



ORA Singers Young Composers Terms and Conditions

Summary

The ORA Singers Young Composers' programme is aimed at state-educated pupils born on or after 1 September 2007, offering positions for ten Young Composers and up to forty ORA Apprentices.

The ten Young Composers and forty Apprentices will be chosen by an ORA Singers Selection Committee, who will then be enrolled in their respective programmes.

Each Young Composer will be assigned a personal mentor and receive ten hours (or the equivalent) of free compositional guidance. The mentor will assist them in writing a brand new choral work, which will be a 'Reflection' on a piece of Renaissance choral music. Young Composers will also take part in a compositional workshop and meet their peers part-way through the mentoring programme. At the end of the programme, Young Composers' works will then be performed/presented in the Showcase Concert, at which a winner will be chosen by the Adjudication Panel. Each Young Composer will also receive a recording of their work for promotional purposes.

In addition to the Young Composers, up to forty 'ORA Apprentices' will be selected from the applicants, and will receive 9x 1 hour free online compositional workshops and access to the Showcase Concert.

Unless the context otherwise requires, in these Terms and Conditions:

- The term "applicant" shall refer to any pupil entering the scheme.
- The term "Young Composers" shall refer to the ten selected applicants chosen to receive 10 hours of one-to-one mentoring and to write a new composition for the Final Concert/Presentation.
- The term "ORA Apprentice(s)" shall refer to the up to forty applicants chosen to receive 9x 1 hour online compositional workshops and access to the Final Concert/Presentation.
- The term "programme" shall refer to the whole programme and its activities, including mentoring, workshops, concert/presentation and adjudication.
- The term "entry composition" shall refer to the work initially submitted by the applicant.
- The term "final composition" shall refer to the new work submitted by a Young Composer for the Final Concert.
- The term "mentor" shall refer to the appointed person by ORA Singers to guide the young person through their composition and provide compositional lessons.
- The term "mentee" shall refer to an applicant who receives lessons from a mentor.
- The terms "resident in the United Kingdom" and "UK Resident" shall refer to an applicant whose main address is in the UK and/or who spends at least 183 days per year in the UK. International students studying full-time in the UK and/or individuals of any nationality who are currently living in the UK are included.

1. Eligibility

1.1 Applicants must be born **on** or **after** 1st September 2007, and be in attendance at a UK Secondary School. (See 1.3 for eligible school-types.)

1.2 Applicants must be resident in the United Kingdom.

1.3 An applicant must be a pupil at a UK non fee-paying school (state, grammar, comprehensive, community school, college, sixth form college, state academy, free school). Applicants from fee-paying or private schools are not eligible.

2. Submissions

2.1 Applicants must submit:

- 1. An Entry Composition, or part of an Entry Composition, no longer than 10 minutes, as both an mp3 sound file and as a PDF if available.**
- 2. A completed Application Form (via [orasingers.com](https://www.orasingers.com))**

2.2 The Application Form should be completed and submitted with the Entry Composition by **12pm on Thursday 12th February 2026**. The Entry Composition can be submitted via the 'Upload' section in the Application Form.

(<https://www.orasingers.com/apply-young-composers-2026>)

2.3 Any Entry Composition submitted as part of the application process must be the original work of the applicant.

2.4 Entry Compositions may be a complete work, or part of a work, but should be no longer than 10 minutes.

2.5 Entry Compositions may either be a work the applicant has already composed or a new work.

2.6 Entry Compositions may be written for any combination of voices and/or instruments. However, applicants should note that the ten selected Young Composers will be asked to write an *a cappella* vocal piece. We would therefore advise applicants who have already written a choral work to submit it.

2.7 The Entry Composition should be submitted as a sound file (mp3,wav,m4a), and as a PDF score if possible. Pdfs can be made from a digital score, or as a pdf made from a photograph or scan of a clear and legible handwritten score. Sound files can either be a live recording or a MIDI realisation.

2.8 Entry Composition scores (pdf) and sound files (mp3/wav), together with a completed Application Form should be submitted via the ORA Singers website (<https://www.orasingers.com/apply-young-composers-2026>). Sound files should be submitted as direct files and not links. *Links to youtube, soundcloud, websites or other web hosts will **not** be accepted. Submissions should not be sent via post.*

2.9 Applicants must complete the online Application Form provided. All required questions should be answered, and the Terms and Conditions outlined in this document accepted.

2.10 Applicants under the age of 18 will need consent from a Parent/Guardian to participate in the ORA Singers Young Composers' programme. Declaration of the applicant's age must be made in the Application Form. Parents/Guardians of successful applicants under the age of 18 will be able to complete and sign the Registration Form as written consent.

2.11 The Application Form must be completed by applicants themselves, not by a Parent/Guardian.

2.12 All entries should be submitted via the ORA Singers website (<https://www.orasingers.com/apply-young-composers-2026>). Entries sent to email addresses registered to ORA Singers or their staff will not be accepted.

3. Adjudication of Applicant entries and selection of Young Composers

3.1 Adjudication of the applicant entries shall be carried out by a Selection Committee appointed by ORA Singers.

3.2 Ten Young Composers will be selected from the applicant entries by the ORA Singers' Selection Committee. The successful applicants will be contacted in February 2026, at which stage they will be asked to confirm their participation in the scheme by completing a Registration Form. Any applicant who does not complete the Registration Form will not be able to take part in the programme and a replacement Young Composer will be contacted. The ten Young Composers' names will be published on the ORA Singers' website and announced on its social media channels.

