

LSO



Amy Crankshaw's November moon readings at the Soundhub Showcase, 4 May 2024 © Kevin Leighton

LSO Soundhub 2024/25

Application Guidelines

LSO Discovery

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Background Information

LSO Soundhub provides a flexible environment where composers can explore, collaborate and develop new work through access to vital resources and support from industry professionals, LSO Members, and staff.

LSO Soundhub is a composer-led resource, responding directly to the needs of those using it: a supportive framework for artists to try out ideas, develop new and existing work, benefit from peer-to-peer networking and connect to and develop LSO St Luke's audiences.

We are currently recruiting up to four composers to become **Soundhub Members** in 2024/25. The next recruitment for **Soundhub Associates** will be in 2025/26.

LSO St Luke's will be closed from December 2024 and for much of 2025. The venue will be undertaking a programme of works to improve the amenities, become more accessible, support the LSO's growing programme, and welcome more people into the venue than ever before. **Most Soundhub activities in 2024/25 will be held at St John's Waterloo.**

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. We aim to make the application process more accessible, as well as offer on-scheme support to participants.

Please get in touch if you need the application guidelines in another format or to discuss with us how we can support you best. (Contact details at the end).

Am I eligible?

The programme aims to support composers from all musical backgrounds who are at an early stage in their career. We are particularly interested in applications from composers from historically under-represented groups such as ethnically diverse composers, women or non-binary composers, disabled composers and composers from outside the classical tradition who would like to develop their experience of writing for classical musicians.

Please check that all the following criteria apply to you:

- Aged 18 or above
- Studying in the UK, or have been resident in the UK for at least three years
- Available to be in London regularly (expenses available)
- Not currently on other LSO composer projects (current and previous Soundhub Associates who have not previously been a Soundhub Member are eligible to apply)
- Interested in working with classical orchestral musicians
- Looking to develop a career in composition and benefit from being part of a composer community

How does LSO Soundhub work?

LSO Soundhub consists of two membership types: Soundhub Members and Soundhub Associates. See the benefits of each membership type below:

Soundhub Members

LSO Soundhub launches with an Information and Networking Evening on **Wednesday 13 November 2024 18:00-21:00** at LSO St Luke's which will be a chance for new Members to meet each other as well as existing Associates.

Soundhub Members receive support to explore and develop their practice in the form of a bursary, workshop time with musicians, mentorship, technical support / resources from LSO staff and a platform to showcase new work developed through the scheme with the public, including industry professionals.

All four composers will be given a 15-20 minute slot to share work created during the scheme at the LSO Soundhub Showcase concert in the Nave, St John's Waterloo on Friday 16 May 2025. This could be completed work or work-in-progress as long as it features live performance. This will be video and audio recorded for release on the [LSO's YouTube channel](#), subject to all performers' consent. (See the LSO's [Sounds of Today playlist](#) on YouTube which includes previous works devised through LSO Soundhub).

Composers may select one of two different project types when applying to be an LSO Soundhub Member: an **LSO Player Project** (with the option to collaborate with an additional UK-based artist) or an **Independent Project** (booked with external funding by the composer). **Before submitting the application**, please read the information in the table below on the resources and facilities available for the two project types, to help you decide which project

type to apply to and to understand the feasibility of your project idea. Please note, the LSO will be aiming to select a majority of LSO Player Projects.

	LSO Player Project	Independent Project
Artists	3 LSO players (fixed and paid for by LSO) with option for 1 additional UK-based artist	Flexible (booked and paid for by composer – please indicate remuneration plans)
Workshops in Mendelssohn Room, St John's Waterloo*	1 x 3-hour with LSO	Flexible, subject to availability & funding
Reading sessions in Mendelssohn Room, St John's Waterloo	1 x 3-hour with LSO	Flexible, subject to availability & funding
Rehearsals at St John's Waterloo with LSO players	Mendelssohn Room: 1 x 3-hour The Nave: 1 x 1.5-hour and 45 mins dress rehearsal (concert day)	2 x 3-hour with independent players 45 mins dress rehearsal (concert day)
Technical support	For workshops, reading sessions, rehearsals, dress rehearsals and concert at St John's Waterloo: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sound engineer - Lighting technician (rehearsals inside the Nave only) 	
Conductor	One conductor will be booked for rehearsals, dress rehearsals and concert, unless it is preferable for composers to conduct their own work.	
Mentor	2-3 x 1-hour meetings (in person or online) with an industry professional chosen by each composer (mentor engaged by the LSO).	
Bursary	£1,100 + access budget (e.g. transportation contribution for composers based outside London)	

* More detailed information about the spaces available at St John's Waterloo is included in later section of this document.

