



IRISH HERITAGE

Registered charity number: 1189508

Irish Heritage Composition Bursary 2025

Irish Heritage is a registered charity, established in London in 1974, whose objective is to advance public education and appreciation of the arts, particularly those of Irish and Anglo-Irish music, arts, literature and drama of all genres and traditions to the benefit of the community.

It is the only Irish performing arts organisation in Britain dedicated to helping young Irish musicians and composers in the early part of their careers. It awards four valuable Bursaries annually; one for performance, one for composition, one for strings, another for vocal studies and a special accompanist's award.

Irish Heritage presents a programme of public events in established music venues and supports other organisations, including the Blackwater Valley Opera Festival that shares its aims in music and the arts. We have links with conservatoires in Ireland and Britain to identify emerging, talented young performers and composers.

The charity's values: *Creativity, Encouragement, Collaboration, Enjoyment and Inclusivity*, reflect the legacy inherited from its founders Ethna and Charles Kennedy and are the inspiration for the organisation's Outreach and Community programme, delivered in association with the Irish Cultural Centre, which brings the joy of live music to people who cannot normally access it, to children in education and to those who benefit from music as therapy.

Bursaries 2025

Irish Heritage is alert to the need to encourage young Irish performers and composers not only with performance opportunities but also with financial support as they transition from college to professional life. The charity's bursary programme is a key element in the provision of its support.

Thanks to the success of the organisation's fund-raising and to the support of generous donors and organisations such as the Ireland Funds, Irish Heritage is able to offer a composition bursary to a promising young Irish composer studying in the UK or Ireland, in addition to the performance bursaries awarded in February.

Please read the information on the following pages carefully.

Theme

This year marks the 80th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe) on the 8th of May 2025. Given the prevalence of war and conflict around the world in most recent years, the theme feels as relevant as ever. VE Day celebrates the move towards peace and an end to war.

The bursary winner's composition will be premiered at the Irish Heritage concert at the Royal Overseas League the evening before VE Day on the 7th of May, and so the composition will be our way to commemorate this important day.

Conditions for submission

- Composers are encouraged to explore any variety of themes relating to VE Day such as victory, heroism, peace, commemoration, celebration, battle etc.
- A maximum of 5 instruments can be used in the chamber group, given the stage restrictions of the performance venue.
- Instruments used in military bands are strongly encouraged, and the ensemble must include at least the following two musicians: a trumpeter (Trumpet in B ♭) and percussionist (using any combination of the following: snare drum, triangle, glockenspiel, xylophone or other smaller percussion instruments).
- Large percussion instruments such as timpani, bass drums, large gongs etc. will not be accommodated.
- The work should be between 4-6 minutes.
- A demo of the work should be created to be sent with the score: any combination of live recording, samples or midi is acceptable.
- Scores should be submitted as a PDF along with a PDF of the completed application form and the demo in MP3 format.

Eligibility:

- Composers who are Irish born or of Irish parentage currently studying a course in composition in Ireland or Britain.
- Second study composition students are also eligible

Age Limit:

There is no age limit for bursaries, the applicant must be studying at a conservatoire/university in the UK or Ireland.

Closing Dates for Submissions:

March 31st 2025.

Panel:

As in previous years, a distinguished panel drawn from professional composers will adjudicate the composition bursary.

Completed application forms should be sent to:

Email: tara.viscardi@irishheritage.org.uk