

WE'RE
HERE TO
<b>HELP</b>
<b>MUSICIANS<sup>UK</sup></b>

# Postgraduate Awards 2019

Application pack

December 2018

## 1. Welcome

Help Musicians UK is Britain's leading independent music charity. Since 1921, Help Musicians UK (HMUK) has provided help, support and opportunities to empower musicians at all stages of their lives. HMUK's mission is to create a sustainable future for all musicians and those who work in the industry. The charity works in partnership to transform the music industry through advocacy, campaigning, programmes and targeted investment for all those within it.

Through the **Creative Programme**, HMUK gives help, advice and funding to musicians and those working in the industry across all genres by supporting artistic practice, professional development and removing barriers that exist for many to launch and sustain a professional music career.

### Postgraduate Awards

HMUK's postgraduate awards offer support to students who wish to complete their studies at the leading UK conservatoires and performing arts colleges. The charity has been making awards to postgraduate music students of between £1,000 and £5,000 since the 1970s. Previously these awards have been run on a nomination basis where Heads of Departments put forward students for our awards.

This year, as part of our ongoing research, we have changed the process so that individuals can apply directly to us. This is an interim change as we review the whole postgraduate award process. The 2019 award structure will inform our research and will help us to devise a new scheme for 2020.

In 2018, the average award for a postgraduate musician was **£2,420** helping 125 students with their next year of study. In 2019 we hope to award £300,000 through our postgraduate awards.



## 2. Eligibility Criteria

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 2019**.

Our postgraduate awards are only open to students who wish to study **performance** 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 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
- Wales International Academy of Voice\*

\*opera courses only

From **2 January 2019** we will accept applications from students who wish to study the following disciplines:

- Brass
- Guitar
- Harp
- Historical Performance
- Jazz
- Lower strings
- Percussion
- Piano/ piano accompaniment
- Upper strings
- Voice
- Woodwind

Applications from the following disciplines should apply in **April 2019**:

- Musical Theatre
- Opera
- Popular Music
- Répétiteur

For applications made in January, if your application is shortlisted for audition, these will take place in London during the **8-18 April 2019**.

For applications made in April, if your application is shortlisted for audition, these will take place during **24-28 June 2019**. Please see the table of audition dates below. We are unable to accommodate individual circumstances so please check you can make your audition date before you apply.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Discipline</b>
Monday 8 April	Jazz
Tuesday 9 April	Piano and accompaniment
Wednesday 10 April	Upper Strings
Thursday 11 April	Guitar and Harp
Friday 12 April	Historical Performance and Percussion
Monday 15 April	Lower Strings
Tuesday 16 April	Woodwind
Wednesday 17 April	Brass
Thursday 18 April	Voice
Monday 24- Friday 28 June 2019	Second Audition Period

Students who wish to study **Musical Theatre** should download the separate application guidelines which will be available in April. Applications for musical theatre will open in **April 2019**.

To apply for our Postgraduate Awards, students must:

- Be intending to study a postgraduate degree in September 2019. (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

HMUK 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 HMUK towards their postgraduate study is three for instrumentalists and four for singers.

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

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

### 3. Your Application

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

- Provide a short biography
- Attach a reference from someone who knows you best. This could be a lecturer, teacher or Head of Department (alternatively you can ask your referee to email your reference to [creative@helpmusicians.org.uk](mailto:creative@helpmusicians.org.uk))
- 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 UK will make to your studies
- Provide links of recent recordings or videos to support your application

You will be asked to provide your audition programme should you be shortlisted for audition. Please make sure you have read the audition requirements in the section below.

You must confirm your availability to attend an audition during the audition period 8 -18 April. You will also be asked whether you require the HMUK accompanist. Accompanists are available for strings, woodwind, voice, opera, musical theatre and brass auditions. Please indicate on the form whether you would require our accompanist should your application be shortlisted.

The deadline to complete the application form is **5pm on Monday 4 February 2019**. Any applications submitted after this time will not be accepted. Please ensure if your referee is emailing us your reference this is also sent over by 4 February deadline too.

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

- Financial need
- Ambition to create a sustainable career

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.

