



## Music Capital Scheme 2024

### Award 3 (Individual emerging professional performing musicians) Guidelines

Managed by Music Network, funded by An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán / The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

The Music Network Music Capital Scheme is designed to provide support for the purchase of musical instruments and respond to a broad range of capital needs within the music sector in Ireland.

This document describes the **Music Capital Scheme 2024 Award 3 (Individual emerging professional performing musicians)**, provides information on how to apply, and outlines how applications will be assessed. This award is designed to provide support for individual emerging performing musicians demonstrating exceptional potential and working at a professional level, who seek support for the purchase of high quality instruments that are central to their performing career. (NB: References to 'instruments' throughout this document can be understood to refer to the proposed instrument for purchase and/or other eligible item(s), per the list on page 2).

Emerging professional performing musicians are defined as those, of any age and performing in any genre, who are in the process of mastering their music performance practice and are in the early years of establishing a professional performing career. They have some experience but have not yet established a solid reputation as professional performing musicians, and they identify, and are recognised by their peers, as professional performing musicians. This award is open to musicians working as high-level performers in a solo capacity or as part of a small group / ensemble / collective in any musical genre.

**The total funding available for the Music Capital Scheme 2024 Award 3 is €90,000.**

**The deadline for receipt of applications is 2pm, Tuesday 25 June 2024.**

#### Who can apply?

Individual musicians who are resident in the Republic of Ireland are eligible to apply to the Music Capital Scheme 2024 - Award 3. Music Network is committed to equity and inclusion and welcomes applications from individuals within culturally diverse communities and from people with disabilities. Residency is based upon the Revenue Commissioners' definition of the term:

*You are resident in Ireland for tax purposes if you are present in Ireland for:*

- 183 days or more in a tax year
- *or*
- 280 days or more in total, taking the current tax year plus the preceding tax year together. You will not be resident in Ireland if you are here for 30 days or less in a tax year.

Residents will have a valid PPS number. Please visit [www.revenue.ie](http://www.revenue.ie) for additional information.

There are certain exceptions where Music Network may deem eligible applications made by those based outside the Republic of Ireland. However, before admitting as eligible any such application, the applicant would need to explicitly outline within the application how the outcomes of any such proposal would benefit the arts in the Republic of Ireland.

### Ineligible applicants/applications

- Individuals under the age of 18 are not eligible to apply.
- Previous Music Capital Scheme awardees who have not complied with the conditions of their award are not eligible to apply.
- Previous Music Capital Scheme Award 2 awardees are not eligible to apply.

Your application will be deemed ineligible if your application:

- is received after the closing date and time: **2pm, Tuesday 25 June 2024.**
- does not include all of the Essential Support Materials (page 3).
- does not comply with the conditions of the award (pages 4 – 5).
- relates to an instrument already purchased or which will be purchased before funding decisions are made.
- is not completed in full. Insert 'N/A' to any sections that do not apply to your application, if necessary.

Please note that lobbying will lead to disqualification of applications.

### Eligible/ineligible expenditure

The proposed instrument for purchase must be a primary instrument of the applicant, in which they can demonstrate a track record of performance/career potential. Support provided by this award will be made available through a grant payment to the individual musician.

In addition to new or high-quality second-hand musical instruments, or a once-off repair/restoration project, the following items are **eligible** expenditure as part of the Music Capital Scheme 2024 Award 3. NB: all proposed items for purchase must be for use primarily in a live performance setting.

|                            |                                 |                                   |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bows                       | Electro-acoustic equipment      | Mouthpieces                       |
| Drumheads, sticks, brushes | Instrument amplifiers and leads | PA Systems and microphones        |
| Effects pedals             | Instrument cases                | Specialist stools where necessary |

The following items are **ineligible** for as part of the Music Capital Scheme 2024 Award 3:

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Computers/laptops   | Metronomes, tuners, tuning fees |
| Equipment and software for recording  | Rehearsal space purchase/rental |
| Expenses related to purchase of the instrument e.g. shipping, delivery, duties, bank charges, import fees |                                 |

### Application Process

Applicants must complete an online application form, which includes submission of Essential Support Materials. Applicants may also submit Optional Support Materials.

#### 1. Application Form:

The application form consists of five sections, requesting contact details, information on the applicant's background (e.g. relevant education/training, previous performances), their future plans (e.g. upcoming performances, plans for development) and the proposed instrument for purchase (e.g. the cost, the applicant's financial contribution to the cost, the need for instrument). All Support Materials are uploaded as part of the completion of the online application form.

## 2. Essential Support Materials:

Please ensure that you provide all the materials requested below, as applications which do not include all Essential Support Material cannot be fully assessed and must be deemed ineligible.

- Curriculum Vitae

This document should not exceed two pages, and should include details of education/training, performance history, and names of groups/ensembles/musicians with whom you have collaborated.

- Audio/video recordings

Applicants must submit two contrasting recordings demonstrating their artistic activities along with a Word document listing the recording details (start/stop times of relevant section to listen to, date, location of recording).

- Audio recordings in mp3 format can be uploaded directly to the application form.
- Audio recordings in other formats and video recordings can be linked on the Word document.

N.B. If links are not accessible during the assessment period, it will not be possible to fully assess your application so do ensure your links/files are publicly accessible or provide a password if required.

- Two quotations for the proposed instrument for purchase

Applicants must submit quotations for the instrument from **two separate suppliers**. Quotations are essential for comparison purposes so that 'value for money' can be demonstrated and given careful consideration in relation to all applications. Quotations must display the supplier name, instrument specifications and cost, in a screen capture from the supplier's website, or an email/letter from the supplier.

