

Audition Guidelines – Singers

This document contains information about the Jette Parker Artists Programme and the audition process for singers.

If you have any questions or access requirements in order to facilitate your application, please contact jpassistant@roh.org.uk

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Being a Jette Parker Artist

Jette Parker singers are full-time salaried employees with the Royal Opera for 24 months running for two Seasons. Artists will receive a basic salary of £28,000 per annum, rising to £30,000 in their second Season, plus small additional payments for performances and engagements.

Leave may occasionally be granted for concerts and recitals if compatible with Programme commitments, but longer periods of absence for full productions are not possible.

Application Process

Applications will open on Wednesday 24th July 2024.

The deadline for receiving applications via the YAP Tracker website is the end of Wednesday 25th September 2024.

Late submissions will **not** be considered. Please submit applications in full, including third party recommendations, in sufficient time to allow for unexpected delays.

The following will be required:

- Recent audio recordings of the applicant's voice, presenting three contrasting arias *
- Two confidential recommendations by industry professionals, of maximum 150 words each
The recommendations must be written *specifically* for the application and *uploaded by the referees directly* to the YAP Tracker website *before the deadline*.
- A curriculum vitae of maximum one page
- A recent photograph

- A completed Jette Parker Artists Programme Equal Opportunities questionnaire found at the end of the application form. [This information will not be made available to the audition panel but will help the ROH to monitor and be accountable for its equal opportunities and diversity objectives.]

* The recording must be a full single-capture of each aria **without editing**. Ideally, the audio should not be taken from a recording of a live staged performance. Please select contrasting pieces that show us the range and capability of your voice; you should sing pieces you have studied well and are within your capacity to sing well now. The arias may be in any language, and can be from cannon or contemporary repertoire.

The status of your application will appear on the YAP Tracker website. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure all elements of the application, including recommendations, have been uploaded by **both** themselves and their referees before the deadline.

Audition Process

We anticipate inviting up to 28 candidates to live auditions in London.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to **ONE** of two live audition and coaching periods at the Royal Opera House:

- *either* **Friday 29th November - Wednesday 4th December** inclusive
- *or* **Saturday 7th - Thursday 12th December 2024** inclusive

During the period candidates will have a practical taste of the Jette Parker Artists Programme and The Royal Opera. The schedule will include a variety of coaching sessions, including scenes work, as well as a 1st Round Audition to a panel.

Candidates successful in the 1st Round Audition will be invited to a final panel audition on **Wednesday 4th December** or **Thursday 12th December** respectively.

Coaching and live auditions dates are fixed. Applicants must be available to stay in London and attend coaching and auditions at the Royal Opera House for the full length of either period.

If an applicant is unavailable during either period, they *must* specify this on their application. This will not disqualify them, but will need to be given due consideration.

Due to travel and visa considerations, we anticipate that UK applicants will be invited to the first audition period, Friday 29th November to Wednesday 4th December 2024, and international applicants, particularly those travelling a significant distance, will be invited to the second period, Saturday 7th to Thursday 12th December 2024, unless they are unavailable.

Singers must bring five contrasting arias and one art song of their choosing. They will be asked to prepare a short scene from memory which they will be given 2 weeks in advance.

Applicants must email their list of five arias and one art song in advance. They must bring three physical copies of the music (vocal score) for all their offered repertoire to the live auditions.

Frequently Asked Questions: Applications

Who can apply

Applicants should be singers of exceptional talent at the start of their professional careers. In most cases you will have some performance experience and have completed a music degree, although neither is essential. Applications for the Programme are accepted from all countries and all nationalities. The Programme is not seeking any specific voice types and there is no fixed age limit for applicants. However, the panel will consider the stage that an artist has reached in their career, their aptitude and appetite for continued professional development, their readiness to perform available roles for the Royal Opera and how their artistic and career development could be positively impacted by immersion in the Programme at this moment.

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 applicants are offered a place on the Programme and require a visa, the Royal Opera House will apply for a Certificate of Sponsorship and write a Letter of Invitation to support that singer's application.

What does it cost to apply?

There is no application fee for the Programme; however, YAP Tracker charges a nominal administration fee (plus credit card charges where applicable).

Do I need to subscribe to YAP Tracker to apply?

No. Free accounts are available for applicants at www.yaptracker.com/register-applicant. All applicants must create a User ID and Password in order to login, submit applications and upload their materials. Paid accounts are also available to hear of other opportunities.

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 and submit the form with payment.

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 JPAP Assistant is not able to help with technical questions.