## 4. Audition information

Should you be shortlisted for audition, these will take place on the following dates:

Date	Discipline
Monday 8 April	Jazz
Tuesday 9 April	Piano and accompaniment
Wednesday 10 April	Upper Strings
Thursday 11 April	Guitar and Harp
Friday 12 April	Historical Performance and Percussion
Monday 15 April	Lower Strings
Tuesday 16 April	Woodwind
Wednesday 17 April	Brass
Thursday 18 April	Voice
24-28 June 2018	Musical Theatre, opera, répétiteurs and popular music Exact dates tbc

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.

Help Musicians UK Postgraduate Awards, Sybil Tutton Opera Awards and Ian Fleming Musical Theatre Awards will be given to those who score highly against financial need, ambition to create a sustainable career and their musical potential.

We also have various named awards available. These will be awarded to those who give the best performances at audition.

Named awards include: Harrison Award

Ian Fleming Awards

Myra Hess Award (for piano)

Parikian Award (violin)

Maidment Award (voice)

Van Allan Award (tenor or bass awarded through our opera awards)

You will be notified whether you have been shortlisted for audition by **Monday 11 March** by email. The audition requirements are as follows:

### **Instrumentalists/Singers**

Audition programmes must last no more than 10 minutes and must consist of at least 2 contrasting pieces, songs or arias for students studying on an opera course. Students should bear the time limit in mind when preparing their audition programme; and be aware that the audition panel chair can stop an audition at any time. Students will then have a short interview with the panel lasting approximately 5 minutes where you will be asked questions specifically focussing on your musical potential.

### **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.

Choice of repertoire and presentation will play an important part in the panel's assessment of your performance. You may be questioned on the music performed or interviewed by the panel at the audition.

### **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.

### **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. Audition programmes must last no more than 10 minutes and must consist of at least 2 contrasting pieces. Students should bear the time limit in mind when preparing their audition programme; and be aware that the audition panel chair can stop an audition at any time. Students will then have a short interview with the panel. You will also have 5 minutes to set up and pack down before and after your audition.

### **Musical Theatre\***

Please see separate guidelines.

\*These auditions will be held in June.

## **5. Audition arrangements**

Should you be shortlisted to audition, please arrive **no more than 30 minutes before** your audition. Wherever possible you will have 10-15 minutes to warm up and, if appropriate, rehearse with either your own accompanist or the HMUK official accompanist (providing you have requested their services in advance). You will be heard by a specialist panel whose names will be available to you on the day. The final decision concerning all awards rests with the Panel Chair, who has the discretion to withhold any awards if suitable candidates are not heard. We hear a significant number of candidates in any one day, and as such we are only able to provide general feedback rather than individual.

### **Travel Expenses**

HMUK will provide travel expenses up to £50 to individual students travelling from outside of London and up to £75 for those travelling from Scotland or Northern Ireland. Receipts must be provided otherwise travel expense claim will not be approved.

For popular music and jazz students who audition with a group consisting of more than 3 musicians, we can pay up to £150 in travel expenses. Receipts must be provided.

If travelling by rail, you must book advanced fares. We can reimburse mileage (at a rate of 45p per mile) if this is the more economic option, in order to claim mileage please retain the post codes and calculate mileage for the totality of your journey.

## 6. Your Award

If you are offered an award it must be used towards postgraduate study costs for the next academic year (2019/2020). 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 2019, January 2020 and April 2020. Smaller awards will be paid in one instalment in October 2019.

## 7. Timeline

Wednesday 2 January 2019	Applications open
<b>Monday 4 February 2019</b>	<b>Applications Close</b>
Tuesday 5 February - 8 March 2019	Shortlisting
<b>Monday 11 March 2019</b>	<b>Notifications</b>
Monday 8 - Thursday 18 April 2019	First Audition Period
<b>Friday 10 May 2019</b>	<b>Results</b>
Friday 26 April 2019	Applications for opera, musical theatre and popular music opens
<b>Monday 27 May 2019</b>	<b>Applications Close</b>
Tuesday 28 May - 11 June 2019	Shortlisting
<b>Wednesday 12 June 2019</b>	<b>Notifications</b>
Monday 24 - Friday 28 June 2019	Second Audition Period
<b>Friday 19 July</b>	<b>Results</b>

## 8. Contact Details

### **Bex Ransom (Lead Contact)**

Creative Programme Officer  
[bex.ransom@helpmusicians.org.uk](mailto:bex.ransom@helpmusicians.org.uk)  
0207 239 9110

### **General Enquiries**

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