Grant Giving Musical Trusts for Study & for the purchase of Instruments

Please Note: This document is to serve as a guide only and was correct at the time of compiling in Oct 2026. Always check the relevant website for updated and further information.

Grant Giving Musical Trusts

The Countess of Munster Musical Trust

- Funding for postgraduate instrumentalists, singers and composers.
- Applications open on January 1st 2027 and close on 10th February 2027.
- Offers awards of £4,500

Drake Calleja Trust

- Scholarships for Undergraduate and Postgraduate musicians.
- Applications open on 11th Jan and close on 15th Feb 2027
- Scholarships range from £1,500- £5,000
- Auditions are between 8 - 16th May 2027

Help Musicians

- Awards for postgraduate instrumentalists and singers (including opera), as well as support for some musical theatre courses
- Application dates will be announced on their website
- Offers awards from £1,000 - £5,000.

Hattori Foundation

- Offers both senior (21-27) and junior (15-20) awards to instrumental soloists or chamber ensembles.
- Senior Award applications close end of April 2027, Junior Awards ongoing,
- Senior grants up to £5,000, Junior grants up to £1,000

Wayne Sleep Foundation

- Awards for Musicians, Dancers and Actors studying at Undergraduate and Postgraduate level at a Performing Arts Institution.
- Applications open on Monday 30th March 2027
- Applications close: Sunday 17th May 2027
- Awards typically range between £500 - £2,000

tillett trust

- Invites a nomination from each of the main British conservatoires for an outstanding student about to enter their second or subsequent year of postgraduate study.
- Awards typically range between £1000 - £5000

Craxton Memorial Trust

- Offers biennial awards of between £500 - £2,000 for postgraduate study or special projects.
- The next round of awards will be in May 29th - 31st 2027.

Sir James Caird Trust

- Awards to Scottish Musicians (born in Scotland or with a Scottish parent or grandparent) travelling away from their home town to a place of study either in the UK or abroad.
- The scholarships are for post graduate levels of study
- Offers awards up to £5,000

The Musicians' Company

- Prizes and scholarships worth around £200,000 a year
- Most awards are by conservatoire nomination
- Open entry awards have their own deadlines
- Winners join the Young Artists' Programme

Music Funding Key Dates

Funding dates 2027

Applications Open: 1st Jan

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Applications Close: 10th Feb

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Reference Deadline: 19th Feb

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Auditions: 3rd Apr - 12th May

Applications Open: 11th Jan

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Applications Close: 15th Feb

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References: Only required if asked to audition

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Auditions: 8th - 16th May

Applications are by nomination from each of the UK based conservatoires.

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Auditions: April (usually during easter break)

Written application (opening date to be announced)

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Auditions will take place in London (dates to be announced)

Applications Open: Jan

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Applications Close: 30 Apr

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Auditions: June

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Awards paid from Sept

Applications Open: Nov

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Applications Close: 8th Feb

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Auditions will take place in London: 29th, 30th, 31st May

Applications Open: October 1st

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Applications Close: January 29th

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Auditions held in April

Applications Open: 30th March

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Applications Close: 17th May

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Auditions: Date TBC, auditions will take place in London

Applications: by nomination from your conservatoire

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Open entry awards: deadlines vary by award

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Auditions: usually in June (postgraduate awards)

For exact information, it is crucial to visit the trust or foundation website for your application.

DRAKE CALLEJA TRUST

Help Musicians

Sir James Caird Trust

WAYNE SLEEP FOUNDATION

Application Information

CRAXTON MEMORIAL TRUST

tillett trust

HATTORI FOUNDATION

PRAESERVE HARMONIA

THE MUSICIANS' COMPANY

The Countess of Munster
MUSICAL TRUST

Application Information

Eligibility

- **UK citizens**: resident in the UK and/or completed a continuous course of education in the UK within the last 10 years.
- **Commonwealth Students:** funding for study within the UK .
- **International students:** must have previously completed a undergraduate course within the UK.

Application Top Tips

- Do **not** submit repeat repertoire, between round 1 and 2 or from a previous application.
- Fill out the financial form accurately.
- If submitting a video of a longer work, cut to the required listening length.
- All video submissions must be dated.
- Once an application has been submitted, check that your chosen referees have received the link and submitted their references by 17th of February.

