



THE SOLTI FOUNDATION
ONLINE APPLICATION PROCEDURE - APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The Solti Foundation awards small grants to support young musicians at the start of their professional careers. The Foundation aims to assist artists at the critical time after the guidance and funding of their full-time music institution has ended but before regular work has been obtained.

Who can apply?

Applications are invited from individual young musicians, singers, conductors and composers of all nationalities who wish to pursue a professional career in music.

Applications may be considered from duos, trios, or quartets, but **not** from larger groups or orchestras.

The majority of grants are awarded to postgraduate students who have completed (or who are near the end of) their postgraduate training and who are about to embark on a professional career. It is only in exceptional circumstances that the Foundation supports students at an earlier stage in their musical training.

What kind of funding is available?

The Solti Foundation will only consider precise proposals for specific projects.

Examples of the type of project that could be considered for funding:

- fees to cover a short period of lessons, short courses or masterclasses, entrance fees for competitions
- travel and accommodation costs in order to attend auditions, competitions, masterclasses, etc.
- hiring or buying music
- the Foundation may also make a small contribution to the cost of purchasing or repairing an instrument where this would significantly improve the chance of a candidate pursuing a successful career. Part-funding is granted on condition that the remaining funds are secured from other sources.

Candidates may apply for a **maximum of two** projects in any one application round.

Past award winners may re-apply for funding, but cannot receive more than **two** grants from the Foundation.

The Foundation **does not** contribute to:

- fees or subsistence costs for undergraduate or postgraduate training, or for any long-term, full-time study
- the costs of producing promotional material (recordings for auditions, competitions, agents; the creation of personal websites, photographs, press packages, etc.)
- the costs of commercial recordings
- the costs of promotional concerts.

Application procedure

To apply for funding from the Solti Foundation you will be asked to follow an 8-step online procedure. Please make sure that you have all the required information ready to upload before completing the application form. The form cannot be saved and must be completed in one go.

Step 1 – General information

Here you will be asked to provide information about yourself – your name, age, nationality, contact details, specialisation, etc., together with details of the amount of grant you are requesting (the total for all projects).

The amount of grant must be entered as a whole number with no dots or commas separating the figures – e.g. 1000 Euros

Photographs must:

- have no other affix than .jpg and must be in real jpeg format, not simply named so
- be in close-up (a head and shoulders shot)
- be free of copyright
- be a maximum of 2MB or maximum 2000 pixels x 3000 pixels in size.

Applications from groups: Please submit only one application on behalf of the group. You must nominate one group member as the sole point of contact. In Step 1, enter details for the nominated contact person and also indicate the name of the group. The amount of grant requested should be the total for all group members combined. The photograph must be of the group as a whole.

Step 2 – Curriculum vitae

Please provide a full curriculum vitae including information about:

- all musical education in the last 10 years, including qualifications obtained
- professional engagements (including dates)
- participation in competitions and results (including dates)
- professional auditions undertaken and results (including dates)
- future engagements.

Please provide information in **normal c.v. format**. Information presented in the form of programme notes will not be accepted. You must clearly specify the level of education you have reached and, if still pursuing post-graduate studies, the date by which these will be completed.

Applications from groups: In Step 2 please indicate for each group member his or her full name, date of birth, place of birth, nationality and country of residence. Provide a full c.v. for the group as a whole.

Step 3 – References

Here you will be asked to provide the names and contact details of two referees. Only one referee may be your teacher. Referee 1 (Academic Referee) should be your teacher, head of department or head of school. Referee 2 (Professional Referee) should be a music professional who knows your work. Your referees must be able to comment on your musical aptitude and career possibilities. All references must be written specifically for this application. Please therefore make sure that your referees are aware of, and are able to comment on, the nature of your request to the Foundation

References must be written in English. They must be typed on the Referee Statement Form and sent by email to info@soltifoundation.com. References must be sent by the referee directly from his or her own email address. They may **not** be sent by the applicant.

To download the Referee Statement Form [click here](#).

Please note that all references will be checked for authenticity. Any attempt to falsify references will result in immediate disqualification.

Applications from groups: Please supply two references as outlined above. The referees must be able to comment on each member of the group separately as well as providing information about the group as a whole.

Step 4 - Object of the grant

Describe why you are applying to the Solti Foundation and how you feel an award will assist the development of your career.

If you are applying for more than one project, please list and describe all projects here (maximum 2 projects).

Do not provide budget details at Step 4 - this information is required at Step 5.

For each project, you must provide the following information:

- the name of the competition, festival, masterclass, course of study, etc.
- the date and the location (town, country) of the proposed project
- a website link to the event
- an indication of whether or not you have been invited to participate in the proposed event.

If you already have a formal invitation, please provide a copy of your letter of acceptance. You may attach this to the application form or send by email to info@soltifoundation.com.

If you do not yet know, please indicate the date by which you are likely to hear. If you are applying for a project before you have been formally invited to participate, you are obliged to inform the Solti Foundation of the outcome of your application – positive or negative – as soon as you know.

Projects **may not start before the month of June** following the 28 February deadline.

Grants **cannot** be made retrospectively for projects that have already taken place.

Step 5 - Budget

Please provide as much detail as possible. You must be able to justify how you have arrived at any figures you provide. Insufficient budget details may lead to an application being rejected.

