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, please contact jpapassistant@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, from September 2027 to August 2029. Artists will receive a basic salary of £31,440.00, 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 8 July 2026.**

The deadline for applications is Wednesday 26 August 2026, 11.59pm Pacific Standard Time (or 07.59am British Summer Time, Thursday 27 August).

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by Friday 18 September 2026.

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

Applications must be submitted via the YAP Tracker website. The following will be required:

- Two recent audio recordings and one recent video recording, presenting 3 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 available to the audition panel but will help the RBO monitor and be accountable for its equal opportunities and diversity objectives.]

* The recordings must be a full single-capture of each aria **without editing**. Ideally, the audio recordings 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 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 auditions in London.

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

- *either* **Saturday 31 October (from 9am) - Monday 2 November (until 2pm) 2026** inclusive
- *or* **Saturday 7 (from 9am) - Monday 9 November (until 2pm) 2026** inclusive

During the period candidates will have a short practical taste of the Jette Parker Artists Programme and The Royal Opera. The schedule will include a music coaching, a vocal coaching, a group scene session, an interview, and a 1st Round Audition to a panel.

Candidates successful in the 1st Round Audition will be invited to a final audition on the Main Stage of the Royal Opera House on **Tuesday 10 November 2026**.

Coaching and 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, 31 October – 2 November, and international applicants, particularly those travelling a significant distance, will be invited to the second period, 7 – 9 November, unless they are unavailable.

Financial Support

JPAP provides financial support towards the cost of travel and accommodation for candidates travelling to auditions from outside of London, upon submission of a valid invoice and receipts:

- Up to £500 for candidates travelling from outside London but within the UK
- Up to £700 for candidates travelling from outside the UK, on flights/transport up to 5 hours
- Up to £1000 for candidates travelling on long-haul flights over 5 hours

Audition Repertoire

Candidates must bring five contrasting arias and one art song/lied of their choosing to the auditions. The arias may include (but do not have to include) the three arias uploaded as part of your YAP Tracker application. The repertoire should demonstrate the full range of the voice, and show contrasting styles and tempi. The repertoire must include:

- One pre-1800 aria
- One 19th century aria
- One 21st century aria
- Repertoire in three different languages (for the arias, any languages are acceptable)
- The art song/lied must be in one of the following languages: Czech, English, French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish.

Operetta arias are acceptable, but arias from oratorios are not, unless they offer strong possibilities for dramatic expression.

Candidates must confirm their list of five arias and one art song 2 weeks in advance of their 1st Round Audition. They must bring one physical copy of the music (vocal score) for all their offered repertory to the auditions for the audition pianist.

Candidates will also be asked to prepare a short scene from memory which they will be given at least 2 weeks in advance.

Frequently Asked Questions: Applications

Who can apply

Applicants should be singers of exceptional talent at the start of their professional careers. In most cases they will have some performance experience and have completed a music degree, although neither is essential. Applications are welcomed from all countries and all nationalities, and the Programme is not seeking specific voice types. Applicants must be aged 18 or over at the time the Programme begins, but there is no fixed upper age limit. 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 stage.

Do applicants need permission to work in the UK to apply for the Programme?

It is not necessary to have permission to work in the UK in advance of applying for the Programme. If applicants are offered a place on the Programme and require a visa, the Royal Opera 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. It will not allow duplicate submissions on 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 must not be from 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 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.

The application form has space to include ***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

Applicants can submit their application before the referees have completed their letters of recommendation. However, unless two recommendations are uploaded to YAP Tracker by the deadline, the application will be rejected. The applicants should contact their referees *in plenty of time* to ensure they can 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 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 include: 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. The 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?

The coaching and auditions take place at the Royal Opera House, London, WC2E 9DD, UK.

Who will be in the audition?

The panel is expected to include some or all of the following RBO 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.

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 for auditions (smart casual). Please bring comfortable clothing for coaching 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, German, and 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 invited to audition who need a visa to attend 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 after invitation if this is required.

The Programme cannot expedite the visa application process. If you require a visa, you are advised to apply as soon as possible after you are invited to audition.

For any questions not answered here, please contact JPAPAssistant@roh.org.uk.