Application process

- Opens on **1st January 2027**, and closes on **10th February 2027.**
- Submit two contrasting videos (totaling 10 minutes) with recording dates.
- Fill out financial form.
- Two references are required. Referees will receive an automatic email, and their responses must be submitted by **17th February, 2027.**
- Approximately **100** applicants will be selected for a live audition.
- If you have been turned down for an award once you can apply again.
- You can receive a **maximum** of two awards in total.

Audition Dates 2027

- **Keyboard:** 3rd April
- **Jazz & Composition:** 13th April
- **Organ Brass, Percussion and Accordion:** 14th April
- **Voice:** 26th & 27th April
- **Woodwind:** 5th & 6th May
- **Strings:** 11th & 12th May

Audition Requirements

- Your will perform for around 10 minutes followed by a brief 5 minute interview.
- Please check our website for specific requirements for composition, collaborative piano, and percussion
- Repertoire used in your application videos may not be repeated in live audition.

For more information, please visit www.munstertrust.org.uk, email max@munstertrust.org.uk, or call Max on 020 7759 1220

DRAKE CALLEJA TRUST

Application Information

Eligibility

- Open to all nationalities: UK, EU, and international students
- Scholarships available for musicians aged 18 and over, with no upper age limit
- No residency requirements
- Applicants must prove enrollment as a student in the UK for the 2027-28 academic year

Application Top Tips

- Applications must be submitted online via the website form only; no other formats accepted
- Clearly state your instrument or voice type
- Specify the course and academic year you will be entering
- YouTube links are preferred; ensure they are unrestricted and do not expire

Application process

- Submit applications via the online form by 15th February 2027
- Provide two video recordings (approx 5 minutes each) via the form; longer recordings allowed if specific sections are indicated
- Recordings must be made within the last year; YouTube links preferred
- Include name and email of a referee. Reference required only if invited to audition
- Submit a budget for the 2027-28 academic year
- Provide a 600-word personal statement and updated biography/CV

Audition Requirements

- Invited auditionees must perform two contrasting pieces totaling about 10 minutes
- A short interview will follow the performance
- Piano accompanist provided free of charge if needed
- 15–20 minutes rehearsal time available before the audition

Audition Dates 2027

- Sat 8th -Sun 16th May
- Exact Manchester dates tbc
- Exact London dates tbc

For more information, please visit www.drakecallejatrust.org, email info@drakecallejatrust.org, or call +44 7973 333770.

Application Information

Eligibility

- Be studying or are intending to study a postgraduate music performance degree (ie. MMus, MA, PGDip, Artist Diploma), starting in September, at one of the UK conservatoires.
- Be aged 18 or over
- Have the legal right to live and work in the UK, and currently live in the UK
- Not have more than £10,000 savings (some exceptions apply)
- Have a UK bank account
- Demonstrate that you have the musical potential and ambition to create a successful and sustainable career in music.
- International students must demonstrate they have been resident and studied in the UK for 3 or more years prior to applying
- We are unable to consider applications from students who have been awarded postgraduate support within the last 2 years

Application Top Tips

- Read any guidance on the website carefully
- Ensure you have set up a Help Musicians profile
- Provide as much detail as possible in your application answers
- Check that any links you provide work
- Use the word count to your advantage
- Allow plenty of time

Audition Requirements

- **Singers & Instrumentalists:** Prepare two contrasting pieces by different composers, totaling no more than 10 minutes. An accompanist can be provided for brass, strings, woodwind, and voice disciplines.
- Additional requirements are in place for disciplines such as piano accompaniment, or musical directors - please see the website for further details
- Each discipline is assigned an audition day and this cannot be changed. If you are unable to make the day assigned to your discipline, contact the team as soon as possible

Application process

- Set up a Help Musicians profile
- Submit a written application and financial need statement
- Submit links to two recordings of contrasting rep
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to in-person auditions at a London venue (tba)

Audition Dates 2027

Please keep an eye on our website for information about upcoming application and audition dates.

For more information, please visit www.helpmusicians.org.uk, email support@helpmusicians.org.uk, or call +44 (0)20 7239 9101

HATTORI FOUNDATION

Application Information

Eligibility

Senior Awards

- Senior Awards (ages 21–27)
- Postgraduate-level instrumental soloists
- Chamber ensembles with average age ≤27 and at least 12 months together
- British citizens
- or foreign nationals normally resident, or studying full-time, in the UK

Application Top Tips

- Complete all sections clearly.
- Detail your budget and financial needs.
- Use recent, quality recordings with varied repertoire.
- Choose a contrasting recital programme with a pre-1850 piece.
- Provide a concise, complete biography.
- Select referees who know your work well.
- Submit everything on time (and give your referees time to submit their supporting reference).

