

# LSO



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## **LSO Jerwood Composer+ 2025/26 Application Guidelines**

**LSO Discovery**



*“The LSO Jerwood Composer+ scheme has been brilliant. The focus on programming and curation lived up to its potential, enabling me to explore my musical ideas more fully. This gave me new avenues to explore in my music-making. In addition, the professional experience of putting high-quality events together, including production, design, and marketing, gives me skills I can take forwards in my professional career.”*

**Rufus Isabel Elliot, LSO Jerwood Composer+ participant**

LSO Jerwood Composer+ is generously supported by **Jerwood Foundation**.

**JERWOOD**  
FOUNDATION

## **Contents**

Background Information

Am I eligible?

How does LSO Jerwood Composer+ work?

Selection process

How to apply

### **Background Information**

With the continued support from Jerwood Foundation, LSO Jerwood Composer+ supports two composers each year to plan and deliver two artistic projects each over a 15-month placement. Composers will showcase their works developed through the programme, as well as works by other composers.

Guidance and expertise will be available from LSO staff to encourage composers to develop entrepreneurial skills around programming for specific audiences, planning and organising events, marketing, budgeting, fundraising and evaluation. Simultaneously, composers will have access to composition workshops and mentoring with other composers / industry professionals and musicians to develop their artistic practice.

The aim is that composers gain valuable knowledge and practical experience to develop their own opportunities and careers, while making a substantial contribution to the diversity and innovation of the concert programme at LSO St Luke's and its audience development.

We support 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 the way we could support you the 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 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.

All candidates must:

- be aged 18 or above
- be UK-based and able to attend regular activities in London (expenses available)
- not be in formal education or training (full time and part time) throughout the scheme, due to the time commitment required
- have little, or no, experience to date in curating and producing events, so that the programme offers a significant development opportunity
- not be a current participant of LSO Helen Hamlyn Panufnik Composers' Scheme or LSO Soundhub (current LSO Soundhub Associates are eligible to apply)

Applicants must be able to dedicate an average of at least one day per week throughout the 15-month scheme (to work remotely or to meet in person). We expect participants to attend activities in London 3-4 days across each project development period and 4 days in London during the final production week for each project. This would vary depending on the project nature.

## How does LSO Jerwood Composer+ work?

Two composers will be accepted onto the programme for 15 months, from April 2025 to October 2026. The programme will provide each composer with:

- A £6,000 bursary plus agreed expenses to attend activities in London
- A supported opportunity to plan and deliver two artistic projects, including at least one live event in Jerwood Hall, LSO St Luke's. (see page 6 for project timeline)
- For one of the artistic projects, the composer will have the flexibility to explore an alternative format if they wish (e.g. a digital outcome, a sound installation etc.). The project should focus on and reflect the composer's individual artistic practice and its development.
- A total production budget of £14,000, for two projects. If both projects are live events, this could cover (e.g.) up to four performers (to include LSO players and any guest artists, fixed and paid by the LSO), with three 3-hr rehearsals and one 3-hr dress rehearsal for each event; or could be used differently, depending on the nature of the project.
- The LSO will additionally provide and cover the cost of:
  - Coaching sessions with an external qualified coach to ascertain goals / work through any challenges
  - Mentoring sessions with a music industry professional, elected by the composer
  - Workshops with LSO musicians
- Access to the rehearsal spaces, facilities and technical expertise at LSO St Luke's
- An induction from key LSO staff and a tailored programme of mentoring support in the lead up to each artistic project to build skills and experience in:
  - **Programming:** exploring approaches to creative and engaging programming and presentation for different types of audiences, timings and formats (e.g. early evening 'rush hour' concerts, lunchtime events, evening

concerts etc). Freedom is given to explore classical and/or cross-genre/art collaborations and unconventional concert formats and timings. Composers are expected to share their new works developed through the programme alongside the music of other composers (living or past). Inclusive, accessible programmes which are gender-diverse and which further the diversity of the new music sector are strongly encouraged.

- **Budgeting:** modelling the financial viability of different projects (income, expenditure, contingency, cash flow etc), working with an allocated budget agreed before the start of each project, and achieving artistic goals within that.
- **Project planning:** planning and managing projects including live events, with mentoring and guidance from LSO staff on planning timelines, production tasks, technical requirements, and event management.
- **Marketing:** learning from LSO Marketing staff about event promotion and generating a bespoke marketing strategy for target audiences and specific kinds of events to deliver with their support.
- **Fundraising:** no additional funding is required, however composers will receive input from the LSO's Development team in how to approach fundraising for future projects (e.g. grant-fundraising, crowdfunding, in-kind support etc).
- **Evaluation:** evaluating the financial, audience development and artistic impact of a project; any particular successes or challenges; and how learning from this will influence the development of future projects.

