

Jette Parker Young Artists Programme: Singer Auditions

Auditions will next be held in late 2014 to select up to five singers for start in September 2015. Those wishing to be considered for these auditions should send their contact details to JPYAPAssistant@roh.org.uk, clearly stating that they are singers. They will then be added to a mailing list and sent full application material when it becomes available in late August 2014. **Please do not send any further information at this stage.**

Applicants should be extremely gifted individuals at the start of their professional careers. They are expected to have some performance experience and to have completed a music degree, although neither is essential. The Programme is not seeking any specific voice types and there is no fixed age limit for applicants. However, please bear in mind that when choosing candidates for audition, the panel will consider the stage the candidates have reached in their careers and where they will be in terms of career development and age after two years on the Programme. A complete application must include **all** the following items to be considered:

- A completed Application Form
- A curriculum vitae (no longer than two pages)
- A photograph (larger than passport size) with the applicant's name on the back
- A photocopy of the information page of passport, driver's licence, birth certificate or identification card, showing date of birth. This information will not be made available to the audition panel, but is required to ensure that the Royal Opera House meets its legal obligations under the Asylum and Immigration Regulations 2004.
- A completed JPYAP Equal Opportunities questionnaire. This information will not be made available to the audition panel, but is required to enable the Royal Opera House to monitor that it meets its equal opportunities and diversity objectives.
- Two sealed envelopes with confidential letters of reference written by a music or theatre professional, but **not the applicant's regular singing teacher**. If one of the two references is written by a regular singing teacher, the application will be rejected. The references must be written specifically for the application and addressed to the JPYAP Audition Panel, otherwise they will be discounted. If the referees prefer to send their references directly to the Programme via email, fax or post, this is acceptable, but both references **must** be received by the deadline.
- A recent recording on CD of the applicant's voice, presenting three contrasting arias. Videos, DVDs, CD-ROMs, audio cassettes or electronic music files are not accepted. Remember to test the recording before sending it; CDs need to play on an ordinary CD player. Both CD and accompanying box must be labelled with the singer's name, the titles of the pieces and the date each piece was recorded. If financial circumstances preclude making a recording, the applicant may write a letter explaining why no recording is provided.

No further supporting material should be included. The Royal Opera House will not pay any costs associated with sending applications. Applicants using a courier service **must** ensure that all costs, **including** customs fees, are charged to them. Any costs charged to the Royal Opera House's courier accounts will be recharged to the applicant and the application will not be considered.

The recordings are used when choosing individuals for the first round of auditions and will be returned. They need not be professional quality – in fact, a home-made recording is preferred, as it may give a more

accurate impression of the singer's voice. It is better to include a home-made recording than to send only a letter of explanation or miss the deadline trying to arrange a professional recording.

The closing date for application will be **Friday 31 October 2014**. If a complete application has not been received by the closing date (including two references and a recording or letter), it will not be considered, regardless of the date of posting. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. **Applicants are strongly advised to allow plenty of time.**

Applicants will be notified as soon as possible after the deadline whether or not they have been selected for audition. It is not possible for the Programme to audition every applicant nor is it possible to enter into correspondence concerning the choice of candidates for audition.

Auditions will be held in London. Those invited to audition should prepare five contrasting arias and an art song / Lied. The auditions are in three parts:

Round One – Tuesday 25, Wednesday 26 and Friday 28 November

A maximum of 70 candidates will be heard in this round. Each audition will last 10 minutes maximum. The audition panel will consist of David Gowland (Artistic Director, JPYAP), Yvonne Kenny (international soprano) and a representative of the ROH Music Department. A pianist will be provided.

Round Two – Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 December

A maximum of 35 candidates will be heard in this round. The audition is held in two sessions. The first is a panel audition, where the candidates sing for 10 minutes maximum to a panel including Kasper Holten (Director, The Royal Opera), Peter Katona (Casting Director, The Royal Opera), David Gowland, Yvonne Kenny and a representative of the ROH Music Department. A pianist will be provided. The second is a 10 minute working session with David Gowland in a one-to-one coaching session, using any of the arias prepared for the auditions.

Round Three – Wednesday 3 December

A maximum of 12 candidates will be heard in this round. Each audition will last 10 minutes maximum. The auditions will be held in the evening on the main stage of the Royal Opera House. The panel will consist of the ROH panellists plus Antonio Pappano (Music Director, The Royal Opera) and Siri Fischer Hansen (Administrator, JPYAP). A representative of the Oak Foundation may also attend. A pianist playing from the pit will be provided.

Please note that candidates must make themselves available for each round of audition. If there are times during the audition period when an applicant will not be available, this must be indicated on the application. It will not disqualify an applicant in any way, but helps greatly with the administration. The Programme is unable to provide any financial assistance towards attending the auditions.

If at all possible, the **complete** application should be sent in one package by post to Jette Parker Young Artists Programme, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9DD. The recording **must** be sent by post; electronic music files will be deleted unopened. Those very short of time may send the rest of the application by email. In that case, the references must be sent directly to the Programme by the referees by email, fax or post, so that they remain confidential. Photographs must be emailed in .jpg format. The email address is JPYAPAssistant@roh.org.uk and the fax number +44 20 7212 9497. The Programme does not accept any responsibility for material not received, whether sent electronically or by post. Remember that the internet is not fail-safe. All emails are acknowledged, so if no acknowledgement is received, the email has gone astray. The Programme will not chase missing elements of an application.