Audition Requirements

- Invited applicants must perform a 20-minute recital featuring 2 or 3 contrasting works from different periods.
- The programme must include at least one work composed before 1850 (transcriptions allowed). Exceptions apply for instruments with no solo works before 1850 (e.g., trombone, accordion).
- Works from stage 1 recordings may be included in the recital.
- The recital will be followed by an interview with Trustees, the Music Advisor, and possibly an independent adjudicator.
- Awards decided on individual talent, musicality, and the suitability of requested assistance.

Application process

- Use the appropriate application form available from the Foundation's website.
- Select types of financial assistance needed.
- Submit project description with detailed 2027-28 budget (costs, income, shortfall).
- Explain your career development plans.
- Include YouTube link(s) to 30+ minutes of recordings (3+ contrasting works, including one pre-1850), made within 6 months of application deadline.
- Submit a 20-minute recital programme (2-3 contrasting works, one pre-1850).
- Provide two referees; ask them to send references directly to the Foundation.

Audition Dates 2027

- Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th June in central London.

For more information, please visit www.hattorifoundation.org.uk, email admin@hattorifoundation.org.uk, or call 020 7620 3053

CRAXTON
MEMORIAL TRUST

Application Information

Please note the next round of applications will be in 2027

Eligibility

- Applicants must have been resident in the UK for two years prior to applying.
- Awards are currently made to pianists and instrumentalists, excluding the players of organ, harpsichord and percussion.
- We do not give awards to assist with undergraduate expenses.
- The age limit is 26 years at the closing date.

Application Top Tips

- Make sure both references are from highly qualified individuals and sent directly to the Trust.
- Clearly outline your goals and how the grant will support them.
- Be concise but thorough in your personal statement.
- Ensure your CV is up to date and relevant to your musical background.
- Double-check all details before submitting: spelling, dates, contact info.
- Proof of payment may be helpful if sending electronically.
- Use email for faster delivery, but post is accepted too.

Application process

Complete the application form with all required personal and musical details.

- Write a short statement explaining:
- Why you're applying
- How you'll use the grant
- Why you need it now

Include with your application:

- Updated Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- £20 non-refundable fee
- Arrange for two references to be sent directly by qualified referees by the deadline.

For more information, please visit www.craxtonmemorialtrust.org.uk or email info@craxtonmemorialtrust.org.uk

Sir James Caird Trust Application Information

Eligibility

- Scholarships for postgraduate level students studying music away from their home town or for undergraduate students of exceptional ability who also study music away from their home town
- Applicants may be of any gender, must be of Scottish nationality, i.e. either (a) having been born in Scotland or (b) if not born in Scotland having at least one parent or grandparent who was born in Scotland

Audition Requirements

- Arrive on time
- Applicants should arrange their own accompanist
- Composers must forward to the Administrators some recent scores of their work
- All instrumentalist are required to make arrangements for their instrument except pianists

Application process

- Your application should include:
- Personal letter (on A4 paper) outlining your aims and intentions
- Estimated course cost for your proposed study
- Copy Birth Certificate
- If not born in Scotland, also submit a copy birth Certificate of Scottish parent or grandparent
- Ask at least two referees to complete and send the forms directly to the Trust

Application Top Tips

- Applications can be submitted by email to the Trust Manager
- Ensure to include references and a cover letter
- Complete applications in full, ideally typed and ensure your email address is included

Audition Dates 2027

- Auditions at the end of March, in Glasgow and London

For more information, please vistit www.cairdtrust.org.uk email Chris Gardiner at cgardiner@thorntons-law.co.uk

WAYNE SLEEP FOUNDATION

Application Information

Eligibility

- Must have lived in the UK for the past 3 years
- Must be 18 or over (no upper age limit)
- If successful, the Institution will be asked to confirm that the student is enrolled for the 2027/2028 academic year

Application Top Tips

- Applications must be submitted by Sunday 17th May
- Double check that any links provided work
- Try to provide as much detail in your estimated budget as possible

Audition Dates 2027

- Auditions will take place in London, and the date will be announced on our website.

