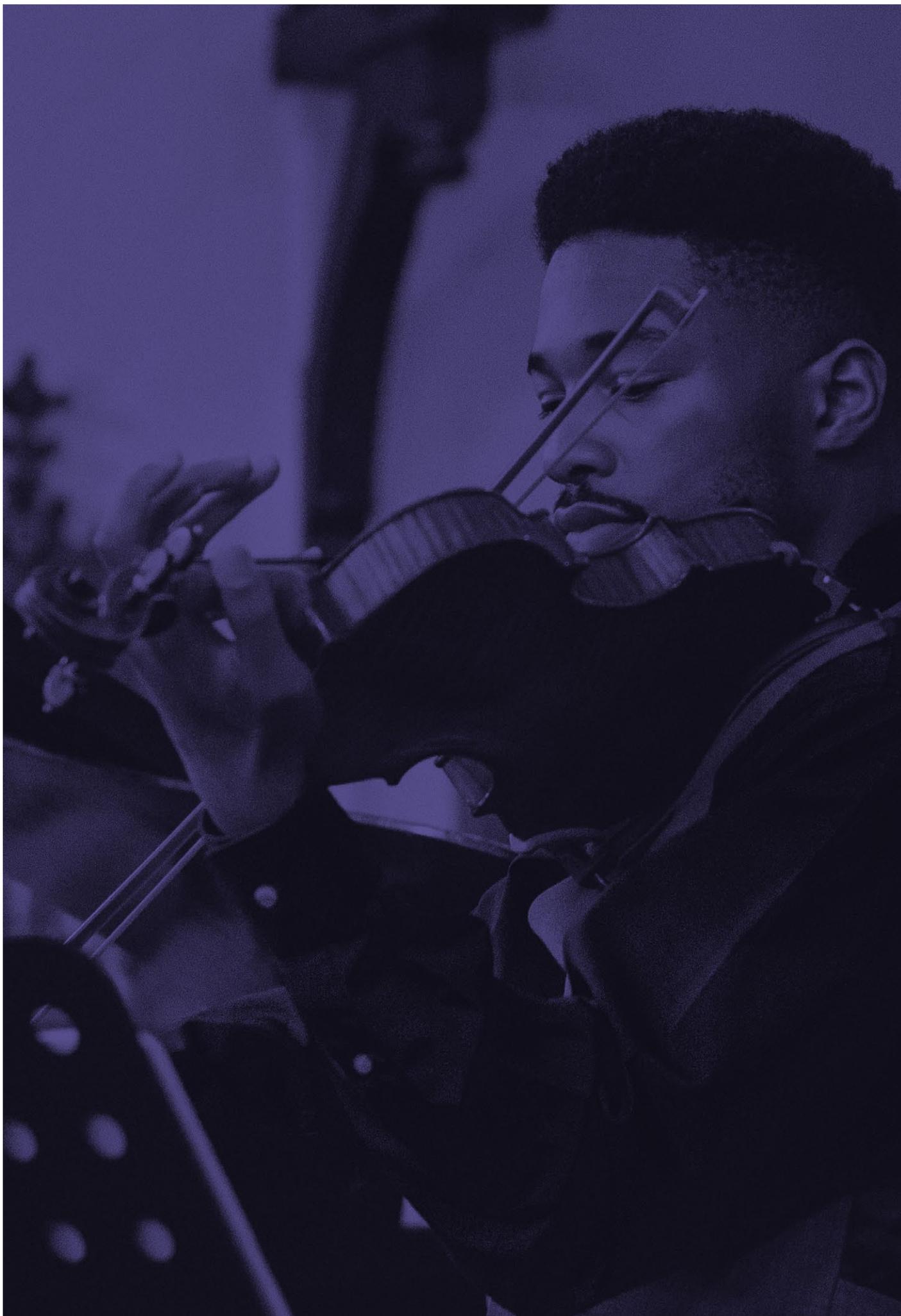




How can Help Musicians support your postgraduate studies?

Help Musicians' postgraduate 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 a postgraduate course and associated living costs and expenses.



Eligibility

Who can apply?

Our postgraduate awards are open to students who are studying music performance at Postgraduate level at one of the following UK conservatoires or performing arts colleges:

Guildhall School of Music and Drama
Leeds Conservatoire
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
National Opera Studio (répétiteurs only)

To apply for our postgraduate awards, you must:

- Be studying or are intending to study a postgraduate music performance degree at a UK conservatoire (ie. Mmus, MA, PGDip, Artist Diploma)
- 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

Help Musicians strongly encourages applications from students from underrepresented backgrounds, including those from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds; D/deaf and disabled people; and those from lower socio-economic groups.

