



LSO players performing Rachael Gibson's *Into My Heart an Air That Kills* at Soundhub Showcase, 22 May 2025 © Wai Lok Cheung

LSO Soundhub 2025/26

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 2025/26 and twenty composers to join as **Soundhub Associates**.

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 the right to reside in the UK
- Be UK-based and able to attend regular activities in London (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

Extra criteria apply to current or previous Soundhub Members or Associates:

	Previous Soundhub Members	Previous Soundhub Associates	Current Soundhub Associates
Members	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible
Associates	Eligible	Eligible if applicant was not an Associate during 2024/25 season.	Not eligible

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 **Friday 14 November 2025 18:00-21:00** at LSO St Luke's which will be a chance for new Members to meet each other as well as new and 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 Jerwood Hall, LSO St Luke's on Wednesday 22 April 2026. 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 at LSO St Luke's	1 x 3-hour with LSO	Flexible, subject to availability & funding
Reading sessions at LSO St Luke's	1 x 3-hour with LSO	Flexible, subject to availability & funding
Rehearsals in Jerwood Hall, LSO St Luke's	1 x 3-hour and 1 x 1.5-hour with LSO players 45 mins dress rehearsal (concert day)	3 x 3-hour with independent players 45 mins dress rehearsal (concert day)
Technical support	For workshops, reading sessions, rehearsals, dress rehearsals and concert at LSO St Luke's: - Sound engineer - Lighting technician (rehearsals inside Jerwood Hall 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)	

Soundhub Associates

LSO Discovery is recruiting twenty new Associates for 2025/26, alongside Members. Associate membership is for two years. Soundhub Members, Helen Hamlyn Panufnik Composers' Scheme and LSO Jerwood Composer+ participants will automatically become [Soundhub Associates](#) following completion of their schemes. Currently we have 54 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
- £6 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. Composers who initially apply for Members and are not selected this year will automatically be considered for Associate status.

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 LSO Soundhub composers to use, free of charge:

- Clore Rooms 1 & 2
- Gamelan Room
- Jerwood Hall (limited access time for Members, subject to availability; Associates may book the Hall at a discounted rate).

Please note: it is not possible to use inside-the-piano techniques on the Steinway in Jerwood Hall.

If you would like any further information about the resources & equipment available at LSO St Luke's before submitting your application please get in touch (details at the 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 27 October 2025 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.

How are new Associates selected?

Soundhub Associates will be selected through random selection. Eligible applications will be selected through a True Random Number Generator (TRNG). The generator on Random.org will be used for this purpose.

We are adopting this selection process with the aim to create a more diverse composer community and artistic output at LSO St Luke's. Ultimately, we hope to increase the number of composers that could benefit from the resources that we offer, whilst reducing the burden on composers at the application stage. The application process itself is therefore very simple, with a focus placed on demonstrating eligibility for the scheme against the criteria outlined above.

Timeline

Monday 6 October 2025 4pm (BST)	Application deadline
By Monday 27 October 2025	All applicants selected and informed
Friday 14 November 2025 6-9pm	LSO Soundhub Information and Networking Evening
November 2025 – April 2026	<p>Research and development period (with mentorship)</p> <p>Important dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14, 29 January 2026: Workshops with musicians - 9 March 2026: Final score and parts deadline (small amends can be made after this point up until 30 March 2026) - 21, 23 March 2026: Reading sessions <p>Two half day workshops on professional development (February 2026, dates TBC)</p>
Sunday 19 – Wednesday 22 April 2026	Showcase rehearsals
Wednesday 22 April 2026 7pm	LSO Soundhub Showcase Concert
May 2026	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 27 October 2025. o If individual 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).

	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.
Associates	
Online Application	Link: https://forms.office.com/e/ZL1xNaejHC Required material: - CV In PDF format, 2 sides of A4 maximum, without the applicant's photo

Please ensure all parts of the application are submitted by **Monday 6 October 2025 4pm (BST)**.

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 Helen Hamlyn Panufnik Composers' Scheme will open for applications in December 2025 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, Programme Manager, Composers

E: joyce.lam@lso.co.uk

T: 020 7382 2566

Follow LSO Composer Schemes on Threads ([@lsocomposers](#)) and Bluesky ([@lsocomposers.bsky.social](#))

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.

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