

Application Guidelines 2024/25

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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.

Future Talent operates two programmes supporting gifted young musicians from low-income backgrounds across the UK. Our **Junior Programme** supports younger musicians at an earlier stage of their musical development, while our **Development Programme** supports more advanced musicians.

Our 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.

How it works: Future Talent's Two Programmes

Junior Programme

Discovering Talent - The Junior Award focuses on young musicians in the earlier stages of their musical development.

- Award Amount: **£500 per year**
- Duration: **1 year** (both successful and unsuccessful applicants may reapply each year)
- Level: Grades 1-5 (or equivalent)
- Age: approx. 8-13 years old (young grade 4+ players would also be considered)
- Opportunities:
 - 2 x Big Meets with other Future Talent musicians. Previous workshop examples include improvisation, ensemble skills and group composition
 - Regional workshop and masterclass opportunities.
 - Access to YuStudio
 - Signposting to other opportunities from our partners.
 - Possible opportunities to perform in Future Talent concerts.
 - Regular support from a dedicated Relationship Manager.

Development Programme

Nurturing Talent - The Development Programme focuses on the musicians who show great musical potential but have not had the time or opportunity to have realised it yet.

- Award Amount: **£1,000**
- Duration: **1 year** (both successful and unsuccessful applicants may reapply each year)
- Level: Grades 6+ (or equivalent)
- Age: approx. 13-18 years old
- Opportunities:
 - 2 x Big Meets with other Future Talent musicians. Previous workshop examples include Graphic Scores and Group Song-writing.
 - Regional workshop and masterclass opportunities.
 - Access to YuStudio
 - Signposting to other opportunities from our partners.
 - 2 x 1-1 mentoring session with a professional musician in a genre of interest.
 - Possible opportunities to perform in Future Talent concerts.
 - Regular support from a dedicated Relationship Manager.

Named Awards

Young musicians who apply to Future Talent can also request to be considered for one of our named awards or bursaries. Named awards receive access to all of Future Talent's Programme opportunities.

- **teamArchie Award**
 - Who for: Brass players
 - Award: £2,000
 - Ages: 16-18
- **Harvey Parker Award**
 - Who for: Woodwind players
 - Award: £2,000
 - Ages: 16-18
- **Indian Classical Award**
 - Who for: Indian Classical musicians
 - Award: £2,000
 - Ages: all
- **Future Talent | VOCES8 Award**
 - Who for: Choral Singers
 - Award: Place on the VOCES8 summer school
 - Ages: 15-18

- **Future Talent | National Children's Choir of Great Britain Award**
 - Who for: Choral Singers
 - Award: Place on the NCCGB two annual residentials
 - Ages: 9-14
- **Coombs Scholarship**
 - Who for: Exceptional musicians looking to a career in music (all instruments)
 - Award: £2,000
 - Ages: 16-18

Development Opportunities

Our programmes offer unique opportunities for young musicians to build confidence, develop personal skills, and enhance their musical experience.

We aim to provide every musician on the Development Programme with a **one-to-one mentoring session** with a professional musician, hand-picked based on the young musician's musical interests and aspirations.

We also provide a range of development opportunities, both in-person and online, led by inspirational expert musicians and educators, including world class **masterclasses**, creative **workshops** and **performance opportunities**.

Financial Support

Alongside these opportunities, we also provide our young musicians with **financial support**. Award amounts vary from £500 on the Junior Programme, to scholarships on the Development Programme up to £2,000, per year. C

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**

N.B It will be possible to use up to 20% of award bursaries towards travel for lessons, performing in concerts, or taking part in courses. These must be agreed in advance with a Relationship Manager.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for support, musicians must:

- Be **under 18 years old** on 1st September 2024
- Have been **permanently resident in the UK** for a minimum of **3 years**
- Provide evidence of combined household income under **£35,000 per annum**.

Applicants must also provide details of household income totalling **no more than £35,000 per annum**. We understand that there may be mitigating factors as to why household income may be over this amount, and so we will consider applications with a higher income due to extenuating circumstances. These could include increased income due to **Disability Living Allowance (DLA)** or **Personal Independence Payments (PIP)**. If you are unsure if your circumstance might be included in this, please get in touch and one of our Relationship Managers will advise you.

Shortlisted applicants are required to provide evidence of household income figures. Applications not providing evidence will not be considered.

Any financial documents requested will be treated confidentially and only for internal purposes. Overall figures of household income may be used in funding applications and reports.

Application Process and Requirements

The application process is in two parts:

- **Part 1:** All applicants must provide general information, recordings, a reference and a financial declaration.
- **Part 2:** Following a shortlisting process, successful applicants must provide financial information and documentation to evidence their overall household income, to confirm their eligibility for support.

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

Recordings (Part 1)

Applications must include **two recordings of contrasting pieces**, performed by the applicant on their **primary instrument**.

Applicants' recordings are a key consideration in the shortlisting process. Recordings are usually made using a smartphone, tablet or laptop/computer.

Recordings can be submitted via either:

- **An unlisted YouTube link** (for audio-visual recordings)
- **File upload** (for file size up to 10MB) for audio recordings only

Please note:

- Applicants should submit **two separate recordings** totalling between **2-4 minutes each**. Longer recordings may not be listened to in full. Excerpts of longer pieces are acceptable.
- 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.

If you require any advice or support regarding recordings, please get in touch with us at applications@futuretalent.org.

Reference (Part 1)

Applicants must provide contact details and a written reference from someone who has worked musically with the young musician, for example their instrument tutor, class music teacher or another musical mentor. Please note they cannot be a relative of the young musician.

References must be submitted via **file upload**. Word documents or image file formats such as .pdf, .jpg and .png files are ideal. Screenshots of email correspondence are acceptable.

Financial Information (Part 2)

Applicants who are shortlisted following the initial application are required to provide detailed information regarding household income, 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) 2023/24 P60 **AND** three recent monthly pay slips
- b) 2022/23 P60 **AND** three recent monthly pay slips
- c) 2022/23 SA Tax Return

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

If you require any advice or support regarding submission of financial documents, please get in touch with us at applications@futuretalent.org.

Why do we need this information?

We ask for detailed records of each applicant's financial circumstances as due diligence to our supporting trusts, foundations and individuals who's 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

Applicants should be aware of the following information before applying.

Saving Application Progress

Using the online application form hosted on Typeform, it is possible to start the form, close it, and return later without losing answers, as all information entered is stored in your 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
- **MUST NOT** clear **browser history or cookies** before the form is submitted.

We recommend completing the form in one sitting. Please ensure you have prepared all elements before starting your application (see **Application Process and Requirements**).

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 that Future Talent cannot view applications before they have been submitted.

Application Deadline

The deadline for applications is 17th April 2024 at 12.00 noon (subject to change). Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

All candidates will be notified of results by early June 2024. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to complete Part 2 of the application.

Shortlisted **Development Programme** candidates are required to attend an audition. **Auditions will take place in July 2024** (dates and locations TBC). Some auditions may also be held via Zoom.

Resources

1. Offline Application Form

To apply offline or simply to use the questions offline for reference, download our Offline Application Form [here](#).

Alternatively, if you would like a hard copy sent in the post, please request this by contacting applications@futuretalent.org

2. Further Notes for Applicants

Further notes for both successful and unsuccessful applicants are available [here](#).

3. Data Protection Statement

A statement on data protection is available to download [here](#).