### **Additional benefits**

The two selected participants will also become an LSO Soundhub Associate for two years from the start of their time on the scheme. Benefits include:

- Becoming part of the LSO Soundhub community
- Access to rehearsal spaces at LSO St Luke's, subject to availability
- Access to select LSO rehearsals at the Barbican and LSO St Luke's
- £5 and occasional free tickets for LSO concerts at the Barbican and 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

### **LSO St Luke's**

LSO St Luke's (161 Old Street, London EC1V 9NG) is an 18th-century Hawksmoor church, restored to become the home of the LSO's community and education programme, LSO Discovery. It is used for a wide range of LSO Discovery projects and also regularly hosts LSO rehearsals and LSO chamber performances as well as a range of other public events.

The following spaces will be available for composers to use, free of charge:

- Activity Rooms in the lower level of the building.
- Jerwood Hall (Fridays to Mondays), subject to availability. Please note that inside-piano techniques are not permitted on the Steinway in Jerwood Hall.

LSO St Luke's is now closed until Autumn 2025. The venue is 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. If you would like to know more about LSO St Luke's before submitting your application or would like any further information about the resources and equipment available, please get in touch (contact details at the end).

## Timeline

Monday 10 March 2025 16:00 GMT	Application deadline
By Tuesday 25 March 2025	Shortlisted applicants informed
Tuesday 1 April 2025 (daytime)	Shortlisted composers present their project ideas to selection panel
By Wednesday 9 April 2025	Two composers selected to participate in Jerwood Composer+ / all applicants informed
Week of 14 April 2025	Induction, meeting key LSO Staff
Friday 16 May 2025 19:00	Soundhub Showcase (optional)
April – December 2025	Research and development period
January – February 2026	First artistic project delivered
	Available dates for live events (time and format flexible):
	▪ Saturday 10 January 2026
	▪ Saturday 21 February 2026
February 2026	1 to 1 Mid-point evaluation meetings
March 2026 – August 2026	Research and development period
August – September 2026	Second artistic project delivered (date tbc, timing and format flexible)
October 2026	Final evaluation / end of placement

## Selection process

The selection process is in two stages:

1. Eligible applicants will be shortlisted by a selection panel made up of a diverse range of representatives from the music sector (to include an LSO Player, a composer and an industry professional) based on:
  - Quality and originality of musical works submitted
  - Development potential (both musical and entrepreneurial) and commitment to the scheme
  - Interest in and practicality of the proposed artistic projects
2. Shortlisted applicants will be invited on **Tuesday 1 April 2025 (daytime) to LSO Office at Barbican Centre** to meet the panel and to discuss their idea for the first or second artistic project to a panel (including an industry professional and LSO staff) before a final selection is made. More details will be sent to shortlisted applicants following the first stage of the selection process.

The panel will aim to select two composers demonstrating different musical approaches, styles, and artistic plans. Only unsuccessful shortlisted applicants will receive personalised feedback.

## How to apply

**Online application form:** <https://forms.office.com/e/rPQ5UTHnbv>

Required materials:

- CV in PDF format (2 sides of A4 maximum, no photo of the applicant)
- Two contrasting scores (notated, graphic, written instruction or similar – with at least one involving live musicians) of your work in PDF format, and links to recording(s) (if available). Please note that links should be made accessible to anyone and be valid until 9 April 2025. The links will be shared with the selection panel.
- If the submitted work(s) is longer than 15 mins, please select an excerpt and indicate the location/bar numbers of the excerpt and timeframe of the recording for review, on the application form.

Answer the following:

- What would you like to explore in music with the support of LSO Jerwood Composer+?
- Please give a brief outline of a live event idea or starting point for a concert at LSO St Luke's.
- Why are you interested in undertaking this programme at this stage in your career?

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.

Please ensure all requirements are submitted by **Monday 10 March 2025 16:00 GMT**.

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, the application process or the support that we could offer, please contact:

Joyce Lam, Artist Development Projects Manager  
E: [joyce.lam@lso.co.uk](mailto:joyce.lam@lso.co.uk)  
T: 020 7382 2566

Follow LSO Composer Schemes on X and Threads: @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](https://lso.co.uk/privacy).