



## RPS JULIUS ISSERLIS SCHOLARSHIP

### APPLICATION GUIDELINES 2022

Musicians often benefit from the experience of studying in a different country, drawing from a change of settings and fresh expertise. The Royal Philharmonic Society is pleased to offer young musicians a life-changing opportunity to study abroad, be it to take lessons from a specialist based overseas or to fulfil a course at an international music school or university. This is possible thanks to the RPS Julius Isserlis Scholarship which was generously bequeathed by Cecilia Helen Northcote to us some decades ago, and at her wish is dedicated to the inspirational Russian pianist, composer and teacher Julius Isserlis.

The Scholarship has helped countless musicians in many different ways over the years. Percussionist Rebecca Burch travelled to Ghana to collaborate with local musicians and learn indigenous repertoire, trumpeter Imogen Hancock flew to Oslo for an intensive spell of lessons and masterclasses with Norway's top players, harpist Milo Harper undertook a Masters with Emmanuel Ceysson at the Mannes School of Music in New York, and cellist Finn Mannion travelled to Germany to scope out study options, meet contacts and attend masterclasses.

We hope the prospect of such funding encourages you to think imaginatively about what musical development you could pursue overseas. We recognise these remain somewhat unusual times to plan for overseas study, partly given Britain's changing relationship with the EU and also how things are easing to different degrees in each nation following the height of the pandemic. Funds granted can only be given for plans agreed with the RPS, but we recognise in these circumstances that some modification to these - and particularly to their timeline - may prove necessary as things progress. We don't want current circumstances to deter you from applying, and encourage you to contact us should you have any queries or issues regarding this.

The following Application Guidelines are a step-by-step guide to submitting an application and all that follows. Please read them carefully before applying, and continue to consult them throughout the process.

If do you have any queries, you can contact our Administrator Camilla Carden at [camilla@philharmonicsociety.uk](mailto:camilla@philharmonicsociety.uk) or call us 020 7287 0019.

## KEY QUESTIONS

**What does the RPS offer?** This year, we expect to offer a total of £30,000 from the RPS Julius Isserlis Scholarship to young instrumentalists to study abroad for up to two years. This will be split between a number of musicians, as decided by the panel. Typical grants can range from as little as £500 up to £10,000. In the budget part of your application, you will be asked to tell us how much you may ideally like from the RPS. Given our panel aims to support several applicants each year, some they are able to offer the full amount requested, and some a contribution towards this.

**Who is it open to?** All classical instrumentalists of any nationality between the ages of 15 and 25, who are permanently resident in the UK. In the application form, you will be asked to confirm your age as it will be on the closing date (see below).

**What does it cost?** There is no entry fee so it is free for eligible candidates to apply. If you are shortlisted for audition in London, you would need to cover your own travel expenses and the cost of an accompanist should you need one.

**When is the closing date?** The closing date is **11am on Tuesday 1 February 2022**. We regret we cannot consider any applications received after that time.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications should be submitted via the form on the RPS website.

In the application form you will be asked to submit some basic information about you. 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 next be asked to tell us a little about your musical background then provide an outline of your proposed intentions for travel and study abroad, illustrating why you believe it will be of vital worth to you at this stage. We ask you to provide as much clear detail as you can about your plans at this stage, including place of study and likely teachers, as well as likely dates. On this front, we anticipate your intended planned activity to have begun no later than two years after the closing date for applications.

We also ask you to complete our simple budget template (which you can [download here](#)) outlining likely **costs** of study, accommodation, travel, subsistence and other such things, and any **funds** such as savings, grants, income or other financial means you may have or hope to draw upon to help

fulfil your plans. Here you will also be asked to tell us how much you would ideally like from the RPS. Once complete, you should upload your budget to our online application form. Then there is also space in the form to share anything further about your financial situation not included in your budget. Here you should also account, if the costs in your budget are considerably more than the funds listed, how you hope to address the difference.

You will be asked 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 [camilla@philharmonicsociety.uk](mailto:camilla@philharmonicsociety.uk) to arrive no later than the closing date. In the subject heading of the email, they should simply write 'Isserlis 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.

Lastly, you will 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 solo pieces and in most cases - except for harp, percussion or piano applicants - they should both feature piano/keyboard accompaniment.
3. These should be filmed 'live', with or without an audience, using either one or more cameras, but not edited together from multiple performances.
4. 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.
5. Filming must have occurred since 2019 (you are asked to supply the date of filming in the application form).
6. 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 submission is **11am on Tuesday 1 February 2022**.

## NEXT STEPS

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend a live audition in London which we expect to take place in the week commencing Monday 4 April 2022. We aim to notify you in the week commencing Monday 28 February if you have been selected for audition.

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.

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 likely 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 scholarships to a couple of successful candidates. 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 email [admin@philharmonicsociety.uk](mailto:admin@philharmonicsociety.uk) with the subject heading:

Isserlis 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 grant will be made into your UK bank account, in two or more instalments. The RPS asks for a short written update on your progress before approving each instalment.

As a beneficiary of the Royal Philharmonic Society, we ask that you reference the Scholarship in your biography and represent the Society whilst undertaking your funded activities. 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 grant we have given you.

If you have any further queries not addressed in these guidelines, you can contact our Administrator Camilla Carden at [camilla@philharmonicsociety.uk](mailto:camilla@philharmonicsociety.uk) or call us on 020 7287 0019.