

Opus FAQs

Why do I have to register to apply?

By registering for Opus and completing our Inclusivity Questionnaire, you are helping us to not only monitor the level of interest in the programme but also find out more about the composers we are reaching. The information gathered at this stage will be treated confidentially and will not inform the later application process (the questionnaire is anonymous, so we cannot connect your answers to your application) but will hopefully tell us more about the diverse range of composers that would like to work with Britten Sinfonia, and who, if anyone, is missing from the process.

How much does it cost to apply for one of the Opus schemes?

There is no charge to make an application for Opus. We recognise that taking part in opportunities such as this requires a commitment and all selected composers will receive a bursary as a contribution towards their time and expenses.

Is there an age limit?

Although you do have to be over 18 to apply for Opus, there is no upper age limit. We welcome applications from those who may have taken time away from composition and are keen to rekindle their passion as much as from younger applicants who are studying the subject in higher education.

Will I need to write new music as part of my application?

No. We know that even a 'quick sketch' or an idea for a new piece will take time to commit to paper, so we won't ask you to write and submit anything new at the application stage.

How will the selection process work?

All Opus 1 applications will be considered by our Programme Directors, who will compile a shortlist of candidates. These will then be looked at by one of our musicians (who will also be playing in the later workshops) and Creative Learning Manager Rachel, and discussed by the panel as a whole, before being narrowed down to our final choice of 8 composers based solely on their application.

Applications for **Magnum Opus** will be considered initially by Britten Sinfonia's CEO Meurig and Creative Learning Manager Rachel, before the second stage of consideration by our panel – **Joe Cutler**, **Dobrinka Tabakova** and one of our orchestral players. Shortlisted composers will be invited to attend an online interview, where the panel will assess the applicants' wider creative motivations and experiences to date – e.g. programming concerts, setting up/running a festival, working in an education context etc. – and these will be considered equally with compositional ability and track record.

Why can't I apply for Opus 1 if I have recently taken part in a similar opportunity?

Selection for composition programmes is a competitive business, and we all know that often, it feels like a relatively small pool of names seem to get lots of opportunities, while a much bigger pool can't quite get a foot in the door... We'd like to make sure that we're hearing from as many new voices as possible, especially composers who might not have had access to similar schemes and for whom a recording of their new work could be of great value.

Why can't I apply for both schemes?

Opus 1 and Magnum Opus are very different and, as such, are not aimed at the same level of composer. Opus 1 is a short talent development opportunity for composers of any age who would like some help to develop a new piece, without the pressure of a performance at the end of the process. Magnum Opus is a chance for early career composers who have already enjoyed some degree of success to work with Britten Sinfonia on a longer term basis, developing multiple works and culminating in public performance. Individuals should self-assess their own work to decide which opportunity will suit them best.

Whom can I contact about the application process?

If you have specific questions regarding the application form or process, please contact our Creative Learning Manager Rachel on info@brittensinfonia.com