



Bursary applications

The National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain (NCO) has a bursary scheme which is designed to assist those on low incomes, who would find it difficult to meet the costs involved in taking part. In 2011 we awarded over £78,000 shared between 97 children. Those in most need received the full amount of their membership fees; others received varying amounts from £142 upwards.

The bursary scheme is dependent on donations from a range of individuals and charitable trusts and foundations which share our aims. Some gifts from individuals are small (such as rounding up the fees paid for their own child's membership), other donors are in a position to be more generous. Our intention has always been that no child should have to forego the opportunity of membership through financial hardship. It is important, therefore, that it is used wisely.

To make sure that the NCO bursary scheme can help as many children as possible, we ask parents to look for other sources of funding as well. If you are eligible to apply for assistance from NCO, it is highly likely that there are other organisations which would be willing to support a request for help. To help, we have created this guide to give you ideas of where to look for additional funding. We do expect bursary applicants to actively seek other funding and we will ask you about your efforts on the bursary application form.

Funds from other organisations can benefit either the applicant or the NCO. Where a child is awarded a partial bursary from the NCO and is also awarded a grant from another organisation, the additional money paid by that organisation to the NCO is deducted from what the family has to pay. Where a child is awarded a full bursary from the NCO and is also awarded a grant from another organisation, the additional money paid by that organisation to the NCO enables us to put an equivalent amount back into the bursary fund for future use.

Finding financial assistance

Local authorities

It is always worth writing to your local authority to ask for a grant. Some authorities give a set amount and merely require a certificate of attendance after the course. Others offer means-tested grants. Each local authority has its own rules and priorities. Don't be put off by someone saying they have applied in the past and were rejected.

Local sponsorship

It's sometimes possible to find a local firm who will sponsor a child for a whole year in the NCO. You should write to the company enclosing information about the Orchestra and your child's involvement in it. If needed, we can send you some general information to support your application. If you work for a large organisation, you may find that they are prepared to support you in the interests of motivating employees and generating positive publicity.

Grant-making organisations

There are many grant-making organisations and trusts who are prepared to consider applications from children. Most give only to those who can prove financial need.

Do not write a general application. All these organisations have specific rules about who they can help and for what purposes they can give assistance. You need to make a first contact enquiring about those rules. If you write to them for details of their scheme and application forms, enclose a stamped addressed envelope as some organisations won't respond unless you do. (They need to keep their expenses to a minimum.) If you know of any other organisations which could be added to this list, we would be grateful for the information for later editions of this guide.

We've given details of the types of grants awarded where we know them. Again, please pass on any further information you find out so we can update the guide.

Help with instruments

The Felicity Belfield Music Trust, 3 Frenchmill Rise, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8HS. Formed in 1990 to enable students to have an instrument worthy of their talents. Instruments lent to those under 21 (must be returned when they reach 25). Students have to prove exceptional ability and financial need. A recommendation from their teacher is required.

Benslow Musical Instrument Loan Scheme, Little Benslow Hills, Benslow Lane, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9RB. Orchestral string instruments. Applications from students of any age from primary school to college. Borrowers are selected on the basis of musical promise and financial need. The selection process requires a letter of recommendation from the teacher.

Abbado European Young Musicians Trust, Speechly Bircham, 6 St Andrews Street, London EC4A 3LX. Interest free loans to assist with purchase of instruments.

Awards for Young Musicians, PO Box 2754, Bristol BS4 9DA. Website www.a-y-m.org.uk, email enquiries@a-y-m.org.uk, phone 0117 904 9906. Established in 1998 to provide financial help for gifted musicians aged 5-18. Application must be received by the end of March each year. SAE for application form. Please note that this organisation doesn't give assistance towards NCO course fees but may help with upgrading an instrument or tuition fees for music lessons.

General organisations

Miss EB Wrightson's Charitable Trust, Swangles Farm, Cold Christmas, Herts SG12 7SP. Priority is given to talented children aged between 8 and 18 who have difficulties either financially or socially in developing their talents. Grants range between £100 and £1,500 and may be either one-off or renewed over a period of years. Applications are considered quarterly.

S D Whitehead's Charitable Trust, Moore Stephens Chartered Accountants, 30 Gay Street, Bath BA1 2PA. 'Children under 16 with special artistic talents, especially in music, dance or ballet.' Assistance given towards education, travel, clothing, music courses and instruments.

The Buttle Trust, Audley House, 300 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1AJ. Possible help for one-parent families and families with extenuating circumstances.

S Alper, The Alper Charitable Trust, Chilford Hall, Linton, Cambridgeshire. Interest-free loans available.

Leopold de Rothschild Charitable Trust, New Court, St Swithin's Lane, London EC4P 4DU. Supports music and musicians in a variety of ways.

Schools Music Association Founder's Fund, 71 Margaret road, New Barnet, EN4 9NT. The SMA offers small grants to musicians under 18 whose families have financial difficulties. Grants may be made to assist with the purchase of music or a musical instrument, or with the cost of attending a one-off event such as a summer music school. Priority is given to applicants who are supported by a member of the Schools Music Association, i.e. teacher, school/college, music centre or local authority.