Application process

- Submit the application by: Sunday 17th May 2027
- Provide two recordings (maximum 10 minutes duration)
- Provide a detailed budget for the academic year
- Provide a reference, who will be contacted prior to audition.

Audition Requirements

- Applicants who are invited to audition will be asked to prepare a performance lasting no longer than ten minutes. This could consist of one single piece, or multiple pieces.
- Following the audition, there will be a short interview with the panel.
- An accompanist will be provided for free for those who need it.
- A rehearsal space is available 15 minutes before the audition time.

For more information, please visit www.waynesleepfoundation.org or email info@waynesleepfoundation.org

THE MUSICIANS' COMPANY

Application Information

Eligibility

- Most awards are for students at UK conservatoires and partner institutions, nominated by their place of study
- The postgraduate scholarships (Company Awards, Carnwath Piano Scholarship and the Biddy Baxter and John Hosier awards) follow nomination by the conservatoires
- Open entry awards have their own criteria, for example:
  - Tina May Jazz Award: UK residents under 30
  - Dankworth Prizes for Jazz Composition: aged 28 or under
  - Eddie Harvey Jazz Arranger Awards: British residents
  - Etc.

Application Top Tips

- For nominated awards, contact your institution of study rather than the Company
- Download the entry form and regulations from each award's page, and read the rules carefully
- Enter early: some competitions charge a fee, such as £30 for the Ivor Mairants Guitar Award
- Award winners are invited to join the Young Artists' Programme

Application process

- Nominated awards: your conservatoire or institution puts you forward, so ask them for details
- Postgraduate scholarships are decided by competitive audition after nomination
- Open entry awards: submit the entry form from the award's page by its deadline
- Tina May Jazz Award: email a CV, a covering letter and two jazz referees to assistant@wcom.org.uk by 30th March 2027
- Ivor Mairants Guitar Award: entry form, £30 fee, a copy of your birth certificate and a reference from a music college or teacher, by 16th March 2027
- Dankworth Prizes and Eddie Harvey Awards: entries due by 8th January 2027

Audition Dates 2027

- Ivor Mairants Guitar Award: 16th April, Guildhall School
- Postgraduate Company Awards: usually June
- Tina May Jazz Award final: typically September

Audition Requirements

- Tina May Jazz Award: a two-set public gig with only two hours' rehearsal
- Ivor Mairants Guitar Award: two contrasting movements from Mairants' Jazz Sonatas, plus one set piece
- Company Awards: a contrasting programme of at least two pieces from different periods, up to 12 minutes
- Carnwath Piano Scholarship: a contrasting programme of at least two pieces from different periods, up to 15 minutes

For more information, please visit www.wcom.org.uk, email clerk@wcom.org.uk or call 020 7496 8980

Postgraduate Bursary Information

Eligibility

- The Tillett Trust annually invites a nomination from each of the main British conservatoires for an outstanding student about to enter their second or subsequent year of postgraduate study. These nominees are auditioned and offered study grants according to ability and financial need. All applicants are nominees and these awards are not open to independent individuals.
- Conservatoires will be asked to provide the CV and biography of their candidate, plus a covering letter outlining the candidate's financial need with a full breakdown of costs, fees, living expenses and any income.
- Bursaries are open to both UK and international students and candidates can be from any discipline of performance study.
- Bursaries can also be put towards living expenses.

Audition Requirements

- Candidates will perform a programme of 20 minutes of music of their own choice, followed by a short interview in which they will be asked about their expectations and aspirations as well as their previous achievements and current financial position.

Audition Dates 2027

- Usually in April in the Easter holidays

For more information, please visit www.thetilletttrust.org.uk or email info@thetilletttrust.org.uk

The Countess of Munster
MUSICAL TRUST

The Loan Fund for Musical Instruments

Instrument Purchase Loans

The Abbado European Young Musicians Trust

Instrument Purchase Loans

The Countess of Munster Musical Trust

Eligibility

- Open only to past beneficiaries who have received a Munster Trust study award
- Applicants must have completed their studies and be working as professional musicians
- Applicants must be able to audition in person in London if invited

Loans

- Interest-free loans of up to £20,000
- A small number of loans are offered each year
- Designed for musicians who, after their studies, lack the funds for an instrument of the quality their career needs