3.3 ORA Singers have the right to select Young Composers most appropriate for the programme on whatever criteria are deemed suitable. The decision of ORA Singers will be final and ORA Singers will not be required to disclose or explain the decision process. The following list of general criteria is provided for applicants as an indication of some of the qualities that will be looked for. The list is in no particular order:

- Compositional skill
- Individuality & creative potential

- Potential to benefit from the programme
- Reasons for entering the scheme

(N.B. Successful applicants may not necessarily be the best composers that have applied but those that are deemed to best fit the criteria above)

3.4 ORA Singers will also select up to forty applicants as 'ORA Apprentices'. Apprentices will be contacted following the confirmation of Young Composers, at which stage they will be asked to confirm their participation by completing a Registration Form. Any Apprentice who does not complete the Registration Form will not be able to take part in the programme. Names of the forty ORA Apprentices will be published on the ORA Singers website.

4. Mentoring

4.1 The chosen applicants will be mentored by recognised composers selected by ORA Singers. The costs for these sessions will be covered by ORA Singers. Under the guidance of their mentors, chosen applicants will be asked to write a new work for *a cappella* vocal ensemble.

4.2 The ten Young Composers will each receive ten hours (or the equivalent) of compositional support, which will include lessons via video call and email correspondence. Each Young Composer will be assigned a primary composition tutor following their acceptance of the course.

4.3 Mentoring will take place through a mix of one-to-one Zoom lessons and email support.

4.4 In the unlikely event that a mentor cancels or withdraws for any reason, ORA Singers will make all reasonable effort to provide the applicant with the full ten hours of mentoring by providing an alternative mentor.

4.5 ORA Singers will not be held responsible for any Young Composers who fail to use up their full ten hours of mentoring due to cancellations or lack of availability by the mentee, nor will ORA Singers be required to provide compensation or reimbursement of any kind to the mentee.

4.6 Young Composers will be required to use specialist compositional software in creating their compositions, and will therefore require access to a desk- or laptop computer for the duration of the programme. Young Composers are free to use their own compositional software, but if they don't already use a particular programme ORA Singers recommend <https://www.avid.com/sibelius> (free 1 month trial) or <https://musescore.org/en> (free). We ask that Young Composers invest time in learning how to use any software in advance of the mentoring start date.

4.7 Mentees and Mentors will be given the following approximate timeline, which should be used as a guide when arranging their lessons:

Date	Activity	Duration	Means
Early March 2026	Initial meeting and first composition lesson, including use of Sibelius and/or other compositional software	2 hours	Video call
Late March 2026	Additional email support, e.g. looking over material and offering feedback	1 hour	Email
Early April 2026	Second composition lesson	2 hours	Video call
Late April 2026	Additional email support, e.g. looking over material and offering feedback	1 hour	Email
<i>MAY 2026 WORKSHOP</i>			
May 2026	Third composition lesson	1 hour	Video call
Early June 2026	Final composition lesson	2 hours	Video call
Late June 2026	Additional email support, e.g. looking over material and offering final feedback	1 hour	Email
Early July 2026	<i>FINAL SCORES SUBMITTED TO ORA SINGERS</i>		

5. Young Composers Workshop

5.1 All Young Composers will be invited to take part in the Young Composers Workshop.

5.2 Applicants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

5.3 Reasonable travel expenses will be provided by ORA Singers for the Young Composer, and a parent/guardian.

5.4 If the workshop cannot be held in-person, a suitable replacement event will be delivered online.

6. Final Compositions

6.1 The ten Young Composers will be asked to write an *a cappella* choral composition for any ensemble arrangement up to a maximum of eight individual singers (2 Soprano, 2 Alto, 2 Tenor, 2 Bass). This Final Composition must be scored for *a cappella* voices *only*, and cannot include musical instruments

6.2 The choral work must be a reflection on a Renaissance choral work chosen by ORA Singers. Young Composers will be asked to write a piece of approximately the same length as the Renaissance work, which will be no longer than 4 minutes.

6.3 The final compositions should be submitted by email to ORA Singers' Project Manager, Thomas Rayner, at thomas.rayner@orasingers.com by a date in June/July 2026 that will be announced nearer the time. ORA Singers must be notified as early as possible if there is any reason why this deadline cannot be met. The compositions should be provided in the form of both a PDF score and an MP3 sound file.

7. Final Concert/Presentation

7.1 The Young Composers' works will be premiered in the Final Concert by eight performers from ORA singers. The Showcase Concert will be held in late July/ Early August 2026 (date TBC).

7.2 In the event of a live public concert, Young Composers' works will be recorded and made available to the Young Composers.

7.3 The Adjudication Panel for the Showcase Concert will be selected by ORA Singers. ORA Singers Young Composers and Prize-Winners will be announced at the Showcase Concert, and then on ORA Singers' website and social media channels.

7.4 Applicants will be acknowledged as the composers of their works, but all intellectual property rights pertaining to audiovisual and broadcasting material related to the programme shall fall to ORA Singers. ORA Singers retain the right to record, issue, transmit or broadcast in any way and on any medium, any performance of the works chosen to be part of the programme, without the need to request applicants' consent and without any obligation to pay any fee or compensation whatsoever.

7.5 In the case of unforeseen circumstances ORA Singers reserves the right to move the date and time of the Showcase Concert and will make all reasonable efforts to inform Young Composers as early as possible of such changes.

8. Additional information

8.1 ORA Singers retains the right to cancel the ORA Singers Young Composers' programme or any of its activities at any time, if it deems this necessary or expedient.

8.2 By providing ORA Singers with personal data for the purpose of participation in the ORA Singers Young Composers' programme, applicants consent to ORA Singers using and processing such data for all related purposes.

8.3 In submitting an Application Form applicants will be deemed to have accepted these Terms and Conditions and to have agreed to be bound by them.

youngcomposers@orasingers.com
www.orasingers.com

ORA Singers would like to thank Founding Sponsor Signatur, who have generously supported the ORA Singers Young Composers' programme.

