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# Philharmonia

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## MMSF Instrumental Fellowships: Piano Fellowships

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The Philharmonia Orchestra's Piano Programme is designed to support the development of talented orchestral instrumentalists at the beginning of their career. The programme has been designed not only to support their musical development, but also to provide them with an awareness of how an orchestra runs and their role within it.

The Philharmonia is dedicated to diversifying our audiences, programmes and workforce. We welcome and encourage applicants from backgrounds that are currently underrepresented in orchestras and actively invite applicants to declare their underrepresented characteristics on their application form.

### Timeline for Piano Fellowships

For details of application opening and closing dates, please visit our webpage [here](#). For more information please email [emergingartists@philharmonia.co.uk](mailto:emergingartists@philharmonia.co.uk).

Three Piano Fellowships are available and consist of:

- An annual grant towards their studies.
- Performance opportunities through recital platforms and other Philharmonia Emerging Artists events.

For those pianists who are interested in exploring a career as an orchestral pianist, we have developed additional content for one out of the three Fellows to participate in a programme of activity to support this area of their practise. This will include:

- The opportunity to sit in on relevant rehearsals with Philharmonia orchestral pianists observing the role of the orchestral pianist.
- Careers advice
- Mock auditions and feedback afterwards
- Coaching prior to auditions

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## Guidelines

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We want to invest in talented instrumentalists who are pursuing an orchestral career. In order to be eligible for the Philharmonia MMSF Fellowship Programme, you must be able to demonstrate in your application an interest in an orchestral career, and some experience of working in an orchestral setting.

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We want to support artists who have the potential to build a sustainable professional career and you will be asked to describe how the Philharmonia MMSF Fellowship Programme would make a significant difference to you at this point in your career or studies.

You should consider the impact the Fellowship would make to both your creative development and long-term career aims. The Piano Fellowship is an annual scheme. Each round is likely to be highly competitive. The panel will review all submitted information and will be asked to consider:

- Your artistic achievements to date and the impact you are currently making in your studies and work
- The impact a Piano Fellowship would have for you as a prospective orchestral musician

## **Age**

Applicants must be over the age of 18 and in full or part-time education, or no more than 18 months out of full or part-time education at the point of applying. You will need to be able to demonstrate this clearly on your application form. As a guide, the programme has been developed with fourth year undergraduate and postgraduate students in mind. We will accept applications from young undergraduates, but all applicants must be over 18 years old.

## **Nationality**

The Piano Fellowship is open to applicants of all nationalities. However, if you are from overseas, you will need to demonstrate that you are still in education and will be for the duration of the Fellowship with a valid visa (if applicable).

## **References**

If you are selected for a second-round audition, we will ask for two references to support your application.

Two references must be written specifically for this application, one of which should be from your current teacher. They should ideally contain the following information:

- How the referee knows the applicant
- In what context they have got to know them
- Why the applicant will benefit from being given a place on the Fellowship Programme
- The applicant's qualifications for the Programme
- How the Programme will benefit the applicant's future development

Two references must have been received by the deadline; otherwise the application will be rejected. The applicants are themselves responsible for ensuring that their application is complete. They should contact their referees in plenty of time to ensure that they are happy to provide a recommendation and are able to do so by the deadline.

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## What we are unable to help with

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Through this scheme we are unable to consider applications for:

- Formal courses of study, training or research (including postgraduate degrees)
- Lessons with your regular teacher
- Costs associated with participating in competitions or showcases
- One off performances, touring or recording costs
- Instrument or equipment purchase
- Any costs incurred prior to a grant being offered

## How do I apply?

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For details of application opening and closing dates, please visit our webpage [here](#).

### Application process

To apply, you will need to complete our online application form before the deadline on our website. If you encounter any problems with the application form or have any questions, please email [emergingartists@philharmonia.co.uk](mailto:emergingartists@philharmonia.co.uk).

Please note, the Philharmonia will **not accept** any alternative applications such as CVs or recordings.

### Auditions

If you are selected for audition, you will be asked to pay a registration fee of £20.

First round auditions will be screened. Final round auditions will not be screened. If invited to audition, you will be sent all the relevant information about what to prepare, including audition piece and orchestral excerpts. Candidates may be asked to do some sight reading. An accompanist will be provided – please do not bring your own. We are unable to provide feedback for unsuccessful candidates following the first-round auditions.