

# Audition Guidelines – Opera Conductors / Répétiteurs

This page contains information about the Jette Parker Artists Programme and the audition process for opera répétiteurs and opera conductors/répétiteurs to start in September 2024. For any questions not answered here, please contact [JPAPAssistant@roh.org.uk](mailto:JPAPAssistant@roh.org.uk)

**Auditions will be held Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**

## Being a Jette Parker Artist

Jette Parker singers, stage directors and music staff are full-time salaried employees with the Royal Opera for 24 months running September through August. Artists receive a basic salary, currently £25,000 and under review, plus some additional payments for performing.

Leave may occasionally be granted for concerts and recitals if compatible with Programme commitments, but longer periods of absence for full productions elsewhere are not possible.

Both répétiteurs and conductors/répétiteurs work as members of the music staff on Royal Opera productions and must have a high level of pianistic ability. All conductors are expected to have sufficient experience to work as assistant conductors on Royal Opera productions.

## Application Process

**Applications will open on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024, and the deadline for receiving applications via the YAP Tracker website is the end of Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

We anticipate inviting up to 12 candidates for the final round of auditions which will be live at the Royal Opera House in London from **29<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**.

The following will be required:

- A curriculum vitae of maximum one page
- A recent photograph
- Two confidential recommendations by industry professionals, but NOT the applicant's regular teacher, of maximum 200 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 completed Jette Parker Artists Programme Equal Opportunities questionnaire found at the end of the application form.

This information will not be made available to the audition panel but will help the ROH to monitor and be accountable for its equal opportunities and diversity objectives.

Conductors are also encouraged to upload two recorded examples of their work. Recordings must be accompanied by the titles of the pieces, the date they were recorded and credit any relevant orchestra/performers/performing company or presenter.

Please note that the same application will be used for all Jette Parker opera music staff positions, whether opera répétiteur or opera conductor/répétiteur. Please state clearly which position(s) you wish to be considered for, carefully considering the guidelines for each role.

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.

Applicants will be notified as soon as possible after the deadline as to whether or not they have been selected for audition at the Royal Opera House. We regret that we cannot enter into correspondence about the choice of candidates for audition.

## Audition Process

### Round One: Monday 29 April – Wednesday 1 May 2024

A maximum of 12 candidates will be heard in this round. Each audition will last for 20 minutes.

Candidates should prepare the following in the original language:

- Strauss: *Elektra*, Elektra Oreste duet (Füerstner edition, pages 182-203, figs. 144a-181a)
- Mozart: *Così fan tutte*, Act 1, opening scene (Ferrando, Guglielmo, Don Alfonso) including recitatives until start of duet Fiordiligi/Dorabella
- A complete act of an opera of the candidate's own choice

Candidates should prepare these pieces as a répétiteur or both as a conductor and répétiteur (according to their application).

All candidates are expected to sing in vocal lines if requested, and to play whilst a member of ROH staff conducts. In addition, conductors are expected to conduct whilst a member of ROH/JPAP staff plays.

All candidates will be asked to sight-read (as conductor/répétiteur) a recitativo accompagnato which they will receive 30 minutes before their audition time, and languages may be tested by reading of a text in French, German or Italian.

### Round Two: Thursday 2 May 2024

Candidates should prepare the following in the original language:

- Wagner: *Der fliegende Holländer*, Act 1 Scene 3 ('He! Hollah! Steuermann') to end of Act 1
- Puccini: *Madama Butterfly*, Act 1 Duet, fig.120 to end of Act.
- Candidates should also bring along their own choice opera act from Round One.

As with Round One, candidates should prepare these pieces as a répétiteur and as a coach and (if applying for the conductor/répétiteur position) as a conductor.

All candidates will be asked to coach a singer on repertory chosen by the panel which candidates will be given to prepare half an hour before the audition.

## Frequently Asked Questions: Applications

### Who can apply?

Applicants should be répétiteurs or conductors/répétiteurs with strong répétiteur skills of exceptional talent at the start of their professional careers. In most cases you will have some performance experience and have completed a music degree, although neither is essential. Applications for the Programme are accepted from all countries and all nationalities. The applicants must be over 18 years old at the time of joining the programme, there is no upper age limit for applicants. 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 moment.

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

There is no obligation to have permission to work in the UK in advance in order to apply for the Programme. If applicants are offered a place on the Programme and require a visa, the Royal Opera House will apply for a Certificate of Sponsorship and write a Letter of Invitation to support that individual'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](https://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. The system prevents duplicate submissions on any 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](mailto: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 not the applicant's regular 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 then 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.](#)

There is space on the application to include the names and contact details of **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

Unless two recommendations are uploaded to YAP Tracker before the deadline, the application will be rejected. The applicants are themselves responsible for ensuring that their application is complete. The applicants should contact their referees *in plenty of time* to ensure they are happy to 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 themselves 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](mailto: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 ideally contain the following information: 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 200 words. Referees should bear in mind that the selection 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?

Currently the live auditions process takes place in London at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 9DD.

### Who will be in the audition?

The panel is expected to comprise of JPAP staff, ROH music staff, and may include external assessors. A representative of Oak Foundation may also attend as an observer.

### What repertoire can be presented for the audition?

Applicants should bring five contrasting arias and an art song/Lied. The arias may include (but do not have to include) the three arias uploaded as part of your YAP Tracker application. As a general rule, operetta arias are acceptable, but arias from oratorios are not, unless they offer strong possibilities for dramatic expression. If in doubt, please inform [JPAPAssistant@roh.org.uk](mailto:JPAPAssistant@roh.org.uk) of any repertoire choice whose validity you wish to check.

### What Operas can be prepared as repertoire?

Any opera can be prepared, however they must be presented in their original language.

## 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 (smart casual). Please bring comfortable clothing for coaching and movement 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 and German as well as English.

If you require the support of a translator, access worker or other assistance please contact [JPAPAssistant@roh.org.uk](mailto: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 who are invited to audition and need a visa to do so 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](mailto:JPAPAssistant@roh.org.uk) as soon as possible if this is required.

## Financial assistance for attending auditions

The Programme does not provide financial assistance towards attending the auditions and does not refund travel or accommodation expenses for attending the audition week. We are however open to conversations about financial support for shortlisted candidates to attend the final panel audition in London in exceptional circumstances. Please do not let that be a barrier to applying in the first instance.