



Preston Simpson and Sterndale Trust



Application Process 2025 – 2026

Thank you for expressing an interest in applying for the Preston Simpson and Sterndale Trust.

This document outlines the full application process through to the celebration event which is scheduled for 27 June 2026 at Town Hall Theatre, Raby Road, Hartlepool. **You MUST attend the event to receive your award. A number of award winners will be specifically selected to perform at the event, please check all your correspondence.**

Please read the guidelines before completing your application. Forms should be completed electronically and submitted via email.

It is important that you adhere to the deadlines dates and also check your emails for communications. Please note HBC emails can go into junk, so please check your junk inbox too.

All email communications must be sent to PSST@hartlepool.gov.uk

The deadline for **all** information to be submitted is **12 December 2025.**

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2025 – 2026 Application Timeline

Applications Open	1 September 2025
Applications Close	12 December 2025
Audition letters to be sent	w/c 19 January 2026
Video auditions to be received (if request approved)	29 January 2026
Auditions date	26 / 27 February 2026
Letters sent to inform of awards, and if requested to perform. Rehearsal timings to be sent in same communications	w/c 13 April 2026
Rehearsals	27 June 2026 – 1pm onwards
Celebration Event	27 June 2026 – 7.00pm

PLEASE NOTE – Reminders will NOT be sent to applicants, it is their responsibility to provide information in line with the timeline, noting that HBC emails may go into junk emails.

A number of award winners will be specifically selected to perform at the event, please check all your correspondence.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CANDIDATE

Name of Candidate in full:			
Home address including postcode:			
Term time address (if different from above):			
Contact Telephone Number(s):			
E-mail address:			
Age:		DOB:	
School or College Attended:			
Please state whether you desire to be examined in the proficiency of singing or in a particular instrument.			
Please state if you will be accompanied by someone for your audition / performance (it is your responsibility to arrange this).			

Please give an outline of your musical education and achievements to date. This should include details of grades obtained:

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Have you received a previous award under the scholarship? If yes please give details of what the award was used for and the date of the award.

What are your musical intentions for the next five years?

How will the scholarship help you?

Please give the names, addresses and email addresses of **two** referees and **supply** written references from them. Your referees need to be able to testify to your general education and character and also to your musical education and capabilities.

References from relatives will not be considered. Failure to supply references will mean that your application cannot be considered.

If you are studying Music one referee must be your current Music Teacher or Head of Music.

Referee One: Name & Address:	Referee Two: Name & Address:
E-Mail Address:	E-Mail Address:

Auditions will take place on **26 and 27 February 2026** at High Tunstall College of Science. Please state your preferred date for audition (please note this is not guaranteed).

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If you have been shortlisted for audition you will receive correspondence week commencing **19 January 2026**.

Copies of the scores of your chosen music will be required for the adjudicators at your audition. Please ensure that you are covered for Copyright.

Only under exceptional circumstances video auditions may be submitted. If you are requesting to submit a video audition, you must email psst@hartlepool.gov.uk stating the reason for your request. All requests must be received by 12 December 2025. If approved guidance on your submission will be provided.

***** PLEASE FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH THE VARIATION TO RULES FOR 2026 *****

Audition and Concert details may change due to government legislation prevailing at that time.



Photography, filming and publicity consent form

Please complete this form to give consent for us to take images, moving footage, audio and comments to then be stored and used.

This form covers consent for use of the above for internal and external communication and storage of the data within this form. All data (images, film, comments, personal info on this form), will be stored by Hartlepool Borough Council.

The data may be shared with 3rd party organisations in order to fulfil the communication work necessary, e.g. providing images to design/print agencies.

Section A) About You

Full Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

Section B) About the event, project or campaign

Description of event, project or campaign:	Preston Simpson and Sterndale Trust – Auditions and celebration event
Location:	Auditions – High Tunstall College of Science Event – Town Hall Theatre
Date:	Auditions – 26 / 27 February 2026 Event – 27 June 2026

Section C) Your consent

I give consent to Hartlepool Borough Council to publish, republish, or otherwise transmit still and moving images, audio and my name for the purposes of:

- ☐ Publicity and promotional materials, including advertising material and printed publications
- ☐ Presentation and exhibition materials
- ☐ Websites, social media channels and digital communications materials, including advertising material and printed publications
- ☐ News media and their associated websites, social media channels, print publications, television and radio

I understand the Council will keep all its images in accordance with data protection law and delete the images that have not been used for any publicity or marketing after two years. I also understand that the still/moving images/audio used for publicity or marketing purposes are in the public domain and therefore could potentially be reproduced, altered, or re-used by people outside of Hartlepool Borough Council's control. I know I have the right to withdraw consent at any time by emailing **communications@hartlepool.gov.uk** or by calling **01429 523578**, but understand that withdrawing consent may not affect the material that has already been used.

