RPS DRUMMOND LOCKYER FUND FOR DANCE

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

If you may like this information in a different format, for accessibility reasons, In the first instance please contact Emily Porter, RPS Administrator, by phone on 020 7287 0019 or email at admin@philharmonicsociety.uk.

As long as there has been music, there has been dance. The Royal Philharmonic Society is proud to help established composers and choreographers bring exciting new works to life, through the **RPS Drummond Lockyer Fund for Dance**.

Recognising the challenge and expense of staging dance with live music, we hope the fund will enable practitioners to activate plans that may not otherwise have been possible, making a difference to their progress and profile.

It began life in 2007 as the RPS Drummond Fund in memory of the writer, broadcaster and lifelong dance aficionado **Sir John Drummond CBE**. In the years since, it has supported a range of collaborations between composers and choreographers, as detailed here. It was set up by John's long term partner **Bob Lockyer OBE**, himself a major force in British dance for decades. Sadly Bob died in 2022 and you can read our tribute to him here. In recognition of all Bob himself did, and his relationship with John, the fund now bears a new name: the RPS Drummond Lockyer Fund for Dance.

A generous gift from Bob's Will replenished the fund so that we can continue supporting composers and choreographers for several years to come.

Full details of who can apply and how to apply follow in these guidelines. The **closing date** for applications is 11am on **Wednesday 26 May 2027**.

Who can apply?

Applications submitted must have a confirmed composer and choreographer.

As we have limited grants left to give from what is left of the fund, we are keen that these go towards projects of enduring merit and resonance: the kind of dance works that John and Bob would have loved, and that stand to last. Duly, grants from this particular fund this year are for established professional composers based in the UK who have fully launched their career and are no longer in education/training nor applying for development programmes (such as the RPS Composers programme, which you can read more about on our website). You may or may not have composed for dance before – and we are enthused to hear from those for whom this would represent exciting new terrain – but you must be able to demonstrate in your application how your music has been positively embraced by significant performers and audiences.

The choreographer should likewise have a strong track record in bringing dance to the stage, and be able to demonstrate that in your application.

Within the application, both the composer and choreographer are also asked to submit an account of what the collaboration with each other represents for them. The application itself can be submitted by either of them, or equally by a dance company or producer (including venues and festivals) with proven experience staging dance who will play a central role in the collaboration.

Please note, the RPS Drummond Lockyer Fund is usually for composers and choreographers who have not collaborated before. If the composer and choreographer have worked together before, the application must compellingly express how this project will break major new creative ground for them that is significantly different from what they have achieved together before.

Please check with all partners involved before making your application, to ensure that none of you are part of another competing application. Multiple applications involving the same composer, choreographer or company may be withdrawn.

As a charity, we are keen to support a wide range of musicians and initiatives. If you have already received any kind of funding from the RPS within three years of the closing date (since May 2024), we ask you not to apply at this time, but if eligible you may do so in a future year once that period has expired.

What can you apply for?

We aim to support a couple of projects in which the composer writes a brand new work, staged by the choreographer, that will feature lives musicians in multiple UK performances. As we only expect to notify applicants of outcomes by August 2027, we recommend that your intended performances do not take place before Autumn 2027. Planning may not yet have begun, but is likely already underway to some extent, and we expect the project to reach the UK stage by the end of 2029.

Essentially:

- the composer and choreographer must already be committed to the project.
- the project must involve entirely new music being written for new dance, culminating in public performances with dancers and live musicians.
- some idea of firm or pencilled performance dates and venues should be presented in the application. At the least, you should be able to tell us about provisional conversations held with one or more promoters/venues/festivals and your expectations arising from these.

It is unlikely that we will support a project that culminates in just one performance. We are keen to ensure that funded works endure in some regard, so expect applicants to express how they may achieve this, through a number of performances, by a commitment to adding the work to a company's repertory, and/or through creative digital capture which may be used to market the work, interest future promoters, or so it may be seen online for posterity.

Bob Lockyer established the fund with a particular passion that it support dance performances with multiple live musicians. As an absolute minimum, performances should involve at least two live musicians (instrumentalists/singers) in addition to the composer and to anyone operating live electronics if that is envisaged as part of the piece. Optimally we are looking for projects with a moderate to large scale ensemble of live musicians.

If we offer you a grant, it may go to the general cost of fulfilling the project. In your application, you will be asked to supply a simple income and expenditure budget (using our template) for the overall project. This is likely to include such items as planning time and sessions, workshops, rehearsals, performances, composer's commission fees, choreographer's fees, dancers and musicians costs, profile and promotion costs, and other resources you might need, such as to document your progress and outcomes. Within your budget, you should specify how much you are ideally seeking from the RPS Drummond Lockyer Fund to support your plans, and provide a picture of where you have already secured or hope to find the remaining funds.

This year we expect to offer **around £30,000** in grants. While this could go to one entity outright, we expect it will go to two or three applicants. It is almost certain that such grants will not cover your project costs outright, so in your application you should tell us about other funds secured or that you are hoping to raise to fulfil your aims.

How to apply

Applicants are required to complete our online form, or elect another person to do so on their behalf if needed. We encourage you to take time and care in completing the application form to ensure it represents you well. Before you submit it, please ensure you have provided everything we need, and actively check that all links you have supplied are working, as we cannot reasonably chase up or review incomplete applications.

In your application you will be asked to provide key information, answer some questions about your initiative (which you can supply in written or simply filmed format, as outlined below), and complete our budget template.

