

Irish Association of Youth Orchestras

Youth Orchestra Collaboration Grant 2025

Closing Date for Applications: Friday, 28 February 2025.

Application Guidelines

In 2025, IAYO is once again running our Youth Orchestra Collaboration Grant scheme to stimulate collaboration among youth orchestras in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. (International collaborators can take part too.)

This scheme is in response to members asking for more regional festivals and collective performance opportunities beyond the annual IAYO Festival at the National Concert Hall. We feel that the creation of such opportunities is more feasible if led locally and supported by IAYO rather than run centrally by IAYO.

The 2022 to 2023 schemes were very successful with not only initial collaborations but also subsequent combined performances and activities and plans for the future. You can read more about previous projects on www.iayo.ie under *Activities -> Youth Orchestra Collaboration Grant*

The Youth Orchestra Collaboration Grant Scheme is aimed at:

- increasing opportunities for Irish youth orchestras to perform with and for each other;
- increasing opportunities for youth orchestras to work with each other collaboratively;
- allowing young musicians from different orchestras to get to know each other and to play together;
- creating activities and performances that are too big for just one orchestra;
- growing and connecting the youth orchestra community.

We are open to any ideas of collaboration that bring young people from three or more orchestras together to rehearse and perform with, or for, each other and to get to know each other through music and related activities.¹

We are very happy to receive applications for activities that operate in a blended format in whatever form that might take - especially where it gives the young players opportunities to get to know each other and to work with each other.

¹ Please see the conditions of funding below for eligible groups.

We are very open to young people and youth orchestras collaborating in ways that we haven't thought of yet.

We will look particularly favourably on activities that have a high level of leadership by young people.

Funding Available

The total fund for the 2025 scheme is €10,000. This may be distributed to between two and four projects at between €2,500 and €5,000 each depending on the applications received.

We may offer less than requested but will consult with the applicant on the feasibility if we feel this is necessary.

Who Can Apply?

Youth orchestras in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland that are members of, or affiliated to members of, the Irish Association of Youth Orchestras.

What Sorts of Activities Will We Fund?

- Shared concerts, small festivals, combined orchestras, and shared artistic projects.
- Blended activities including a mix of online and in-person activities.
- Social and cultural exchange activities that allow players to get to know each other and develop the community of youth orchestras and young players.
- Innovative activities that involve collaboration between orchestras and young musicians not contained in the above.

What Costs Will Be Covered?

- Transport, catering and accommodation for participants within the island of Ireland.
- Venue hire and equipment hire.
- Fees for artistic facilitators: conductors, composers, tutors etc. and related expenses (including international flights if artists are coming from abroad).
- Fees for youth facilitation: i.e. fees for youth workers or other staff to facilitate youth leadership.
- Promotion and publicity costs.
- Administration costs.
- Documentation and dissemination costs: i.e. video production.
- Costs relating to access for those who have specific barriers to access: i.e.

disability.

What Costs Will Not Be Covered?

- Capital purchases.
- Ongoing core costs of ensembles.
- Activities or costs that do not fit the purpose of the award.
- Costs for activities that have already taken place or which will have commenced before decisions on applications have been made.
- Outbound costs for travel by Irish youth orchestras to other countries.

How to Apply

- Please submit applications and accompanying materials by email to info@iayo.ie and using web links where appropriate.
- Please submit a project outline of between one and three pages addressing the questions in *Project Outline* and the criteria given below in the section, *Application Criteria*.
- Please submit a brief (less than one page) biography of each participating orchestra or ensemble and a paragraph about each of up-to three participating artists if you wish.
- Please include a letter or email of support from each participating orchestra
- Please submit a budget outlining the main items of income *and* expenditure and how the Youth Orchestra Collaboration Grant will be used. Please specify how much money is being sought under the Collaboration Grant Scheme as part of the application.
- You can send supporting material in the form of video, audio, printed music or other materials. However, please choose a small amount of curated representative samples. If a large amount of material is submitted, a small and random amount will only be assessed.
- You can include links to videos on YouTube or another publicly accessible streaming service. Please do not send large video files.
 - Please give timings for relevant extracts of 3 minutes or so and no more than 3 extracts.
- You can include audio files sent by a file-sharing service such as WeTransfer.
- Samples of printed music or other samples of work are welcome but please be specific about the purpose of accompanying materials and do not send large amounts.

How Will Applications Be Assessed?

- Applications will be assessed by a senior IAYO staff member, an IAYO board member and an external panellist.
- We will select those collaborations that we anticipate will create the greatest connectivity and artistic and social collaboration amongst youth orchestras and young musicians.
- The age and level of development of orchestra(s) will be taken into consideration so that not only largest or most artistically advanced projects are supported.
- We may make an offer of less than the amount applied for but will discuss the feasibility with applicants if we feel this is necessary.
- We will assess each application using the following criteria and form our opinions of the relative merits of programmes.

