



## **ORA Singers Graduate Composers**

### **Terms and Conditions**

#### **Summary**

Run by ORA Singers, the Graduate Composers' programme is a scheme designed to support young professionals looking to pursue a career in composition. The scheme is open to those who have graduated from their undergraduate studies no earlier than 2021, offering commissions to five selected Graduate Composers.

The five Graduate Composers will be chosen by an ORA Singers Selection Committee, who will then initiate enrollment onto the scheme.

Upon acceptance onto the programme, each Graduate Composer will be officially commissioned by ORA Singers to write a brand new a cappella choral work, lasting no longer than 4 minutes. Each Graduate Composer will receive a **£1,000.00** commission fee, and is guaranteed a premiere of their piece at the Graduate Composers Showcase, to be held at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama in Cardiff in October 2026. Each Graduate Composer will receive a video recording of their work to help build their professional portfolio. In addition, each Graduate Composer will be given opportunities to receive guidance and consultation from ORA Singers' Artistic Director, Suzi Digby.

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

- The term "applicant" shall refer to any graduate entering the scheme.
- The term "Graduate Composers" shall refer to the five successful applicants chosen to be commissioned as part of the scheme.
- The term "programme" shall refer to the whole programme and its activities, including selection, commissioning, mentoring, and the Showcase Concert.
- 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 Graduate Composer for the Showcase Concert.
- The terms "resident in the United Kingdom" and "UK Resident" shall refer to an applicant whose main address is in the UK and/or 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 have completed an undergraduate degree, graduating no earlier than 2021.

1.2 Applicants may have graduated with a degree in any subject from any University or Conservatoire in the United Kingdom.

1.3 Applicants continuing their studies at postgraduate level are eligible to apply, subject to point 1.1.

1.4 Applicants must be resident in the United Kingdom.

## **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 a PDF notated score.**
- 2. A completed Application Form (via [orasingers.com](http://orasingers.com))**

2.2 The Application Form should be completed and submitted with the Entry Composition by **11:59 on Friday 6th February 2026**. The Entry Composition can be submitted via the 'Upload' section in the Application Form.

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

2.4 Entry Compositions should 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 five selected Graduate 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/graduate-composers-apply>). 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 The Application Form must be completed by the applicants themselves.

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

### **3. Adjudication of Applicant entries and selection of Graduate Composers**

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

3.2 Five Graduate 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 returning a confirmation statement. Any applicant who does not do so will not be able to take part in the programme and a replacement applicant will be contacted. The five Graduate 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 Graduate 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.

3.4 ORA Singers will not be able to provide feedback to applicants in relation to their applications.

### **4. Commissions**

4.1 The five Graduate Composers will be commissioned to write an *a cappella* choral composition for any ensemble arrangement up to a maximum of 18 individual singers (6 Soprano, 4 Alto, 4 Tenor, 4 Bass). This commission must be scored for *a cappella* voices *only*, and cannot include musical instruments. Graduate Composers may not include digital audio effects without prior approval from ORA Singers.

4.2 The choral work must be a reflection on a Renaissance choral work chosen by ORA Singers. The final compositions must not be longer than 4 minutes.

4.3 The final compositions should be submitted by email to ORA Singers' General Manager, Thomas Rayner, at [thomas.rayner@orasingers.com](mailto:thomas.rayner@orasingers.com) by 3rd September 2026.

ORA Singers must be notified as early as possible if there is any reason why this deadline cannot be met. The final compositions should be provided in the form of both a PDF score and an MP3 sound file.

4.4 Each Graduate Composer will receive a commission fee of £1,000.00, 50% of which will be paid upon signing and returning the Contract, with the remaining 50% payable upon submission of the completed score. If, for any reason, a Graduate Composer wishes to end their participation in the scheme prematurely, they agree to repay ORA Singers the initial 50% of their commission fee.

4.5 Each Graduate Composer will receive, and will have to sign, a commission contract as part of the programme.

## **5. Consultations**

5.1 Graduate Composers will be invited to an introductory call with the ORA Singers team after accepting their place as a Graduate Composer. Thereafter, Graduate Composers have the option to arrange a one-to-one call with Suzi Digby, for any further assistance with queries relating to their composition. Calls are subject to Suzi Digby's availability. Graduate Composers should write to Project Manager, Thomas Rayner, on [thomas.rayner@orasingers.com](mailto:thomas.rayner@orasingers.com), to arrange these.

5.2 In addition, Graduate Composers are welcome to email the ORA Singers team at any point during the composition process if they have any questions relating to their composition. Questions for Suzi Digby will be forwarded to her and a response sent as soon as possible. All queries may be sent to Thomas Rayner at [thomas.rayner@orasingers.com](mailto:thomas.rayner@orasingers.com)

## **6. Graduate Showcase/Concert**

6.1 The Graduate Composers' works will be premiered in the Graduate Composer Showcase by ORA Singers as 18 singers, conducted by Suzi Digby, Artistic Director. The concert will be held in October 2026 at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

6.2 ORA Singers agrees to cover reasonable travel expenses for each Graduate Composer. Graduate Composers must submit travel receipts/mileage to the ORA Singers team.

6.3 The Graduate Composers' works will be filmed and made available to the Graduate Composers following the performance.

6.4 Graduate Composers will be acknowledged as the composers of their works, but all intellectual property rights pertaining to audiovisual and broadcasting materials 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.

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

## **7. Publication**

7.1 By registering onto the ORA Singers Graduate Composers scheme, each Graduate Composer has the option to have their completed composition made available to download from the ORA Singers website. There is no obligation for a Graduate Composer to have their work published on the ORA Singers website.

7.2 Graduate Composers will receive a percentage of any profits made through digital downloads. An agreed percentage will be established through a signed contract with ORA Singers.

7.3 By agreeing to have their compositions made available to download, Graduate Composers agree to have their scores amended with the ORA Singers branding and attributes.

## **8. Additional Information**

8.1 ORA Singers retains the right to cancel the ORA Singers Graduate 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 Graduate 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.

[info@orasingers.com](mailto:info@orasingers.com)

[www.orasingers.com](http://www.orasingers.com)