



Guidelines for Applicants 2025-6

These guidelines apply to general funding applications. Applicants for the Vaughan Williams Scholarships for postgraduate composition studies should follow the separate guidelines at: <https://vaughanwilliamsfoundation.org/funding/postgraduate-funding/>

Most VWF grants are under £3,000. Larger grants can be considered for significant projects closely aligned with our objectives. We welcome applications from ensembles, organisations, and individuals.

The Foundation offers support in these principal areas:

Supporting the Work of Professional Composers

- 1 **The performance, commissioning, or recording of music by professional British or Irish composers**, active within the last 100 years, who have not yet gained broad national or international recognition, or who are at an early stage in their careers.

Or

2. **Projects and organisations in the UK that create development opportunities for living composers**, or that promote wider awareness of British or Irish music of the last century.

Please note:

- **Composers are at the heart of our support.** We expect budgets to show they are fairly compensated for their work.
- Grants are typically awarded for notated music written for live performers. (Works combining electronics with live performance will be considered.)
- Supported composers must be British or Irish nationals, or have been resident in the UK for at least five years*.
- We do not generally support performances by composers currently in higher education or by student ensembles.
- The Trustees cannot confirm grants for projects where the names of the composers are not specified.

*Three years for those applying for the Vaughan Williams Scholarships.

The Work and Legacy of Ralph and Ursula Vaughan Williams

Projects that enhance knowledge and understanding of the life and work of Ralph Vaughan Williams and of Ursula Vaughan Williams. This includes:

1. **Performances** of works by Ralph Vaughan Williams that are:
 - a) rarely heard, particularly large scale and stage works;
 - b) presented in special contexts such as music societies or local festivals; or
 - c) performed in territories where RVW's music is seldom heard.
2. The **recording or filming** of rarely performed RVW works.
3. The **publication** of previously unpublished RVW works or the creation of new editions by existing publishers.
4. **Research** into the music of RVW.
5. The **acquisition by public institutions** of RVW research materials such as autograph manuscripts or correspondence.
6. Projects or resources that educate the public about **the life and work of RVW or UVW** and contribute to their **legacy**.

Applicants may apply under either of the above headings, and some projects may satisfy the criteria for both.

Making Your Application

Good to know:

- Applications must be submitted online as we are a paper-free organisation.
- Please check the deadline for submission — the next 12 months' deadlines are listed on the main [funding page](#).
- Trustees may review more than 100 applications at a meeting — concise, clearly written applications are appreciated.
- We are unlikely to fund more than 50% of a project's total budget.
- Trustees base their offer on the information in your application. Please inform us if your project or financial plans change significantly after submission (e.g. repertoire, venues, funding outcomes).
- We receive a high number of applications and are currently only able to fund between 30-35% of the requests we receive.
- If you are unsuccessful, we advise you not to reapply for the same project unless there have been significant changes to the project or the funding plan.
- [Contact us](#) if you experience technical difficulties when applying.

We aim to notify applicants of the outcome within 12 weeks of the application deadline.

Step 1: Get Ready

Before registering, ensure your project aligns with these guidelines and check the next funding deadline (listed on our website). Your project must be delivered — performed, released, or made available — a minimum of three months after that deadline. Please also read our [funding conditions](#).

Step 2: Register Your Application

Online registration will be available on our site when applications are open. Please complete and submit with your contact details, charity number (if applicable), project title, key dates, total budget, and the amount requested. You must accept our [funding conditions](#).

Registration should take no more than 10 minutes. Once submitted, **you will receive an email confirming your unique application number and instructions for uploading supporting information**. Check your junk folder if the email does not appear.

Step 3: Upload Your Supporting Information

Refer to the section below for details on required documents. Supporting files should be in PDF (or MS Office) format. You may upload one combined document or up to four separate files. Please do not send scores or large media files.

Include your application number in all correspondence. All supporting materials must be received by 23:59 on the application deadline date.

What to Include in Support of Your Application

1. Summary Outline

Provide a summary of your project — this must be no more than one side of A4 (and may well be shorter). Include, as relevant:

- A concise overview — who, what, where, and when.
- The key repertoire related to the application.
- The names of principal musicians or participants. (Grants are repertoire-led, and composers must be identified before a grant is confirmed.)
- Details of any partner organisations and their commitment.
- For new commissions, include the duration, instrumentation, and at least two confirmed performance dates (or one live performance and a publicly released recording).
- If applying for a series or festival, you may attach detailed programme information separately.
- The project timeline, including key performance or release dates.
- The project's significance or relevance.
- How the public will access the project (e.g. promoters, streaming, recording labels, distributors, or publishers).
- Research applicants should include the names of two referees.

2. Key Participants

Provide concise information about the applicant (individual or organisation) and key performers or partners. You may include links to relevant web pages. Also include brief information on composers and repertoire related to the project.

For projects featuring emerging composers, please include an online audio link to a recent or relevant composition. Do not send large audio or video files.

If you have not received a grant from the Vaughan Williams Foundation within the last three years, please include evidence of recent work such as a PDF programme, review, or website link.

3. Budget

Include a simple budget showing **costs** and any projected **income**. Any difference between these totals should be shown as a shortfall.

Depending on your project, costs might include:

- Composers' fees and expenses
- Performers' and other creatives' fees and expenses
- Technical staff
- Any accessibility costs
- Music hire or production
- Instrument hire/porterage
- Rehearsal costs
- Venue costs and staff
- Copyright costs (including PRS)
- Concert production
- Recording/Videography
- Recording postproduction and distribution
- Marketing
- Administrative time

On the income side, please indicate:

- Your own contribution from personal or core resources.
- Expected earned income (e.g. ticket sales or advertising).
- Confirmed funding from other sources (including in kind support)
- Pending or planned funding applications.
- Any expected shortfall.

Trustees will want to see you have a workable funding plan. Please disclose the sources of any confirmed or pending funding (e.g. Arts Council, trusts, sponsors, donors, in-kind support, or crowdfunding). Organisations that have not received a grant from the Vaughan Williams Foundation within the last three years should also provide a link to their most recent signed end-of-year accounts (or a PDF copy).

If you are applying for one or two events within a **series or festival**, provide the budget for those specific events only.

If requesting support solely for **commissioning costs**, specify the total composer fee, any related costs, and other income sources. You must confirm at least two scheduled performances of the new work (or one and a publicly released recording), but a full event budget is not required.

No additional information is necessary to support your application.

However, if you believe an extra document is essential, you may include one brief supplementary file. Please do not send musical scores or large media files.