There are three sections to the application form:

Applicants

In this section, you will be asked to input some simple information, telling us who is the Principal Contact for the application and their contact details. You should name the choreographer and composer involved, providing links to websites where we can read more about their respective achievements to date.

Also we will ask you to provide, where possible, links that showcase the choreographer and composer's recent work. For the composer, this should ideally be a link to a an audio recording or footage of a recent work, with some short written details of what the work was and anything notable about the reception it received, and you will be asked to upload a PDF of its score. This should be titled in the format **Score – Title of work – Composer's name** before uploading. If your music is not notated, please instead provide a short explanation of how you would typically convey it to musicians to perform.

For the choreographer, this should ideally be a link to footage of a recent dance work you have choreographed, with some short written details of what the work was, and anything notable about the reception it received. If for exceptional reasons you cannot provide such things, you can account your reasons in this section of the form.

Project

For this, you can choose whether to provide what's required in written or simply filmed format. We would like:

1. A short overview of your plans, telling us about:

    - your project
    - what you hope to achieve with it
    - what live musicians you expect it to involve
    - details of firm or provisional conversations with promoters/venues/festivals
    - what performances you have in mind and the current status of these
    - other ways you plan to ensure the work may endure in some regard.

2. Short separate first-person accounts from both the composer and choreographer articulating your personal aspirations and objectives for the project, and what you hope to achieve artistically by newly collaborating with each other in this way.

3. Any other information that may be salient to your proposal.

If you choose to supply this in **written format**, all the above should be uploaded within **one** PDF up to but not exceeding **two A4 pages**. This should be titled in the format **Proposal –**

Composer's name before uploading. We recommend taking care to ensure you pay equal attention to the practical and logistical arrangements as well as your artistic plans.

If you prefer to answer these questions in a **filmed format**, you should provide a link to one short film in which all the above is addressed, not exceeding a total of 6 minutes in duration. We anticipate this will mostly entail the applicants talking to camera, in one take or more edited together, but it must include short first-person accounts from both the composer and choreographer and all the other elements outlined in points 1, 2 and 3 above. This need not be high-quality and we welcome it being filmed on a smartphone or similar. This should be submitted as a link to YouTube or Google Drive, and the footage should remain visible there until August 2027. You may supply a link to footage that is 'unlisted' but please ensure to include any passwords with your link, if applicable, in the application form.

Please do not submit applications which are both in written *and* filmed formats, in fairness to other applicants. You should choose one method that feels most suitable for you.

Budget

All applicants must complete our simple budget template (which you can download here) then upload this in our application form. Please ensure you specify the amount you are ideally seeking from the RPS to support your plans, as indicated in the blue box highlighted in the template. The completed template should be titled in the format **Budget – Composer's name** before uploading. Please upload your budget in the original excel format, not as a PDF. We hope the template is clear and self-explanatory. Please refer to the notes on page 3 above for more detail on what we ask you to provide here.

On completion of your online form, you will be invited to take a moment to answer some standard inclusivity monitoring questions. Doing this is so helpful to us all collectively in classical music. We are committed to working with colleagues sector-wide to ensure we are representing excellence, creativity and innovation in music-making within a diverse, multicultural society. Thank you for playing your part in this. The information you provide in your application will only be used in accordance with our Privacy Policy as found on our website.

Applications open on the RPS website in October 2026 and the closing date is 11am on **Wednesday 26 May 2027**. If for access reasons or exceptional personal circumstances, you may not be able to submit an application by the closing date, please be in touch to discuss the possibility of a short extension to make your submission. In the first instance, please contact Emily Porter, RPS Administrator, by phone on 020 7287 0019 or email at admin@philharmonicsociety.uk.

Next steps

The closing date for applications is 11am on **Wednesday 26 May 2027.** Applications are reviewed by RPS staff in consultation with an advisory group comprising experts in dance and contemporary classical music. Thank you for your patience while we fulfil this. We aim to let applicants know the outcome by August.

If you submit your application well in advance of the closing date then find your plans have changed, please note we cannot accept emailed changes or updates: you should instead resubmit your application entirely, before the closing date. We cannot accept any applications or updates after the closing date, but understand that the detail of applicants' projects may continue to evolve. Those to whom we offer grants will be asked to let us know any further updates at that stage.

Those we can support will be given a grant offer letter. It may be that we can only grant you a portion of what you asked for. In this instance, you will need to confirm that you can still fulfil your plans with this before accepting. Once the terms of the letter have been formally accepted by you, payment of the grant will be made to your bank account in two instalments. We will agree a timeframe with you for when we pay the instalments based on your plans.

Those who receive a grant will be expected around the premiere and future performances, as well as online and in the work's score, to acknowledge the support of the RPS Drummond Lockyer Fund for Dance. A set of guidelines for such acknowledgement will be presented to recipients with our grant offer. As with all beneficiaries of RPS charitable funds, at some stage in the project's development, we may also ask you to create some content – such as a short written or simply filmed account – of your initiative, or come to the RPS office to be filmed, for us to share with RPS Members and supporters, and with a wider audience to foster greater interest in your music.

If you would like any guidance in making an application, or to establish if your plans are eligible for consideration, please get in touch. In the first instance please contact Emily Porter, RPS Administrator, by email at admin@philharmonicsociety.uk or phone on 020 7287 0019.

Thank you for your interest in the RPS and best wishes for your application.