Kathleen and Margery Elliott Scholarship Trust, Somerset House, 37 Temple Street, Birmingham B2 5DJ. This trust provides small sums towards the expense of travel for educational purposes and has a maximum of £250 per award.

Organisations in the north

The Bearder Charity, 5 King Street, Brighouse, West Yorkshire, HD6 1NX. This trust gives grants to organisations and individuals in Calderdale. It supports those in financial need or experiencing hardship/distress. They aim to give new benefits to or a meet a need that exists in the area. Applicants should write to Mr R D Smithies, detailing requirements and costings.

Trevor and Muriel Watson Memorial Fund, Cranswick Watson, 7 Greek Street, Leeds LS1 5RR. The fund was established for the particular assistance and encouragement of musically talented children. Applications from those living in the Leeds area only.

Miss BJ Pilkington, The Joseph Trust, 273 Main Street, Shadwell, Leeds. Grants to local students only.

Graucob Music Awards, 49 Priory Street, Bowdon, Alltrincham, Cheshire WA14 3BQ. 10 annual awards of up to £750 each. Open to students at grades 8+ aged under 19 on 1 May of application year. Must be living in Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, Lancashire or Cheshire LEA. Applications each year by 31 March.

Joseph Nutter's Foundation, The Ballroom, Hawkswick, Skipton, BD23 5QA. Provides financial assistance for courses and equipment to study music amongst other subjects. Bradford area only.

The Robert Tebb Trust, Grove Court, 15 Holt Avenue, Leeds LS16 8DH. Contributions to enable children to have training in musical performance. West Yorkshire area.

The Rushworth Trust, c/o LCVS, 14 Castle Street, Liverpool L2 0NJ. One-off grants of up to £500 to assist individuals in musical pursuits. Applicants must live within 60 miles of Liverpool Town Hall.

Organisations in the south east

The Drapers' Company, Clerk's Office, Drapers' Hall, London EC2N 2DQ. Assistance can be given to parents who work in the City or whose child goes to a City of London school.

The Clerk to the Governors, Sir John Cass's Foundation, 31 Jewry Street, London EC3N 2EY. Inner London area only. Doesn't help with money for instruments.

Pocklington Apprenticeship Trust, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Room 250, Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX. Small educational awards for young people in financial need born and/or living in the Royal Borough for 10 years. Maximum grant is £300.

The Marianne Okamoto Richardson Trust, Stable Walls, Manorial Road South, Parkgate, Neston CH64 6US. Advancement of education by assisting with the cost of music lessons and/or assisting with the purchase of instruments. Tower Hamlets/Isle of Dogs

The Tom Acton Memorial Trust, Hamilton House, Cobblers Green, Felstead, Great Dunmow CM6 3LX. This trust was founded in 1997 to support young musicians in need. Bursaries provide assistance with such things as course fees, instrument purchase, tuition and travel expenses. Applicants must have been born, educated or resident in Essex. They need to supply an independent reference from their instrumental teacher. Awards are granted on a sliding scale up to a maximum of £750. Applicants must audition. There is a website at www.tomacton.org.

Organisations in the south west

The Elmgrant Trust, Elmhirst Centre, Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EL. Assistance to those living in Devon

Elize Hele & John Lanyon Educational Foundations, Mr F Webb, 33 Downham Gardens, Tamerton Foliot, Plymouth PL5 4QF. Write for details of each trust – mainly for children in Devon and Cornwall.

Devon Educational Trust, PO Box 298, Exeter EX2 8UG. Grants for students in Devon

LG Duffield, Viscount Amory's Charitable Trusts, The Island, Lowman Green, Tiverton, Devon.
Residents in Devon only

The Secretary, The Dulcie Haigh-Marshall Trust, 2 The Mount, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5ES. String players from Devon only. Grants are made towards musical education expenses or purchase of an instrument.

Organisations in the south

Hertfordshire Educational Foundation, Children Schools and Families, County Hall, Hertford, SG13 8DF. Financial assistance to study music (grants or loans). Herts residents.

The Exuberant Trust, The Old Farmhouse, The Playing Close, Charlbury, Oxfordshire, OX7 3QR. The beneficial area of this trust is Oxfordshire. The trust aims to support and encourage young people developing their interests in the arts – to further knowledge and increase their appreciation of the arts (particularly when young people reach a turning point or have to make a crucial decision). Maximum, one-off grant of £500. Successful applicants are encouraged to take part in concerts etc. in support of the trust. Full details of how to apply can be found at www.exuberant-trust.org.uk.

Organisations in the midlands

The Philip Bates Trust, (Mrs Karen Moulton), 5 Fern Close, Rugby CV23 0UQ. The trust supports creative endeavour and may make small grants to individuals. Applicants from anywhere in the UK eligible, although applications from the West Midlands are particularly welcome. www.philipbatestrust.org.uk.