Section D) Your signature

I am the person identified in Section A and in the photograph(s), filming and/or recording. I understand the above request and give informed consent.

Signed:	
Date:	

Section E) Signing on behalf of a person aged under 16

I am the parent/guardian (delete as appropriate) of the person identified in Section A and in the photograph(s), filming and/or recording. I understand the above request and give informed consent for this person's image/data to be used.

Signature of parent/guardian:	
Print name:	
Date:	



PRESTON SIMPSON AND STERNDALE YOUNG MUSICIANS TRUST



NOTES OF GUIDANCE

The purpose of this guidance is to provide you with information about the Preston Simpson and Sterndale Young Musicians Trust. It includes details of how you qualify for help, the purpose of the award and how to apply for assistance. A completed application pack must be submitted by **12 December 2025**.

- ***Who gets help from the Young Musicians Trust?***

The Trust makes awards to young people to enable them to study music at any educational establishment providing courses in musical education. It is designed to assist those students who have already achieved a good standard in their musical studies and who may wish to make use of their musical ability in their future careers.

- ***How do I qualify for assistance?***

To qualify for assistance applicants must:

- be aged between 14 and 25 years on 31 July in the year the award is made; and
- be born in the Borough of Hartlepool or having been born elsewhere, have or have had a parent who has lived in the Borough of Hartlepool for not less than five years.

In addition to the above, candidates should be able to show a keen interest and concern for music and have an above average musical talent which will be indicated by:

- A minimum standard of Grade V in the Associated Board Examination or equivalent qualification from Trinity College London;
- Membership of bands and orchestras; or
- Evidence of participation in musical concerts; or
- A genuine intention of pursuing a musical career (at this stage a commitment to GCSE Music).

- *How do I apply for help from the Young Musicians Trust?*

If you think that you may be eligible for assistance you will need to complete the application form and return it by the closing date of **12 December 2025 – 12 noon**.

Candidates must supply the name, address and e-mail address of two referees and written references from them. Your two referees should testify to your general education and character and also to your musical education and capabilities. If you are studying Music one referee must be your current Music Teacher or Head of Music.

- **Applications will only be considered if they include two referees.**
- **Applications submitted without written references will not be considered.**
- **References from relatives will not be considered.**
- **Hand written applications will not be accepted**

- *If I am successful how will I be paid?*

If your application is successful you will receive your award by cheque made payable to you and addressed to your home. There will be a presentation event when the cheque and a certificate will be presented to you.

All successful candidates will be required to attend the presentation event to receive their awards. Failure to do so will result in the award being withdrawn.

- *Is there a closing date?*

The closing date for the current academic year is **12 December 2025**.

- *Will there be an audition?*

- Candidates will be required to attend an audition.
- Candidates will be required to perform **two contrasting** pieces of music using their chosen instrument or instruments.
- If a backing tape or accompanist is needed for your audition it will be your responsibility to organise this.
- Copies of the scores of your chosen music will be required for the adjudicators at your audition.
- Auditions will be held at High Tunstall College of Science, Hartlepool on **26 / 27 February 2026**.

- *If I am successful in obtaining an award, will I have to take part in any publicity?*

A number of successful applicants will be requested to participate in a concert that will be held in the Town Hall on **27 June 2026**. ALL award winners need to attend the awards ceremony.

- *How do I obtain further help and advice?*

If you need further help or advice or help in completing your application form please contact psst@hartlepool.gov.uk or (01429) 523806.

Completed applications to be submitted to PSST@hartlepool.gov.uk

Additional Information

Please complete below, this information **can** be used for press releases and inclusion in the programme for the celebration evening.

Name:
Age:
Text to be included in programme: (150-170 words): <i>Tell us about your musical background, studies and aspirations</i>
If selected to perform on the evening further information will be collected in week commencing 13 April 2026 on the piece you will be requested to perform.
Please provide a head/shoulders photograph of yourself in jpeg format (minimum file size 1mb):

Please submit your application by the deadline 12 December 2025.

All items must be returned:

- Completed application form
- Names and addresses of your references
- References from your referees
- Completed Photography, filming and publicity consent form
- Completed further information sheet
- Head/Shoulders photograph in jpeg format
- If you have arranged to be accompanied by someone for your audition / performance, provide their name.