Soundhub Associates

Soundhub Associate membership is for two years. Soundhub Members, Panufnik Composers Scheme and LSO Jerwood Composer+ participants will automatically become [Soundhub Associates](#) following completion of their schemes. Currently we have 70 Associates. This wider community offers peer-to-peer support and access to the following (subject to availability)^:

- Rehearsal space(s) at LSO St Luke's (available to book for free, subject to terms and conditions – except Jerwood Hall, which is available at a discounted rate)
- Technical support and equipment from the Digital team including audio and video recording, subject to availability
- Access to LSO rehearsals at the Barbican Centre & LSO St Luke's

- £5 tickets for most LSO concerts at the Barbican Centre & LSO St Luke's
- Event promotion via social media and targeted notifications to the Soundhub community
- Soundhub Events throughout the year
- Ad hoc calls for work and commissions

Composers can apply directly for Associate status. The next recruitment for Soundhub Associates will be in 2025/26.

^ Please note that resources and benefits at LSO St Luke's will not be available during its closure period.

St John's Waterloo

[St John's Waterloo](#) (73 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8TY) is a Grade II* London landmark and the most exciting heritage venue for the arts, performance, charity meetings and training spaces on the South Bank. LSO Soundhub will be using the Mendelssohn Room and the Nave.

Please refer to the [venue hire brochure](#) for the specification of the spaces and the list of available audio-visual equipment onsite. Here are some notes about the venue and resources, which may be relevant to your proposed project idea:

- Instruments: Double bass, tuba, harp, piano and most percussion instruments will not be available, except small and handheld percussion instruments (to be discussed with the LSO).
- Technology:
 - Microphones & speakers: The LSO will bring in additional microphones and speakers. Effects such as close-miking, amplification, multi-channel output and audio playback are possible.
 - Projection: Please note that there is no projector inside the Nave and that will limit the scope of audio-visual work. There are two TV monitors (86" and 55") onsite.
 - Access time: Please be aware that there is limited set up time in the venue.

Please note that the above provides a general idea of what is possible and factors to consider while completing your application. If you would like any further information about the resources and equipment available before submitting your application please get in touch (details at end).

How are new Members selected?

LSO Soundhub Members selection will be made by a selection panel of a diverse range of representatives from the music sector including composers, an LSO Member and industry professionals. The panel aims to select a group of four composers (with a majority of LSO Player projects) demonstrating a wide range of musical approaches and styles and will make assessments based on:

- The quality / originality of works submitted
- The development potential of the applicant
- A sense of what would be explored in their practice through LSO Soundhub

All applicants will be informed by Monday 28 October 2024 as to whether they have been selected. Due to the high volume of applications received, we can only provide individual feedback to approximately 10 applications that reach the panel's final shortlist.

Timeline

Monday 14 October 2024 4pm	Application deadline
By Monday 28 October 2024	All applicants selected and informed
Wednesday 13 November 2024 6-9pm	LSO Soundhub Information and Networking Evening
November 2024 – April 2025	Research and development period (with mentorship) Important dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 29-30 January 2025: Workshops with musicians - 17 March 2025: Final score and parts deadline (small amends can be made after this point up until 7 April 2025) - 26-27 March 2025: Reading sessions Two half day workshops on professional development (February 2025, dates TBC)
Tuesday 13 – Friday 16 May 2025	Showcase rehearsals
Friday 16 May 2025 7pm	LSO Soundhub Showcase Concert
Mid-May 2025	Evaluation period

Attendance is essential for selected composers. Please keep these dates free while waiting to hear the results of your application.

How to apply

Member	
Online Application	<p>Link: https://LSO.formstack.com/forms/lso_soundhub</p> <p>Required materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In PDF format, 2 sides of A4 maximum. Please do not include a photo. - Two contrasting scores <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In PDF format, scores can be notated, graphic, written instruction or similar – with at least one involving live musicians – plus links to recording(s), if available. o Please note that links should be made accessible to anyone. The links will be shared with the selection panel and should be valid until 28 October 2024. o If the submitted work(s) is longer than 15 mins, please select an excerpt and indicate the location of the excerpt and timeframe of the recording for review, on the application form.

	<p>Answer the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Your reasons for applying to be a Soundhub Member (100 words).- Your challenges in becoming a composer (100 words).- Brief description of your project idea or starting point you'd like to explore (100 words).- A list of required resources (e.g. personnel, equipment, space) and any audio visual or production design ambitions (100 words).- A paragraph on how you hope this project would stretch you, personally & professionally (100 words). <p>NB You can instead choose to answer the above questions with video or audio of maximum 5 mins. Please answer all the questions in one recording and provide a link on the application form.</p>
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Please ensure all parts of the application are submitted by **Monday 14 October 2024 4pm**.

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.

Please note that the Panufnik Composers Scheme will open for applications in December 2024 and composers are not allowed to participate in more than one LSO composer project at the same time.

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

Follow LSO Composer Schemes on X: [@lsocomposers](#)

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

Application checklist

- Online application form completed
- Equal Opportunities form completed

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.

LSO Soundhub is generously supported by Susie Thomson.