



RPS INSTRUMENTAL PRIZES

APPLICATION GUIDELINES 2020

Thank you for your interest in our Instrumental Prizes. There is one application process that is the same whether you are applying for the RPS Emily Anderson Prize for a violinist, the RPS Philip Jones Brass Prize for an individual brass player or brass ensemble, and the RPS Henderson Chamber Ensemble Award.

Please take time to read the following guidelines and criteria before applying, and continue to consult them throughout the process.

Please note: given the latest government guidelines announced on Monday 4 January, we have decided to defer live auditions for these prizes to the week commencing Monday 12 April, and have duly extended the closing date for applications to midday on Tuesday 2 February.

WHO CAN APPLY

RPS Emily Anderson Prize: Solo violinists of any nationality based in the UK throughout 2021, aged between 18 and 30 at the application closing date.

RPS Philip Jones Brass Prize: Individual brass players or a brass ensemble of up to 5 players of any nationality, based in the UK throughout 2021, aged between 18 and 30 at the application closing date.

RPS Henderson Chamber Ensemble Award: Any chamber ensemble of 3 - 10 performers based in the UK throughout 2021, in any combination of string, wind, brass, keyboard or percussion instruments, aged between 18 and 30 at the application closing date. The ensembles must have performed together for a minimum of 2 years: in your application, you must specify when the group was formed.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications should be submitted via the form on the RPS website. Simply visit the page of the prize that interests you and follow the link supplied there. Brass ensembles eligible for both the RPS Philip Jones Brass Prize and the RPS Henderson Chamber Ensemble Award can simply fill in one form for either and tick the relevant box to be considered for the other.

In the application form you will be asked to submit some basic information about you or your ensemble. Ensembles will need to choose one player to be the designated primary contact. Here, you will also be asked to provide your fixed residential address in the UK. If you are currently a student living away from home in higher education, this should be the address of your family home.

You will be asked about your current situation and plans for the year ahead, and to provide the names and email addresses of two referees (such as your teachers) who can write a short reference, stating how they know you and why they believe you deserve this support for your plans. You will need ask them to send these by email to admin@philharmonicsociety.uk to arrive no later than the closing date (see below). In the subject heading of the email, they should simply write 'Instrumental Prize reference for' followed by your name. It is your responsibility to ensure these references are sent to us by the closing date. We can only consider applications for which we have two submitted references.

You will also need to supply some recent footage of yourself which demonstrates a versatile, varied and strong musical character, complying with the requirements below:

1. We would like to see you play two pieces by contrasting composers: these can be complete works or complete movements of works.
2. These should be filmed 'live', with or without an audience, using either one or more cameras, but not edited together from multiple performances.
3. The two pieces can be submitted within the same film or as separate films. If you do not commence playing at the very start of either film, you must provide the time in minutes and seconds at which you do start playing each piece.
4. Filming must have occurred since 2018 (you are asked to supply the date of filming in the application form).
5. Films should be submitted as links (public or unlisted) to YouTube, Vimeo or equivalent platforms. We regret we cannot accept footage in any other format. You may send links to films that are privately listed online if you prefer, but please ensure to include any passwords with your links in the application form.

The closing date for applications is **midday on Tuesday 2 February 2021**.

We are continually striving to address how we can minimise barriers to the widest possible range of applicants and are proud to have adopted Sound and Music's [Fair Access Principles](#). We particularly welcome applications from under-represented demographics, such as those from a Black, Asian and ethnically diverse background, or those who are disabled. If you feel that any part of our offer - or the experience in applying for it - could inhibit any such person from applying, please do let us know (contact details below) and we will be happy to address this.

NEXT STEPS

So long as government guidelines permit, shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend a live audition in London in the week commencing Monday 12 April.

Here you will meet a small, friendly panel comprising distinguished figures from the music profession.

Your audition will last approximately 20 minutes. In this, the panel will look forward to hearing you play and will also take the time to have a short chat with you about your plans and how you wish to musically progress in the year ahead.

Though naturally we will not have time to hear it all, we ask you to prepare three pieces which clearly reflect your musical strengths, personality and interests, and cover a range of genres and styles. On the day, the panel will ask to hear an extract from each and possibly - if a work has multiple movements - contrasting passages from the same piece.

Repertoire submitted in your application can be included in your final audition, but we also relish the chance to hear you play other pieces too.

Soloists will need to bring their own accompanist to the audition.

We aim to let auditionees know the outcome within a few days.

FEEDBACK

As noted, we can only shortlist a number of applications for audition, and then only offer one entrant each prize. There is considerable competition for this, so please do not be too disappointed if your application is unsuccessful.

If you would like feedback on your application or audition, you are welcome to send an email to admin@philharmonicsociety.uk with the subject heading:

RPS Instrumental Prize feedback – Instrument – Forename Surname

Owing to various commitments, it can sometimes be several weeks before we can send you feedback, so thank you for your patience.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Payment of the prize money will be made into your UK bank account, usually in two instalments over the course of the year.

As a beneficiary of the Royal Philharmonic Society, we ask that you reference the prize in your biography and represent the Society while you are its current recipient. At some stage, we may ask you to help us tell our RPS Members about how we are supporting you, most likely in the form of a written or filmed blog accounting your progress that we can share online. We may also ask you to play and speak at an RPS event for our Members and supporters in return for the prize we have given you.

If you have any further queries not addressed in these guidelines, you can contact us at admin@philharmonicsociety.uk or call us on 020 7287 0019 (our voicemail will be checked daily whilst we work remotely, and we will reply to messages as soon as we can).