

Interview FAQs – Stage directors

This page contains answers to frequently asked questions about the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme and the interview process for stage directors. For any questions not answered here, please contact the Auditions Coordinator at JPYAPAssistant@roh.org.uk.

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What is the structure of the Programme?

Young Artists are employed on a full-time contract for two years, from September to August. It is not currently possible to be a Young Artist for just one year. The position is salaried. N/As are granted for outside engagements when compatible with Programme commitments.

Who can apply for the Programme?

Applications for the Programme are accepted from all countries and all nationalities. There is no fixed age limit for applicants. However, applicants should bear in mind that when choosing who to interview, the panel will consider the stage they have reached in their careers and where they will be in terms of career development and age after two years on the Programme.

Do applicants need permission to work in the UK to apply for the Programme?

There is no obligation to have permission to work in the UK in advance in order to apply for the Programme. If non-EEA applicants are offered a place on the Programme, the Royal Opera House will apply for a Certificate of Sponsorship and write a Letter of Invitation, which can then be used to apply for a visa.

What material is needed to apply?

A completed application through YAP Tracker (available from late autumn). This requires a covering letter, CV, photograph, a scan of the information page of the applicant's passport or other ID showing date of birth, and two confidential recommendations. Supporting material, in the form of DVDs, programmes, photos, portfolios, etc. from productions the applicant has staged may be included, but this is not a compulsory requirement.

What does it cost to apply?

There is no application fee for the Programme; however, YAP Tracker charges a small administration fee.

Do I need to subscribe to YAP Tracker to apply?

No. All applicants have to log in with a user ID and password to upload their materials and submit applications, but free applicant-only accounts are available at www.yaptracker.com/register-applicant.

Can I use my friend's account to apply?

No, YAP Tracker accounts cannot be shared. The system prevents duplicate submissions on any one account.

How do I complete a YAP Tracker application?

Once applicants have registered, they should log in and carefully read the application requirements. They should then upload all the required submission materials, including covering letter, CV, photograph and documentation of date of birth on their [profile page](#), complete all the remaining required fields and submit the form with payment. Take great care to enter the required information in the correct fields, especially when entering addresses and information about disabilities, if any.

What do I do if I have problems uploading my application to YAP Tracker?

If applicants have problems uploading any part of the application or have other technical issues with YAP Tracker, they should contact the YAP Tracker help team on help@yaptracker.com. The JPYAP Auditions Coordinator is not able to help with technical questions.

What kind of supporting material can I submit?

Any material illustrating applicants' directing work can be submitted to support the application, including but not limited to DVDs, programmes, posters, portfolios and reviews.

How do I submit supporting material?

Applicants wishing to submit supporting material should indicate this on their YAPTracker application. The material should be sent (or delivered by hand) to Auditions Coordinator, Jette Parker Young Artists Programme, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9DD.

Can I deliver supporting material in person?

Supporting material can be delivered in person to the Royal Opera House stage door in Floral Street at the side of the building. The stage door is usually open from 7am until midnight.

Can I email supporting material?

Supporting material can be in the form of links to online resources such as reviews, websites or YouTube files. Applicants should avoid sending emails with large attachments as these tend to be rejected by the firewall and/or block the Audition Coordinator's mail box.

How much supporting material should I submit?

There is no obligation to submit any supporting material at all for an application to be considered. Applicants who choose to submit material should bear in mind that the panel have to review many applications within a limited time and be as selective as possible in their choice.

What is the deadline for supporting material?

All supporting material must be received by the application deadline. Material received after the deadline is not considered. Please allow plenty of time if posting material as the date of receipt rather than the date of sending is relevant. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt.

Who should write the recommendations?

Recommendations should be written by music or theatre professionals (including, but not limited to, directors, singers, agents, heads of colleges, etc). There is no upper limit to the number of recommendations one person may write for different applicants.

How are recommendations submitted?

When completing the application form on YAP Tracker, the applicant should include the names and contact details of two referees. The website then sends an email to the referees asking them to upload their recommendations directly to the website. Recommendations cannot be accepted in any other way. Further information about how the recommendation process works can be found [here](#).

What is the deadline for recommendations?

Two recommendations 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. Applicants should check their application status on the [YAP Tracker My Online Application page](#) regularly to make sure that both recommendations have been uploaded. If recommendations are still pending, it may be because the request email went into the referee's spam. The applicants are themselves responsible for contacting their referees to check if they have received the request email. If one or both recommendations is still missing when the deadline is close, applicants may enter contact details of up to two additional people to ensure they reach the required number of recommendations. See the YAP Tracker website for instructions for resending a recommendation request, changing referees' email address and adding or changing referees [here](#).

What should recommendations contain?

Recommendations must be written specifically for this application. They should ideally contain the following information: how the referee knows the applicant, in what context they have got to know them, whether they have seen productions by them, why the applicant will benefit from being given a place, the applicant's qualifications for the Programme and how the Programme will benefit the applicant's future development.

How long should recommendations be?

There is no set number of words, but those submitting recommendations should bear in mind that the selection panel have to review a large number of applications and should therefore express themselves as concisely as possible.

In what language should recommendations be written?

Recommendations may be written in English, German, French or Italian.

Where are interviews held?

Currently, all interviews are held in London at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

When are interviews held?

The dates of interviews are stated in the guidelines. Applicants must make themselves available for both rounds of the interview process. They can only be considered if they can attend interviews at this time. Interviews for this position are not available at any other time of the year.

Who will be at the interviews?

The interview panel comprises Oliver Mears (Director of Opera), John Fulljames (Associate Director of Opera), Amy Lane (Senior Staff Director) and [David Gowland](#) (Artistic Director, JPYAP).

Can I bring my mentor, agent, relative or friend?

No. All interviews are closed and applicants may not bring mentors, friends, relatives or agents to the audition. The panel speak Italian, French and German as well as English.

What material should be prepared for the interview?

There is currently no requirement to prepare anything for the initial interview round. After the interviews, candidates selected for the second, practical round will be given a scene to prepare and then work on during the session.

How do applicants from non-EEA countries obtain a visa to attend the interviews?

Visa applications for attending interviews are not handled by the Royal Opera House. Applicants who are invited for interview and need a visa to do so can be sent a Letter of Invitation to take to their local British Embassy/Consulate to apply for a visa. Please contact the Auditions Coordinator as soon as possible at JPYAPAssistant@roh.org.uk if this is required.

Is financial assistance available towards attending the interviews?

The Programme is unable to provide any financial assistance towards attending the interviews and does not refund travel expenses. The Programme is also unable to provide or advise on accommodation.