Project Outline and the Assessment Criteria

In the project outline, please let us know briefly the answers to the following questions, keeping in mind the assessment criteria below.

- What will happen, when it will happen and who will be involved: rehearsals, performances, tours, artistic and non-artistic activities?
- How many orchestras and young people will be involved: where will they be from, and what are their age-ranges and standards?
- If there is a selection process, how the participants will be chosen?
- Artistic goals and ambitions: how will the collaboration develop the young people and orchestras musically?
- Community goals and ambitions: how will this bring young musicians and youth orchestras closer together?
- Who will be the artists involved: composers, conductors, tutors etc.?
- Have young people been part of developing the project and, if so, how?
- What leadership roles will young people take in the project?

Assessment Criteria

The judges will assess the applications based on the following criteria. Proposals don't have to be very large, highly ambitious or meet or excel at all the criteria. The aim is to provide a variety of opportunities to young people of different ages and abilities in different parts of the country.

- Number of orchestras or ensembles involved or represented.
- Number of young people involved.
- Where the orchestras come from.

- Are there public performances.
- Will the orchestras / young people perform together or for each other?
- Artistic aims, such as whether new music is being composed or how will the young players develop musically?
- The quality and experience of the artists working with the young people.
- Do the activities create new opportunities for young players that are not already available to them?
- Have young people been involved in developing the project?
- What leadership roles will young people take in the project?
- What activities are there for the young people to work together / get to know each other?
- Have the applicants applied and / or received money through the fund previously? While we encourage repeated participation of orchestras, there will be some weighting towards suitable projects where none of the orchestras involved have taken part in funded collaborations in the previous three years.
- We will consider collaborations that are also subject to applications to the IAYO Festival of Youth Orchestras. However, the Collaboration Grants and the Festival of Youth Orchestras applications are assessed separately and receiving a grant for a collaboration does not guarantee a place in the festival.
- We will look favourably on applications that include cross-border collaborations with Northern Ireland.

Project Budget

Please lay out a budget with different items of income and expenditure stating how much is requested from IAYO under the grant scheme. Budgets should be balanced to show equal income and expenditure. If there are donations of benefit-in-kind such as fee waivers on venue hire, please do feel free to show them in the budget as “free”.

An example budget would look like:

Income		
Participants’ Contributions	€00	
IAYO Collaboration Grant	€00	
Expenditure		
Conductor’s Fee		€00
Tutors x 3 @ €00		€00
Lunches x 100		€00

Dinners x 100		€00
Bus Hire (two x two-way trips)		€00
Venue Hire (normally €000)		Free
Totals	€000	€000

Conditions of Funding

- A single orchestra / member organisation can make the application for the funding but at least two other orchestras outside of that organisation must have agreed to take part or support the activity and provide letters or emails of support.
- At least two of the involved orchestras should be from the island of Ireland.
- Where 3 or 4 orchestras participate, there will need to be at least 10 participants from each orchestra.
- For applications with more than 5 orchestras, there will need to be 25 or more participants not from the orchestra awarded funding.
- Activities must take place before Monday, 30 June 2025.
- The main in-person activities must take place on the island of Ireland.
- This is not a touring grant and outbound costs for travel by Irish youth orchestras will not be covered.
- Funding will not be awarded to activities that have already commenced on Monday, 03 June 2025.
- Funding must be for activities that are not already fully funded from another source.
- Appropriate safeguarding procedures will be in place covering all participants. Participating orchestras must agree on which safeguarding policy / procedure is to be followed.
- No late applications will be accepted.

Intellectual Property

IAYO makes no claim to ownership of any new musical or other works created as part of a funded collaboration and has no conditions regarding subsequent performances or the use of musical or other materials.

Grant awardees will permit IAYO to distribute audio, video, photographic or other documentary evidence of the project that is shared with us to promote the Collaboration Grant and youth orchestras more generally through our news streams and other promotions. These materials will not be used for other purposes without the

express permission of their creators / owners.

Funding Timeline

- November 2024: Initial Announcement in Newsnotes and Email, orchestra dating webpage and emails.
- Monday 2 December 2024: Applications open.
- Tuesday, 10 December 2024: Information and Networking session
- Friday, 28 February 2025: Applications Close.
- Friday, 28 March 2025: Offers made.
- Late March 2025: Funding to be accepted, 40% can be drawn down.
- June 2025: When can projects start.
- End of June 2026: 60% of funding offered can be drawn down.
- End of July 2026: Reports of funded projects should be received by this time.
- Monday, 29 June 2026: Projects must be completed by this date unless there is specific agreement to an extension.
- Friday, 31 July 2026: Reports of funded projects should be received by this time.
- The remaining 40% of funding can be drawn down as soon as reports are received. If there is a compelling reason to draw funding down sooner, we will facilitate this.

Reporting

At the least, we will require a written report of two pages of A4 along with some high-resolution photos for our paper Newsnotes and websites. However, video and audio materials are most welcome and will be distributed through our online channels if suitable.

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