

The

Transmission

fund

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Who are we?

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.

The COVID-19 Round of the Transmission Fund

Transmission Fund provides grants of up to £1,500 to fund opportunities to develop your skills or artistic practice in order to further your development as a musician. This could be a virtual conference to learn more about the industry, an online course to enhance your skills, 1:1 coaching or an online masterclass with an expert in your field, or perhaps some time to work with a mentor.

We understand that now, more than ever before, musicians need vital funding to support their creative practice, their professional development, and to innovate in response to the everchanging global situation. We also understand that the limitations brought about by Covid-19 have changed the way we engage in new opportunities. For musicians who are able to, this time spent at home can also present a chance to learn and build new skills and knowledge through online and digital channels.

We know that in the last few months, the very nature of what it is to be a working musician has changed, with numerous gigs and tours postponed or cancelled. We have worked with our industry partners to create a central website for guidance during in these uncertain times, please visit [Corona Musicians](#) for more information, sources and help.



Ashirah Sounds | Transmission Fund awardee 2020

Are You Eligible?

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, singer- songwriter; a musician of any discipline. We can also support bands or ensembles consisting of 6 members or less.

To apply you must:

- Be aged over 18
- Be in financial need and without significant backing
- Already have an active career and be able to clearly demonstrate the following:
 - Strong ability within your discipline
 - High quality musical output
 - Regularly working (performances, commissions, releases) at a professional level (getting paid for your work) before the pandemic?
 - 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.

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 have been living in the UK for at least 183 days and have the legal right to live in the UK
- If you are a UK or non-UK National and have not been living in the UK for at least 183 days, access to grants and funds is discretionary and decisions will be made on a case by case basis. This would be based on the reason for the application, for example, you have had to go abroad to look after a relative for a period of time.

Applying as a group?

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



Grainne Gillis | Transmission Fund awardee 2019



Ondrej Soukup | Transmission Fund awardee 2020

What Can We Fund?

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 intensive learning or skills development exploring new technologies, in order to support and adapt your practice or performance in music
- Short periods of online / virtual mentoring or offer support and advise ahead of an important career opportunity or transition.

What We Can't Fund

We cannot fund projects which are considered to be built on uncertain circumstances. Therefore, we ask that all project plans would be able to take place under the 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 and access costs relating to the above
- Activities commencing prior to the funding period. 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](#).



Neil Luck | Fusion Fund awardee 2020

How to Apply

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.

Don't forget your reference

You must also supply a [reference](#) from a renown 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.



Anna Lowenstein | Transmission Fund awardee 2020

Guidance for Applicants

When making your application, it is important that you look carefully at the criteria to make sure that you are eligible, as 25% 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.

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.



Alex Hitchcock | Transmission Fund awardee 2020

Additional Information

Please note, the Help Musicians offices are closed, but our teams are working remotely. We will aim to respond to your email within 3 working days, but we are experiencing an unprecedented number of calls for support at this time, so please bear with us while we get back to you. We have a number of resources on our website that offer advice on how to best approach a Help Musicians fund application.

Please note that this fund is not intended to replace lost income and it is not a hardship fund. You can find important information about possible avenues for further support on [CoronaMusicians.info](https://www.coronamusicians.info).

Our Health and Welfare team offers structured support to professional musicians in times of personal crisis. Our approach is person-centred; building tailored support around an individual's needs. If you need to speak to the Health & Welfare team about this further, please call 020 7239 9101 or email help@helpmusicians.co.uk.



Mike LDN | Transmission Fund awardee 2020