If you are not sure if you are eligible, sign up for a 1:1 support session with a member of our team [here](#) or contact creative@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 been living in the UK for at least 183 days and have the legal right to live in the UK

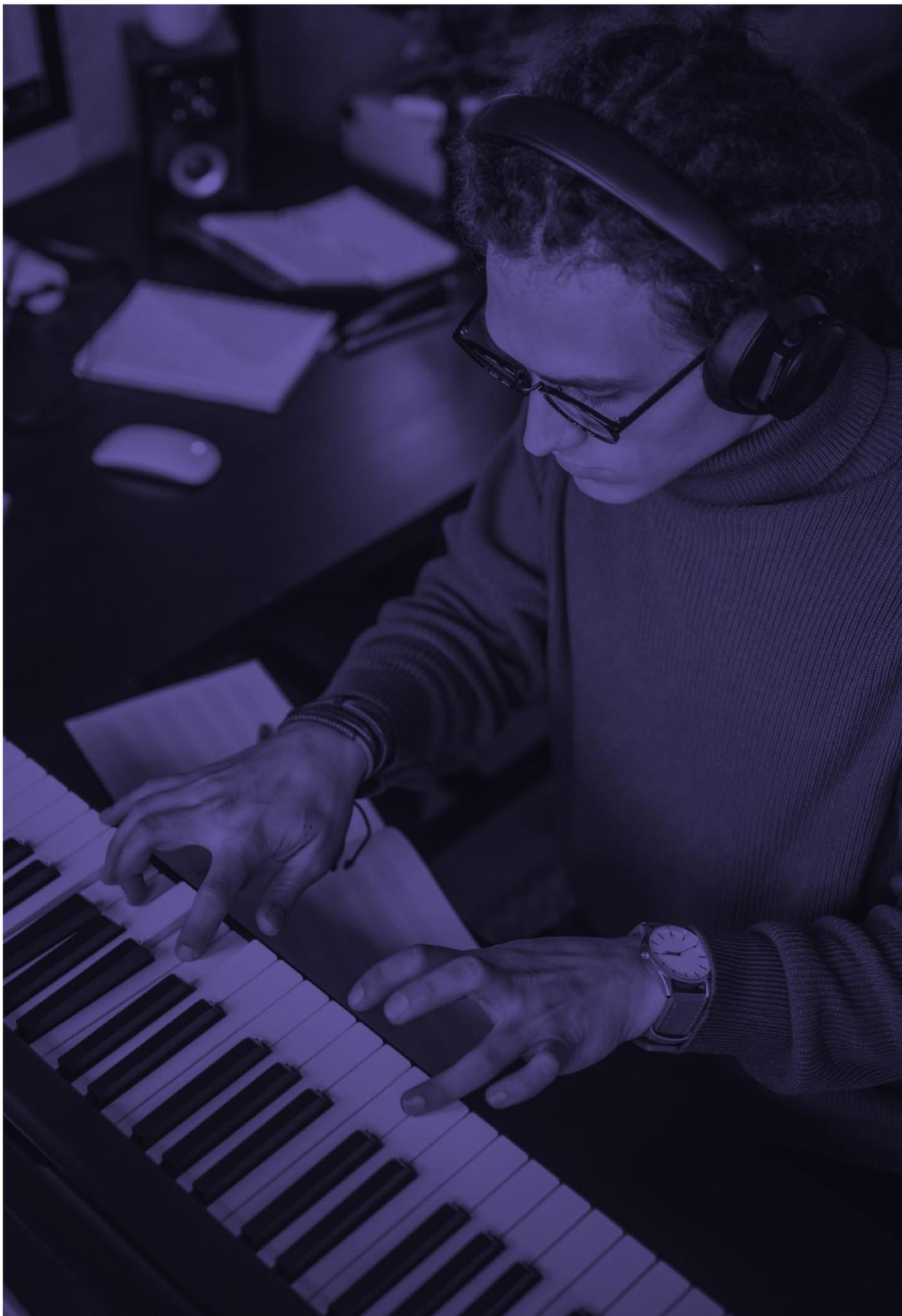


Ineligible activities

There are a number of courses/activities that we are unable to support through our postgraduate awards. Please read through this section carefully before making your application.

We are unable to support:

- Undergraduate 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

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 7 March 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 - do make sure you have addressed this shortfall in the financial need section.



Your audition programme

Should you be shortlisted for audition, you must provide us with your proposed audition programme. For most singers and instrumentalists your programme must consist of at least two contrasting pieces and your whole programme should last no longer than 10 minutes. We can provide an accompanist for brass, upper strings, lower strings, woodwind and voice disciplines, so please indicate if you would require this.