Indicate the amount of grant you are requesting and clearly specify the currency of your proposal (GB£, US\$ or Euros). The amount of grant must be entered as a whole number, with no dots or commas separating the figures – e.g. 1000 Euros

At this stage you may add budget details for a second project. Each project will be judged separately.

For each proposed project you must provide the following information:

- the total amount requested
- a **full and detailed budget breakdown** - including, for example, costs for course fees, for travel (indicating from where to where and by which mode of transport), for accommodation (number of nights and price per night), etc.

If your proposal concerns the **purchase of an instrument**, you must provide the following information:

- the precise make and model of the instrument
- the place from which you intend to purchase the instrument (name and contact details of shop, factory, or private sale)
- evidence of the price (including a copy of a quote from the seller)
- an explanation of how you intend to source the remaining funds to secure the purchase. The Solti Foundation will only consider part-funding where the applicant can guarantee that the remaining funds can be secured from other sources.

Applications from groups: The budget should be presented as a total for the group as a whole, broken down to include detailed costs for each individual (for example, for travel from different places).

Step 6 – Other sources of funding

Please indicate all other sources of support or funding currently received (those that are firm commitments as well as those you are exploring).

You must indicate whether you have applied to other organisations to fund the same projects included in your application to the Solti Foundation. You are obliged to inform the Foundation if such applications are successful.

Tick the box if you have **no** other support or funding.

You will also be asked to indicate previous scholarships, awards and funding received. Please include dates.

Tick the box if you have received **no** previous scholarships, funding or awards.

Step 7 – Recordings and other supporting material

To complete the application process you must provide:

TWO copies of a good quality CD **and**
TWO copies of a good-quality DVD.

ALL CDs and DVDs must be of a recent, **unedited**, performance (within the last 6 months).

In the recordings we must be able to **hear you performing solo** (CD) and **see you performing close-up** (DVD).

Recordings should **not be submitted as computer files, but as standard CDs and DVDs that may be played back on a CD or DVD player** (see below). It is your responsibility to check that your recordings are readable on standard play-back equipment and not only on a computer prior to submitting. Recordings that are not readable in this format will be rejected.

Composers - please send at least one score to accompany your recordings.

Conductors - please send a DVD showing you conducting in close-up. You may also send a CD of a performance that you are conducting.

Content of recordings:

The CD and DVD may be of the same performance. They may be existing recordings (as long as they are recorded within the last 6 months), or they may be made specifically for this application. Performances do not have to be in front of an audience. Recordings should include **no more than three pieces and be no more than 30 minutes in length**. The content should be sufficiently varied to enable a good assessment of your playing.

Vocal applications must include:

- one piece of Mozart
- one piece demonstrating vocal agility
- one piece of your own choice.

Strings - applications must include:

- one piece of Mozart
- one piece of Bach
- one piece of your own choice.

Technical requirements - please:

- use CDRs and NOT rewritable CDs (not CD RW)
- use DVD -R and NOT DVD +R
- do NOT use rewritable DVDs (not DVD RW)
- do NOT send videotapes, DATs, minidisks or cassettes
- do NOT use file formats that are only readable on a computer (e.g. AVI, MP3, MP4, VOC, VT_S, WMA, etc.).

Online video clips **cannot** be accepted as an alternative to supplying a CD or DVD. However, a link to a recent online recording may be mentioned in your application form.

Labelling instructions - please:

- package **EACH disc** in its own paper sleeve, rather than in a plastic case
- label **EACH** disc (using a permanent marker) and **EACH** paper sleeve with the following information:
 - your name and your instrument (or the name of your group)
 - whether the recording is a CD or a DVD
 - the content of the recording (track listings)
 - the venue of the recording (name of studio, concert hall, etc.)
 - the place of the recording (name of town and country)
 - the date of the recording.

Recordings and other supporting material must be sent by post to the address below:

The Applications Coordinator
The Solti Foundation
BP 4
1410 Waterloo
Belgium

(Please note that most courier services will not deliver to PO Box (BP) addresses. If you wish to use such a service, please contact info@soltifoundation.com for further information)

All material must be received by the deadline of 28 February.

Application material sent by courier from outside the European Union may be subject to taxes, duties and administrative costs. These costs and taxes are the responsibility of the applicant and will not be paid by the Solti Foundation. Please send your package "Free Domicile" to ensure that all costs are paid by the sender in advance. The Foundation will return any application material on which outstanding costs are unpaid.

Step 8 – Summary and validation

This final step provides a summary of your application and gives you the chance to edit it before validating and submitting. Please review your application carefully and check the layout of uploaded documents.

The Solti Foundation reserves the right to request additional information considered necessary to evaluate your application (for example, an additional professional reference, evidence of your financial situation, evidence of your qualifications). You may also be required to audition.

The online application procedure **closes at 24.00 CET on 28 February**. Applications for grants will not be considered outside this time frame. All supporting material, including references and audition recordings, must be received by the Solti Foundation at the above address by the deadline of 28 February. Applications that do not comply with the Application Guidelines will not be considered. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. The Solti Foundation cannot be held responsible for material lost or damaged in the post, or for delays resulting from postal strikes or other disruptions to postal services.

The Artistic / Awards Committee will meet in May each year to consider applications. Candidates will be notified within 30 days of their meeting and should not expect to hear from the Foundation before this time. The Committee's decision is final and no further correspondence will be entered into.

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