



Panufnik Composers Scheme 2024/25

Background Information

The Panufnik Composers Scheme offers six emerging composers the opportunity to write for a world-class symphony orchestra. Devised by the Orchestra in association with Lady Panufnik, in memory of her late husband, the composer Sir Andrzej Panufnik, and generously supported by Lady Hamlyn and The Helen Hamlyn Trust, the programme has now supported 105 composers since its launch in 2005.

The Scheme is guided by renowned composer Colin Matthews, with support from Christian Mason. Together with additional tailored support, the Scheme enables composers to experiment with orchestral writing skills through developing a three-minute composition over twelve months. Collaborative relationships are developed with LSO players and the resulting compositions are performed and discussed by the LSO and its Principal Guest Conductor, François-Xavier Roth, in a public workshop rehearsal at the culmination of the Scheme.

Two of each year's composer cohort are commissioned to write an additional 5- or 10-minute piece, to be played by the LSO on the Barbican mainstage in the following season. Additional commissions from LSO Discovery are sometimes offered for other programme strands.



Photos from Public Workshop in May 2023, from left to right:
First row: Robert Crehan, Lara Agar, Christian Mason, Litha Efthymiou, Errollyn Wallen
Second row: Edwin Hillier, François-Xavier Roth, Rafael Marino Arcaro, Colin Matthews
© Kevin Leighton



How does the Panufnik Composers Scheme work?

The Scheme will begin with a two-day induction called “Reality Days” on Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 February 2024 at LSO St Luke’s. Attendance is essential for selected composers, so please keep these dates free until hearing the results of your application.

Over the course of the year, the six composers benefit from:

- *Mentoring from renowned composers:* Colin Matthews and Christian Mason hold regular 1:1 and group sessions with all composers
- *Workshops with LSO players:* designed to help composers experiment with ideas and learn about individual instruments, these typically include two string quartet sessions, a wind quintet session, a percussion session and a harp session
- *Access to LSO rehearsals and concerts:* composers are encouraged to get to know the orchestra by attending as many sessions as possible
- *Additional tailored support:* where required, composers with less experience in writing for orchestra can be provided with an extra tutor suited to their individual musical styles and needs
- *Assistance from a professional copyist:* all composers work with an LSO copyist to create scores and parts for the orchestra

The Scheme culminates in a public workshop on 16 June 2025, during which a three-minute work by each composer will be rehearsed by conductor François-Xavier Roth and the London Symphony Orchestra at LSO St Luke’s.

Am I eligible?

The Scheme welcomes applications from composers with a diverse range of musical approaches and backgrounds who are interested in writing for full symphony orchestra, but have never had a full orchestral work performed in concert by a professional orchestra.

We are particularly interested in applications from composers from historically under-represented groups such as minority ethnic and ethnically diverse composers, women or non-binary composers, composers with disabilities and composers from non-classical musical backgrounds who would like to learn to write for a classical symphony orchestra.

In addition, applicants must:

- Be aged 18 or above
- Have the right to reside in the UK, and be based in the UK for the duration of the Scheme (ending June 2025)
- Not be on another LSO composer scheme (except Soundhub Associates) and have sufficient time to dedicate to the opportunity
- Never have had a full orchestral work performed in concert by a professional symphony orchestra (previous experience working with instrumental ensembles is beneficial, but not essential)



The LSO supports Sound and Music's [Fair Access Principles](#), a code of best practice for running successful, open and inclusive artist development programmes, competitions and awards for composers.

If you require support or adjustments to the application process, including receiving the application guidelines and form in an alternative format, please email joyce.lam@lso.co.uk. Tailored on-scheme support is offered to enable all participants to reach their full potential.

Are expenses provided?

Each composer receives a bursary of £1,000, and travel reimbursements are available to those living outside London.

Timeline

Monday 8 January 2024 (4pm GMT)	Applications close
By Wednesday 31 January 2024	All applicants informed of results
Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 February 2024	2024/25 Reality Days
Thursday 4 April 2024	2023/24 Panufnik Public Workshop
March 2024 – March 2025	Development period including but not limited to: workshops with LSO players, mentoring, access to LSO rehearsals and concerts
April 2025	LSO copyist generates parts with composers
Monday 16 June 2025	2024/25 Panufnik Public Workshop

How are composers selected?

A selection panel made up of a diverse range of representatives from across the music sector (to include composers, an LSO Member and industry professionals) aims to select a group of six eligible composers demonstrating a wide range of musical approaches and styles, whilst looking for:

- individual compositional voices with a high level of skill in writing notated work in contemporary classical or any other musical genre, and with the potential to write a three-minute full orchestral work for the public workshop
- applicants who demonstrate substantial personal development potential through this scheme
- applicants who have not previously had a full orchestral work performed in a concert by a professional orchestra
- applicants who have limited access to professional artist development schemes in the industry

Due to the high volume of applications received, only approximately 15 applications that reach the panel's final shortlist will receive individual feedback.



How do I apply?

To apply, please complete our online application form by Monday 8 January 2024 (4pm GMT).

Link: <https://forms.office.com/e/DyLCArW4pL>

Along with basic contact and application tracking details, you will need to provide:

1. A CV
 - PDF (2 sides of A4 maximum, no photo of the applicant)
2. Two contrasting scores and recordings (if available), ideally including one for large ensemble
 - Scores in PDF format
 - LSO Discovery will produce A4 hard copies of both scores for selection purposes. Applicants may choose to submit their own, provided copies are received by the above deadline – please contact Joyce Lam (joyce.lam@lso.co.uk) if you are interested in doing so.
3. Answers to the following:
 - a) What are your current musical interests and how does that relate to the orchestra? We are interested in artistic concerns rather than career progression. (Max. 1000 characters)
 - b) OPTIONAL QUESTION: We are interested in making this opportunity available to the broadest range of applicants – apart from the provisions outlined above, is there any additional support which could help you to realise a three-minute orchestral piece? (Max. 1000 characters)

NB: Links to application materials should be made accessible to anyone and be valid until 31 January 2024. The links will be shared with the selection panel.

We also ask that you fill in our online [Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form](#). This is not used in the selection process and is kept in an anonymous format for monitoring purposes only.

Contact details

If you have any questions about your eligibility or the application process, please contact:

Joyce Lam, Artist Development Projects Manager

E: joyce.lam@lso.co.uk

T: 020 7382 2566

Sign up to LSO's Composer News mailing list: <https://r1.surveysandforms.com/3940g6ce-5433c23f>

Data

We need to ask you for a few details in order to process your application and for the purposes of your potential involvement in this LSO Discovery project. The LSO will securely hold and process the data provided to plan and deliver the best artistic and educational experiences and to ensure the safety of all participants. For further details on the way we handle personal data please read our Privacy Policy lso.co.uk/privacy.



THE HELEN HAMLYN TRUST

*LSO Panufnik Composers Scheme is generously supported by Lady Hamlyn and
The Helen Hamlyn Trust.*