

Coombs Scholarship

Application Guidelines 2021/22

Contents

About Future Talent	2
Our Programmes	
Development Opportunities	
Financial Support	
Eligibility	
Application Requirements	4
Tutor Reference & Information	
Supporting Recordings	
Financial Information	
Important Application Information	6
Saving Application Progress	
Application Submission	
Application Deadline	
Finalists Concert	
How to Apply	
Data Protection Policy	7

About Future Talent

Founded in 2004 by The Duchess of Kent and Nicholas Robinson, we break down barriers, create opportunities and harness the power of music to transform the lives of young musicians across the UK.

With over 4.2 million children living in poverty in the UK and thousands of children with exceptional musical abilities failed by society every year, we want to achieve an equal reality where all gifted young musicians from low-income backgrounds flourish.

Our core is in the evolution of the young lives we affect; inspiring examples of musical talent and life development.

Our Programmes

Future Talent operates two programmes supporting gifted young musicians from low-income backgrounds across the UK. Our **Development Programme** supports musicians aged 13-18 years old, while our **Junior Programme** supports younger musicians at an earlier stage of their musical development. Our programmes offer unique opportunities for young musicians to build confidence, develop personal skills, and enhance their musical experience.

Both programmes are run by our dedicated Relationship Team, on hand to provide guidance and support to our young musicians and their families throughout and beyond their time supported by Future Talent.

The recipient of the Coombs Scholarship will take part in opportunities provided on the Development Programme.

Development Opportunities

Our programmes provide a range of development opportunities led by inspirational expert musicians and educators, including **masterclasses**, world class **workshops**, **Q&As** and **performance opportunities**.

We ensure that every musician is offered a **one-to-one mentoring session** with a top professional musician, selected **based on the young musician's musical interests and aspirations**.

Check out [our news](#) to read about some of the opportunities our young musicians have benefitted from recently.

Financial Support

Alongside these opportunities, we also provide our young musicians with **financial support**. The Coombs Scholarship provides the recipient with **£2,000 per year for 2 years**.

Our financial support applies to the primary instrument only. For instance, a young musician whose primary instrument is the violin may not use their financial support to fund piano lessons.

Awards can contribute towards **any musical costs relating to the musician's primary instrument**, including:

- **Lesson** costs
- **Ensemble & course** fees
- **Exam** and **audition** fees
- **Instrument costs** including purchase, hire, insurance, parts and repair
- Music **technology** and other **equipment**
- **Sheet music**

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for the Coombs Scholarship, musicians must:

- Be **age 16-17 years** on 1 September 2021
- Have been **permanently resident in the UK** for minimum **3 years**
- Be preparing to launch their career or further education in music

Applicants must also provide details of household income totalling **no more than £32,000 per annum**, barring exceptional circumstances, in order to be eligible for support.

Applications not providing evidence of household income will not be considered.

Application Requirements

Some elements of the application require prior preparation. Please ensure you have prepared the following before starting your application.

Tutor Reference & Information

Applications must include contact information and a written reference from the young musician's **primary instrument tutor**.

References must be submitted via **file upload**. Image file formats .pdf, .jpg and .png are preferable. Screenshots of email correspondence are acceptable.

Supporting Recordings

Coombs Scholarship applications must include recordings of **two contrasting pieces** performed on their **primary instrument**.

Please note:

- Applicants may submit 1-2 recordings totalling **12 minutes maximum**
- Recordings can be made using a smartphone, tablet or laptop/computer – professional recording equipment is not necessary!
- Recordings can be **audio-visual or audio only** and **both are assessed equally**
- Recordings can be accompanied or unaccompanied
- Ensemble recordings will not be accepted
- Recordings can be submitted via file upload (max 10MB), private YouTube link or via a **private repository link (e.g. Dropbox, Google Drive)**. We recommend this option as many **audio-visual files will be too large for the file upload option**.

Financial Information

Some sections require applicants to provide detailed information regarding parent/guardian(s) financial circumstances, as well as copies of relevant documentation to support the information given.

Financial documents must be submitted via **file upload**.

For each parent/guardian, applications **must** provide **EITHER**:

- a) 2020/21 P60 **AND** three recent monthly pay slips
- b) 2019/20 P60 **AND** three recent monthly pay slips
- c) 2019/20 SA Tax Return

Applicants must also provide evidence of any support claimed from Universal Credit (Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit, Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance).

To see all financial information required within the Financial Declaration, you can download the application questions to use offline – see **Resources**.

Why do we need this?

We ask for detailed records of each applicants' financial circumstances as due diligence to our supporting trusts, foundations and individuals whose funding exclusively supports young people from low-income backgrounds, to ensure our opportunities and financial support continues to be provided to those who need it most.

Important Information

Finally, applicants should be aware of the following information before applying.

Saving Application Progress

Applicants can start the application form, close it, and return to it later without losing their answers. **Information will be kept safe in local browser storage for 14 days.** In order for information to save, applicants:

- **MUST** use **the same device** on which they started the application
- **MUST** use **the same internet browser** on which they started the application
- **MUST NOT** use **Incognito** or **Private browsing** mode

Applications not submitted within 14 days of being started will be permanently erased and therefore cannot be considered.

Application Submission

In order to submit an application, applicants must click **'Submit'** at the end of the application process. You will receive an email confirming submission within 24 hours.

Please note:

- Future Talent cannot view applications before they have been submitted.
- Applicants cannot return to or make changes to applications after submitting.

Application Deadline

The deadline for all applications is 16 September 2021, at 1200 noon. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Shortlisting will take place immediately after the deadline. All candidates will be notified of results before **8 October**.

Finalists Concert

Successful candidates will be invited to perform at the **Finalists Concert**, taking place in London in **late November (venue and date TBC)**, where the winner of the Scholarship will be decided by a panel of external judges.

How to Apply

After reading this document in full, candidates should [apply online here](#).

Data Protection Policy

Please download and read our statement on data protection [here](#).