- If quotations are in a currency other than Euro, please include the relevant conversion(s); the figures listed on your application form must be in Euro.
- In the case of bespoke instruments, the additional quotation(s) should be for the nearest comparable instrument(s). Please contact the Music Capital Scheme Administrator if you have any questions.
- As links can expire/become inactive, it is not acceptable to submit links in place of quotations in the format described here.

- Letters of recommendation

Applicants must upload two letters of recommendation from peers/mentors. Letters should be recent and specifically reference the applicant, their performance skills and their career development.

## 3. Optional Support Materials

Applicants may upload up to five documents as Optional Support Materials. These may include, but are not limited to, reviews, press cuttings and publicity material.

## 4. How to submit your application

Applicants should visit [www.musicnetwork.ie](http://www.musicnetwork.ie) and set up their profile on the application portal. The applicant can then complete the application in stages (filling in the application form and uploading all Essential and Optional Support Materials) throughout the application period. All application materials, i.e. application form and support materials, must be submitted through the online application portal accessible at [www.musicnetwork.ie](http://www.musicnetwork.ie). The completed application must be submitted by **2pm, Tuesday 25 June 2024**.

If you submit your application by the deadline, you will receive an automated email confirming that your application has been successfully submitted to the system. N.B. As emails are automated, they may appear in your spam folders. **If you do not receive this email, your application has not been submitted.** Please note that it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that Music Network receives the application by the deadline. Music Network cannot accept responsibility for applications which are not successfully submitted by the deadline.

### Tips for applicants

- Read the Music Capital Scheme 2024 Award 3 Guidelines and the Music Capital Scheme 2024 Award 3 online application form thoroughly while preparing your application.
- Make sure your application is clear, concise and unambiguous; do not assume assessors are familiar with your work.
- Keep the selection criteria in mind when completing the form and choosing support materials to submit.
- Have a clear and realistic idea of the costs involved in your proposal and clearly outline other sources of income.
- Be selective with support material; ensure that it is the best representation of your work. Support material should primarily be recent work and relate clearly to the proposed instrument for purchase.
- Ask a friend or colleague to look over your application before submission.
- Prepare and submit your application well in advance of the deadline: **2pm, Tuesday 25 June 2024.**

### Assessment procedure

An independent advisor will assess all eligible applications based on the selection criteria listed below. Depending on the volume of applications, a short-listing process may be used. A panel including representatives of Music Network and relevant music practitioners from a variety of genres will then consider applications and decide on the allocation of funds. The panel may decide not to award funds if insufficient high-quality applications are received. The decision of the panel will be final. Applicants should note that funding is limited and that this is a very competitive process. Meeting the eligibility criteria alone does not guarantee funding.

### **Selection criteria**

Applications will be assessed based on these four **equally weighted** criteria:

| In relation to the proposed instrument for purchase:                   |     |
|--|-----|
| • Track record of the applicant  | 25% |
| • Demonstrated potential and career development plans of the applicant | 25% |
| • Demonstrated need  | 25% |
| • Plans for use, including in the Republic of Ireland                  | 25% |

### Results

All applicants will be informed of panel decisions by email in September 2024. The names of successful applicants will be published shortly thereafter.

### **Unsuccessful applicants**

Music Network will provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants where requested within 2 months of the results being announced. Applicants may reapply in subsequent years.

### **Successful applicants – Conditions of the Award**

- Up to 50% of the total cost of the instrument may be awarded; the award amount may not exceed 50% of the total cost of the instrument. The applicant must fund the remaining 50%, this 50% cannot include a discount from a supplier.

- Awarded musicians will make regular (not necessarily exclusive) use of the instrument in the Republic of Ireland for at least three years. In the case of pianos or other large non-portable instruments, the instrument will be housed in the musician's normal place of practice.
- Awarded musicians must make adequate provision for housing, insurance, care, maintenance and repair of the instrument.
- Awarded musicians must source an instrument to purchase (if an instrument has not already been sourced) within six months of notification of an award being made. Purchase of the instrument and drawdown of funding must take place within ten months of the award being made.
- Awarded musicians will write to Music Network within two weeks of receiving their results to request payment of their award. All awardees must list their PPS number, and those receiving awards in excess of €10,000 must list their Tax Reference Number and Tax Clearance Access Number, in order to draw down the award.
- Any proposed change made by an awarded musician to the instrument for purchase must be approved by Music Network in advance of purchase.
- Awarded musicians must provide copies of receipts for the purchase of the approved instrument to Music Network within six months of award payment. Where receipts are in a currency other than euro, confirmation of the euro amount paid must be provided also. Where such documentation is not received, awardees will forfeit the award, and refund any unused portion of the funds. If the final cost is lower than anticipated, the awardee will refund the unused portion of the award to Music Network to be added to the Music Capital Scheme award fund for subsequent years.
- Awarded musicians must provide annual reports to Music Network on the use of the instrument for three years from the date when the instrument is received.
- Awarded musicians must acknowledge the support of Music Network, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, and the Arts Council in biographical material, from the date of the award, for at least three years. The relevant logos and a template for the acknowledge text will be sent to awardees following confirmation of the award results. Awardees will be required to submit proof of acknowledgement with annual reports i.e. provision of sample concert programmes, website screenshots, posters, flyers etc. which carry the acknowledgement.
- Awarded musicians agree to be bound by the conditions of this award. In the case of an unforeseen change in circumstance leading to an inability to abide by the conditions of the award, musicians will refund the amount awarded (or the percentage of the then value of the instrument corresponding to the percentage of the value of the original award) to Music Network. This will then be added to the Music Capital Scheme fund for subsequent years.