Repayment

- Repaid over five to 12 years, depending on the size of the loan
- Repayments usually begin after a 10-month grace period
- E.G. a £10,000 loan is repaid at £119 a month over seven years
- Exact terms depend on each applicant's circumstances

Application Dates

- Applications open on 1st January 2027
- Forms and video recordings are due by midnight on 10th February 2027
- References are due by 17th February 2027
- Late applications are not accepted

What the Application involves

- Online application form via the Trust's website
- Two contrasting pieces on YouTube, about five minutes each, recorded in the last six months
- Two references on career prospects and dependability
- Pieces performed at audition must differ from those recorded

Hearing Back

- Auditions run from 3rd April to 12th May 2027, depending on instrument
- Loan offers are made to selected applicants once the full process is complete
- Results may not be confirmed until early to mid June

For more information, please visit www.munstertrust.org.uk, email max@munstertrust.org.uk or call 020 7759 1220

Instrument Purchase Loans

The Abbado Trust

Eligibility

- For musicians under 30 on the threshold of a professional performing career
- Aimed at those who need help buying a high-quality instrument
- Applicants need at least one guarantor who lives permanently in the UK
- If that guarantor is a relative or partner, a second, independent guarantor is required

Loans

- Interest-free loans to help with the purchase of an instrument
- No minimum or maximum is published; applicants state the amount they need
- The instrument must be insured at the borrower's own cost
- Security may be required, and an administration charge may apply

Repayment

- Loans are generally repaid within five years
- Monthly repayments are usually set at a minimum of £150
- Applicants propose their own repayment period and start date
- Once the loan is repaid, borrowers are asked to report on the difference it made to their career

Application Dates

- No fixed application dates or deadlines are published
- Applications are only considered once all supporting documents have been received

What the Application involves

- A signed application form with full details of the instrument, including proof of its authenticity
- Details of income, existing debts and any other funding applied for
- At least two references, one on character and one on musical ability
- A full CV and a copy of the applicant's passport

Hearing Back

- No decision timescale is published
- The Trustees may contact existing lenders or other funders as part of their review
- Successful applicants receive pre-contract information setting out the loan's key terms
- They then complete a loan agreement, along with the supporting guarantees

For more information, please visit www.abbado.co.uk or email the Administrator, Liane Hartnett, at liane.hartnett@crsblaw.com

Instrument Purchase Loans

The Loan Fund for Musical Instruments

Eligibility

- For young professional musicians whose main income comes from performing in public
- Open to those aged under 36 when applications close
- Must be able to show enough income to cover the repayments
- Applicants should normally live in the UK, with preference given to British nationals

Loans

- No minimum or maximum loan amount is published
- Loans are for one specific instrument that will be used in public performance
- Electric and electronic instruments are not covered
- Practice pianos and organs are only funded for players already recognised as soloists or accompanists

Hearing Back

- Each application is considered individually by the Executive Committee at its regular meetings
- No timescale for hearing back is published
- No loan should be assumed until a formal offer is received

Application Dates

- Applications are considered at the Executive Committee's regular meetings
- Applications close one month before each meeting, by the date given on the website

What the Application involves

- Application form and personal statement
- Two references, including the most recent teacher or employer
- 15 minutes of recent video, including two contrasting pieces in unedited takes
- Copy of passport or birth certificate, plus the monitoring form

Repayment

- Repaid over a maximum of five years
- Equal monthly instalments of a fixed amount, by standing order
- Interest is charged: currently 5% APR on the full loan amount, reviewed regularly

Grant Scheme

- Eligibility: Students in their third year or above of full-time musical study, until two years after the end of their course
- Maximum Grant: £5,000

For more information, please visit www.lfmi.org.uk, email info@lfmi.org.uk or call 020 7496 8980

Audition Outcomes

The Countess of Munster Musical Trust

- Results will be announced at the beginning of June.

Drake Calleja Trust

- Results will be announced at the beginning of June.

Help Musicians

- Results will be announced shortly after auditions.

Hattori Foundation

- Results will be announced by the end of June.
- Awards paid from September.

fillett trust

- Results will be announced shortly after auditions.

Craxton Memorial Trust

- Results will be announced shortly after auditions.

Sir James Caird Trust

- Results will be announced shortly after auditions.

Wayne Sleep Foundation

- Results will be announced shortly after auditions.

The Musicians' Company

- Results will be announced shortly after auditions.