



Help  
Musicians

# The Transmission fund

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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, it has 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.

## Transmission Fund applications during COVID-19

Transmission Fund provides **grants of up to £1,500** to fund opportunities that focus on developing your artistic practice and furthering your professional development at a crucial point in your career.

Musicians may be fearful of the implications COVID-19 could have on their own health and their performance and teaching commitments, which in turn might have an impact on a range of issues, including finances and mental health.

We know through out this time the very nature of what it is to be a working musician has changed, with numerous gigs and tours postponed or cancelled. For detailed information about how Help Musicians may be able to support you in these uncertain times, please visit [coronamusicians.info](https://coronamusicians.info).

Now, more than ever before, musicians need vital funding to support their creative practice, their professional development, and to innovate in response to the ever-changing global situation.

We realise that whilst the ongoing isolation measures have made many traditional learning contexts impossible, this time spent at home can also present opportunities to learn and build new skills and knowledge through online and digital channels.



## Meet our Creative Programme Team

**Claire Gevaux**

Director of Programme

**Lucy Bampton**

Head of Creative Programme

**Julia Hayes**

Creative Programme Manager

**Bex Ransom**

Creative Programme Officer

**Barnaby Duff**

Creative Programme Officer

**Nikki MacRae**

Programme Outreach Officer (Northern Ireland)

**David Culbert**

Development Officer (Scotland)

**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

## Are you eligible?

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The fund is open to emerging and professional musicians of all genres and disciplines. As an individual you may be an instrumentalist, composer, producer, conductor, vocalist or singer- songwriter etc. We can also support bands or ensembles consisting of 6 members or less.

To apply you must:

- Be aged over 18
- Have been resident in the UK for at least 3 consecutive years
- Be in financial need and without significant backing
- Already have an active career and be able to clearly demonstrate the following:
  - Exceptional ability within their discipline
  - High quality musical output
- Regularly working (performances, commissions, releases) at a professional level (getting paid for your work)
- An impressive track record with notable career highlights and the potential to achieve a national or international impact with your field
- An entrepreneurial spirit and dedication toward a career as a musician

## Applying as a group?

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- 50% must meet the criteria as above
- You must have been established and playing together regularly for at least 1 year





Neil Luck | Fusion Fund awardee 2020

## What can we fund?

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We can support learning activities which are able to be undertaken whilst respecting the government advice and restrictions around social distancing. Opportunities must be primarily focused on developing a career as a musician.

These could include:

- Tailored development opportunities such as online courses, 1:1 coaching sessions via video call, fees to attend virtual conferences, online song writing academies and virtual masterclasses
- Short periods of training with a leading professional in your field to improve your creative practice and skills, perhaps leading to enhanced future career opportunities (eg. a period of recording) which can be conducted remotely.
- Short periods of online / virtual mentoring or offer support and advice ahead of an important career opportunity



Moodbay | Transmission Fund awardees 2020

## What we can't fund

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We cannot fund learning or professional development activity which is unlikely to happen during the current uncertain circumstances. Therefore, we ask that all project plans would be able to take place under current isolation measures.

Below are the activities considered ineligible under this fund. Please read thoroughly, for if you apply for any of the below your application will be automatically rejected and will not be shortlisted.

- We cannot fund travel, accommodation or course fees for learning opportunities that could not be delivered whilst adhering to social distancing guidelines and occur in the 6 months from 11th May 2020. If your course happens after the end of October 2020 this may be eligible but we may prioritize opportunities that respond and adapt to the current context.
- We cannot fund activities commencing prior to the funding period. Please check the table of dates under "How to Apply". We cannot fund retrospectively and require a short buffer period following the results date to finalise grant payment schedules.
- The fund is for individual musicians and groups and we are unable to fund organisations
- Activities that are not primarily focused on developing a career as a musician
- Activities incurred as part of a promotional campaign (this includes PR, production of merchandise, creating music videos, manufacture and distribution etc)
- Formal courses of study, training or research (this includes undergraduate study, postgraduate study, year-long courses, PhD study)
- Regular 1-1 lessons
- Purchase of musical equipment, production and composition software/hardware, performance related technology
- Purchase or hiring costs of vehicles
- Recording costs (studio hire, engineering, mixing, mastering)
- Commissioning costs
- Touring costs
- Attendance as a performer at showcases already supported by the International Showcase Fund or similar funding opportunities in the nations (SXSW, CMJ, A3C, Womex, Reeperbahn, Folk Alliance International, Canadian Music Week)
- Costs associated with entering competitions
- Opportunities already funded by Help Musicians through our network of partners
- Although we won't exclude applications that are asking us to contribute to a wider project, Transmission funding shouldn't be seen as a top up fund for larger funding bids
- Please note you can only receive support from the Transmission Fund once in a 12-month period. For details of other funding opportunities, both Help Musicians-led and external, please visit our [Funding Wizard](#)

## How to apply

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Applications are submitted through an online form. You will be asked to provide a biography outlining both your artistic and career achievements to date along with details of the specific career development opportunity you wish to apply for (including information regarding the costs incurred by this opportunity).

You will be required to provide supporting evidence of your music in the form of recordings, videos and weblinks.

All materials including your reference must be received by the closing date otherwise your application will be ineligible. Please note you can only receive one Transmission Fund grant per 12-month period.

There are multiple deadlines per year. Please follow Help Musician's Social media channels for news of upcoming deadlines.

## Don't forget your reference

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You must also supply a **reference** from an eminent musician or music professional not connected with your project.

All materials including your reference must be received by the closing date otherwise your application will unfortunately be deemed ineligible.



## Guidance for applications

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When making your application it is important that you look carefully at the criteria to make sure that you are eligible, as 23% of applications are rejected due to being ineligible.

Through your application you need to tell us why we should support you, setting out clearly what you have achieved in your career to date, details of the opportunity you want to undertake and why it is crucial for your development at this point in your career. Keep in mind that it is unlikely that we will have any prior knowledge of you, your music and your project so the clearer you can be and the more examples you can give us the better! You can find more advice on [how to apply for funding](#) on our website, along with tips from some previous Transmission Fund recipients like [Bex Burch of Vula Viel](#).

Our funding is for those who already have an **active career** performing or creating great music; you need to make sure you give evidence of your key achievements.

This could include:

- Notable live performances and commissions
- Your most recent releases
- Examples of critical acclaim
- Evidence of your growing fanbase
- Notable collaborations
- Qualifications, prizes or awards

If applying after a break or a change in circumstance we will take into consideration your past achievements, but you will also need to demonstrate that you are committed to reinvigorating and sustaining your career in making music.

### Forms not your thing?

We understand applicants will have different preferences in how they communicate their ideas, and therefore, you will have the option of answering some of the key questions either in writing or by video upload. Check out the blog section of the Help Musicians website to see some examples of these. You will be required to provide supporting evidence of your music in the form of recordings, videos and weblinks. You must also supply a reference from a renowned musician or industry professional not connected with your application. All materials including your reference must be received by the closing date otherwise your application will be considered ineligible.

## We're here to help

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If you would like any further advice, you can check out our website for more [advice on putting together funding applications](#), book in a phone discussion or contact us at [creative@helpmusicians.org.uk](mailto:creative@helpmusicians.org.uk) or on **020 7239 9119**.

