

BAROQUE WEEK

Information for Applicants for Bursaries to attend Baroque Week

Subject to the availability of funds, bursaries to meet part or the whole of cost of attending the annual Baroque Week course are offered to selected applicants who cannot afford to pay the full cost on the basis of the criteria below. *(No order of priority is implied by the numbering system, which is provided simply for ease of reference.)*

Please note that Baroque Week is an adult course. If you will be under 18 years old at the start of the course your parent or guardian should countersign the bursary application form and we will also send you our Young Student Permission Form.

1. The expected benefit to the applicant of attendance

This may be considered in terms of the applicant's education in baroque music and the development of the applicant's artistic experience in performing baroque chamber music. Both aspects are likely to be especially beneficial to students and aspiring professionals. This may also apply to amateur or professional musicians who are relatively new to the field of baroque music and developing an active interest in it.

2. The expected benefit to others of the applicant's attendance

a. To other course members:

Success of the course depends on a satisfactory balance of different instruments and voices as well as of musical ability. It is appropriate to consider how the applicant's attendance will contribute to the success of the course as a whole and hence the benefit accruing to other participants.

b. To the wider public:

The development of the applicant's knowledge and skills in baroque music may be expected to benefit other people in the future in their appreciation and enjoyment of this art, whether as participants in its performance, audience members or as part of their own education. The potential extent of this benefit may be greater in the case of younger applicants and those who may in time reach a wider public as professional musicians.

3. To what extent the applicant requires financial assistance to attend

It is intended that bursaries should enable some people to attend who cannot afford to pay the full cost. This is likely to include students and those with modest incomes. Information provided in good faith by the applicant will normally form the basis of this assessment. Bursaries will normally cover some or all of the course fee only and not travel costs. If the applicant could not attend without additional assistance with travel costs, that should be made clear in the application.

4. Whether the applicant has previously received a Bursary

Previous receipt of a bursary does not disqualify a subsequent application but will be taken into account when assessing fairness and equity of distribution (see no.5).

5. The availability of funds and the merits of competing applications

In any year there will be limited funds available for bursaries. Distribution should be made as fairly and equitably as possible on the basis of merit of competing applications. This will take into account whether any applicants have previously been awarded a bursary and, if so, the sum involved.

Bursary student expectations

You will primarily be on the course to learn and to improve your own skills and will have the opportunity to work with some excellent musicians. The tutors are all very experienced performers and teachers in the field of historically informed performance and will be able to offer you a lot of guidance and encouragement.

Bursary singers will have plenty of solo opportunities, and we will let you have copies of (or links to) some of this music in advance. However we do try to ensure a fair distribution of solo parts between bursary and paying students as appropriate. In the chamber music sessions you will be able to sing music of your own choice and we recommend that you prepare and bring scores and parts for arias, cantatas or motets that you would like to work on with small groups of instrumentalists, as well as exploring the course library.

The course members are largely (but not exclusively) amateur, but include semi-professional performers and teachers. There are also many whose extensive knowledge is greater than their practical expertise! Inevitably there will be some participants with lower levels of skill and/or experience, but as a bursary student we expect you to encourage others on the course and to act as a mentor to other participants if needed.

Bursary students will be allocated a single bedroom in the modern accommodation block, with toilets and showers nearby. You will **not** normally have an en-suite bedroom. In return for your free tuition and accommodation, we would also be grateful if you could help if needed with various musical and practical arrangements during the week, such as:

- Helping to move chairs, harpsichords and chamber organs if necessary
- Helping with photocopying and preparing music as and when necessary
- Helping with tea/coffee & cake in the common room in the afternoon tea-break on alternate days, on a rota with the other bursary students
- Helping to keep the common room and kitchen tidy and loading the dishwasher if needed

Registration is from 2.30pm on the first Sunday and it would be much appreciated if you are able to aim to arrive before that time in order to lend a hand with practical arrangements if possible - although of course this will depend on your travel arrangements. There will be an explanatory meeting/tour of the site for new members (or those who haven't been for a few years) at 4.30pm; everyone else is asked to try to arrive by 5.30pm if possible.

On the final Sunday the course ends with lunch, although if you are able to stay for an hour or so after lunch to help clear up, that would again be very helpful!

Applying for a bursary

Applications should be submitted by email or in hardcopy to the Course Administrator, providing the information required on the Baroque Week Bursary Application Form. Please also complete the normal application form (there is no need to repeat the same information on both forms).

Applications will be considered in order of receipt as follows:

- a) Those applying principally as instrumentalists will be considered as and when their applications are received. (Applications open on 1st October for the following year's course.)
- b) Applications from singers which are received by the end of January will be considered in February, at the same time as the applications from non-Bursary singers. If vacancies for specialist singers remain after this, then further applications will be considered as and when they are received.
- c) If two or more competing applications are received within seven days of each other, they will be considered together on their merits and order of receipt will not be a factor.

(d) In order to meet Criteria 5 re: fair distribution of funds:- If an applicant has previously received a bursary then, although a provisional response may be given in line with the preceding paragraphs, the award of a repeat bursary will not be confirmed until March at the earliest, so that the merits of any competing applications can be considered.

Applicants will be informed of the decision of the awarding panel by the Course Administrator, on behalf of the Trustees. The Trustees undertake to maintain confidentiality - all information supplied on your application will be kept securely and only shared as necessary to determine your application.

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