

## Applying for an Award: 2015 information

**Awards for Young Musicians** (AYM) works across the UK and across genres. We help musically talented young people from lower-income families overcome the barriers they face to progressing in their music-making and fulfilling their potential. We combine individual funding, mentoring and other musical/performance opportunities for young musicians; we are also helping to improve the wider environment for their progression, through professional development, advocacy and research initiatives.

These notes are here to help you to apply for an Award. If you have any questions about the process or as you complete the application form, please call: we are here to help you.

### Who can apply?

- Young instrumentalists who will be aged 17 or under at 31 August 2015.
- Young instrumentalists working in any genre are eligible; you do not have to be a classical musician
- Young instrumentalists from lower income families. We use thresholds similar to the Music and Dance Scheme (<http://www.education.gov.uk/b0068711/mds>). Ultimately, however, our [adjudication panel](#) makes decisions based on which applicants are most talented and most in need.
- All previous applicants are welcome to apply.
- Young instrumentalists with settled status in the UK on 1 September 2014, meaning you are a British Citizen or have been granted leave to enter or remain in the UK for an indefinite period or you have a certificate of right of abode **AND** on 1 September 2015 you have been ordinarily resident in the UK for a minimum of 2 years.

### Who is not eligible to apply?

- We are not able to accept applications from young singers.
- Those young instrumentalists who are over the age of 17 on 31 August 2015.
- Those about to enter their first year of undergraduate study.

### What costs can we help with?

- Private music lessons
- Fees for long term music-making courses e.g. specialist music schools/Junior Departments of the music colleges, Saturday music schools. As mentioned above we can't support full time school fees, even at specialist music schools (we can only help with the cost of instrumental lessons at these schools).
- Instrument purchase or hire.
- Fees for special courses, e.g. composing courses, music technology courses, orchestras, bands, chamber groups etc.
- Travel to lessons/courses (long and short term)/rehearsals etc.
- Accessories: e.g. software, strings, reeds, cases, mouthpieces, sheet music etc (not computer hardware, see above).
- Master classes or workshops with orchestras and other professional music making organisations

### What costs can't we help with?

- We can't support costs and activities that have already been undertaken or paid for: for example music lessons you have already had or an instrument you have already purchased.
- We can't help with full time school fees, even at specialist music schools (we can only help with the cost of instrumental lessons at these schools).
- We can't help with purchasing computer hardware such as laptops.

## General notes on the application form

The 2015 Application Form is in PDF format. You should download the Form from our website, **save the form to your computer** and complete it 'offline'. You may need the latest version of Adobe Reader, which can be downloaded, completely free of charge, from <https://get.adobe.com/reader/> **Always type the data. Please do NOT cut and paste data into the Form.** When the Form is complete, it must be emailed, as an attachment to AYM (see below).

1. If you have taken exams, your last examination should ideally have taken place after 28 August 2014.
2. If you've not taken formal music examinations, please provide alternative documentation or other evidence of your musical progression; this will help us assess your future potential; (we recognise that formal music exams are only one indicator of musical progression and that not all young people have taken or wish to take music exams).
3. If you have taken music exams, you should ideally have attained a distinction (or highest pass category) in your most recent exam in your primary study instrument. However you can still apply to us if you haven't got a distinction.
4. You can apply for an Award of up to £2,000; (please don't apply for more as this is the maximum). List what musical costs you need help with: think about what's really crucial to your musical progress now.
5. To be eligible for consideration we must receive all applications fully completed, **with all reference forms and evidence of family income before Friday 13 March 2015.**

## References

### We need you to provide the following references:

- **Music Teacher's Reference:** this form must be completed by the teacher of the instrument for which the award application is being made. This reference must be sent by the teacher **direct** to Awards for Young Musicians. (Please note: we do not need references for each instrument the applicant currently plays: only the one relevant to the application itself.)
- **Recommending Organisation's Reference:** this form must be completed by a representative of an organisation where you make music that is **not** your instrumental teacher or your school. This is to help us to get a fuller picture of your musical life. So think creatively about who you might approach: it might a band you play with, the leader of a course you attended or an orchestra you are a member of. This reference must be sent **direct** to Awards for Young Musicians.
- **The Headteacher's Reference:** when completed, you can send this to Awards for Young Musicians or the Headteacher can email it to us directly.

## Submitting your application and supporting documents

1. **Application forms must be emailed to us. Please do not send hard copies.** Only in exceptional circumstances are we able to accept handwritten applications. If you are unable to complete the form electronically, please contact us prior to submission or we may not be able to process your application.
2. Supporting documents should ideally be scanned and emailed to us, although you can post them if necessary.
3. If you do send information to the Guildford Office, please do not send using recorded delivery. Keep a copy. You can always call us to ensure we have received your information.

## Application and supporting documents checklist

For your application to be complete we must have all of the following documents:

- Application Form: emailed as an attachment to [hannah.turner@a-y-m.org.uk](mailto:hannah.turner@a-y-m.org.uk)
- Proof of income
- Music examination report/mark sheet or other evidence of musical achievement
- Headteacher's reference

The following supporting documents must be sent direct to us by the referee themselves:

- The Recommending Organisation reference
- The Music Teacher reference

All documents can be emailed. Please supply only the documents requested.

### **What happens after I have submitted my application?**

Once we have your application we bring together a panel of independent, expert Adjudicators to make the decisions as to whom we are going to make Awards to.

1. If you are considered for a larger Award, we will invite you to audition for us. If this is the case we will contact you during the decision making process.
2. If you are successful in receiving an Award, payment will be made on receipt of an invoice from the relevant institution or individual e.g. music organisations, music teachers and other suppliers. **Awards are not paid directly to students or their families.** However it will be your responsibility to tell the relevant party that they need to send an invoice to us.
3. Please note our funding is limited as we have to fundraise in order to make these Awards: even if you are successful in gaining an Award, it may not be for the full amount requested.
4. The closing date for receipt of completed Application Forms, Music Teacher's Reference Form, Recommending Organisation's Reference Form and Headteacher's Reference Forms is **Friday 13 March 2015**.
5. We are unable to acknowledge receipt of application forms that are not submitted via email.
6. We will inform all applicants, whether successful or unsuccessful of the outcome of their application (you should hear from us by the end of May 2015).
7. The decisions of the Adjudicating Panel are final and no appeals procedure may be entered into.
8. Due to the high volume of applications we receive we are unable to provide feedback on those that are unsuccessful.

**If you have any questions, please contact Hannah Turner via email at:**  
[hannah.turner@a-y-m.org.uk](mailto:hannah.turner@a-y-m.org.uk) or call on 0300 302 0023