How to submit recommendations

All applications must include two recommendations written by industry professionals, and preferably not the applicant's regular singing teacher. These should be a frank assessment of the candidate's abilities, including any areas requiring refinement.

When completing the application form on YAP Tracker, the applicant should include the names and contact details of their referees. The website will then send an automated email to the referees asking them to upload their recommendations directly to the website. Recommendations cannot be accepted in any other way. [Find out more about how the recommendation process works.](#)

There is space on the application to include the names and contact details of **up to four** referees. All referees listed will be invited by the automated system to upload a recommendation. A **minimum of two** recommendations must be uploaded by the deadline for your application to be considered. You may find it a useful safety measure to list more than 2 referees in case your first-choice referees fail to upload by the deadline, however the panel will only consider two of the recommendations submitted.

Deadline for recommendations

Unless two recommendations are uploaded to YAP Tracker before the deadline, the application will be rejected. The applicants are themselves responsible for ensuring that their application is complete. The applicants should contact their referees *in plenty of time* to ensure they are happy to upload a recommendation in advance of the deadline. Applicants can [check their application status regularly here](#) to ensure that at least two recommendations have been uploaded.

It is the responsibility of the applicant, not the Programme, to chase and upload missing elements before the deadline.

NB If recommendations are still pending, it may be because the request email went into the referee's Spam folder. The applicants are themselves responsible for contacting their referees to check if they have received the request email. If one or both recommendations are still missing close to the deadline, applicants are advised to enter contact details of up to two additional people in order to ensure they reach the required number of recommendations. See the [YAP Tracker website](#) for instructions for resending a recommendation request, changing referees' email addresses and adding or changing referees, and email JPAPAssistant@roh.org.uk to make changes to the referees if the application has already been submitted.

Contents of recommendations

Recommendations must be written specifically for this application. They should ideally contain the following information: how the referee knows the applicant, how long they have worked with the applicant, the applicant's performance and career potential, musicality, command of languages, reliability, learning speed, and working relationships with colleagues.

Length of recommendations

Recommendations should be a maximum of 150 words. Referees should bear in mind that the selection panel will review a large number of applications and appreciate clear and concise information. Bullet points are acceptable.

Language for recommendations

Recommendations may be written in English, French, German, or Italian. Recommendations in any other language must be accompanied by an English translation (although this does not have to be officially certified).

Frequently Asked Questions: Auditions

Where are auditions held?

Currently the live auditions process takes place in London at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9DD.

Who will be in the audition?

As of May 2024 the panel is expected to include some or all of the following ROH staff : David Gowland (Artistic Director, JPAP), Jakub Hrůša (Music Director, The Royal Opera), Richard Hetherington (Head of Music, The Royal Opera), Peter Katona (Director of Casting, The Royal Opera), Yvonne Kenny (soprano and coach), Elaine Kidd (Head of JPAP), Oliver Mears (Director of Opera) and a Linbury Theatre representative. Other ROH staff, external panellists and/or a representative of Oak Foundation may also attend.

What repertory can be presented for the audition?

Applicants should bring five contrasting arias and an art song/Lied. The arias may include (but do not have to include) the three arias uploaded as part of your YAP Tracker application. The arias may be in any language, and can be from cannon or contemporary repertoire. Operetta arias are acceptable, but arias from oratorios are not, unless they offer strong possibilities for dramatic expression.

What language can the art song be in?

The art song must be in one of the following languages: Czech, English, French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish.

Who will accompany the audition?

A pianist is provided for all auditions. Applicants may not bring their own pianist.

What audition wear is appropriate?

Normal daytime audition dress is suitable (smart casual). Please bring comfortable clothing for coaching and movement sessions.

Bringing people to your audition

All auditions are closed. It is not possible for applicants to bring friends, relatives, singing teachers, agents or their own pianist to the audition. The panel speak Italian, French and German as well as English.

If you require the support of a translator, access worker or other assistance please contact JPAPAssistant@roh.org.uk. The Royal Opera is an Equal Opportunities employer and will endeavour to assist with individual's access needs.

Visas for attending auditions

Visa applications for attending auditions are not handled by the Royal Opera House. Applicants who are invited to audition 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 JPAPAssistant@roh.org.uk as soon as possible if this is required.

Financial assistance for attending auditions

The Programme does not provide any financial assistance towards attending the auditions and does not refund travel or accommodation expenses for attending the audition week. We are however open to conversations about financial support for shortlisted candidates to attend the final panel audition in London in exceptional circumstances. Please do not let that be a barrier to applying in the first instance.