Accompanists, repeteurs, jazz and pop applicants should review the specific audition requirements below.

Accompanists

You should prepare a programme of 10 minutes with either a violinist, a cellist, or a singer. Your programme should comprise of either:

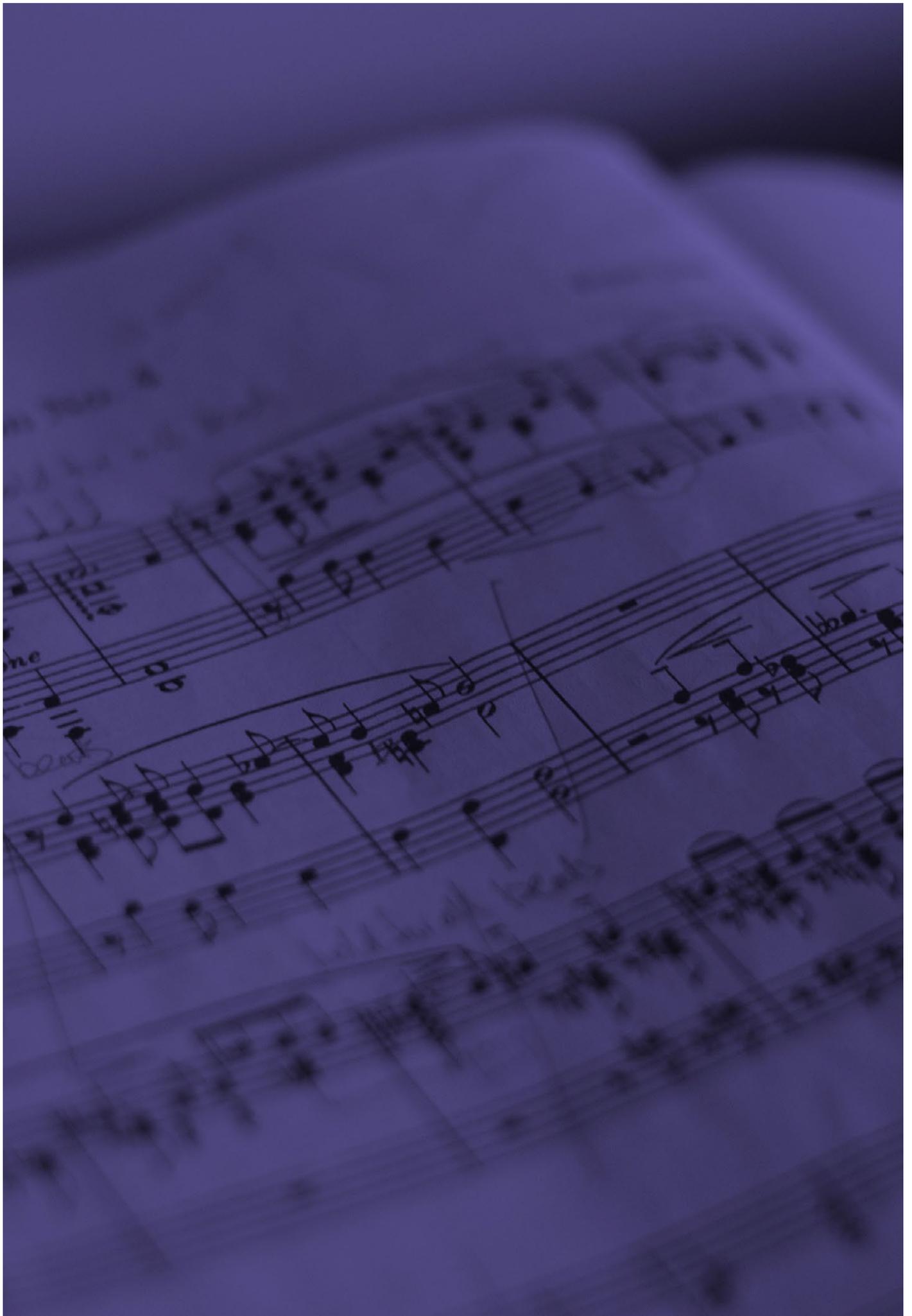
- a) a movement from a Classical or Romantic sonata and a contrasting piece written before 1950, or
- b) three songs of contrasting styles and periods.

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.

Popular Music and Jazz

You are invited to audition with a backing band or group consisting of no more than 6 other performers. Full backline will be provided by the venues; however, you must bring your own breakables.





After applying

Applicants will be shortlisted internally based on your responses to the application questions. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for audition during the first two weeks of April. 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.

