



2027 TILLETT DEBUT SCHEME - INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS –

What does the Scheme involve?

There are 2 main aspects of the Tillett Debut Scheme:

1. The selected Tillett Artists will be offered to our list of UK-wide promoters and concert societies who may book the artists for concerts at fees subsidised by the Trust
2. The Tillett Artists benefit from a shared platform at a showcase concert at a prestigious London venue

Who can apply?

- TILLETT DEBUT is open to instrumentalists, either soloists or ensembles, but is not open to applications from singers.
- Solo applicants must be between the ages of 21 and 26 years and Ensembles must have an average age of between 21 and 26 years, at the time of the live round auditions.
- Applicants must EITHER be currently enrolled on or have completed a full-time course at a UK Conservatoire with the intention of continuing their career in the UK, OR be UK residents who have returned from study abroad at an equivalent international Conservatoire to begin their career here.
- Non-UK applicants must have been resident in the UK for the two academic years prior to applying for the Scheme. I.e. for the 2027 Scheme they must have been resident in the UK since September 2024.
- All candidates should be aware that the support of the Trust continues for two seasons (Sept – Aug) after the auditions and therefore their acceptance onto the DEBUT programme will be dependent on their right to remain and work in the UK during that whole period.
- Applicants should not already have commercial representation by an agent in the UK and must be prepared to disclose details of any existing London concerts they already have in their diary for the following two seasons.
- The Ensemble category is open to any combination of 2 to 5 instrumentalists and groups must have been playing together for a minimum of one year.
- Ensembles are not permitted to enter for the scheme if any of the existing members are already planning to leave the group or are not full-time, committed members of the group.
- Ensembles applications must be accompanied by 2 references from professional musicians stating that in their opinion the ensemble is of a suitably high standard to participate and ready to perform in public in established venues.

How to apply:

Soloists must:

- complete the online application form
- including a link to a SINGLE video recording (see Video recording specifications below)
- make a bank transfer of the £35 application fee (payment details below)
- **Please make sure you are available to participate on the day of the live auditions in London – Monday 25 January 2027 - before you apply.**
- the **deadline** for receiving the application is **11pm, Monday 2nd November 2026**

Ensembles must:

- complete the online application form
- including a link to a SINGLE video recording (see Video recording specifications below)
- email 2 x references from professional musicians (can be emailed directly from them) to info@thetilletttrust.org.uk
- make a bank transfer of the £40 application fee (payment details below)
- **Please make sure you are available to participate on the day of the live auditions in London – Monday 25 January 2027 - before you apply.**
- the **deadline** for receiving the application is **11pm, Monday 2nd November 2026**

Payment details:

Please make BACS payments to: The Tillett Trust, Sort Code: 40-05-01 Account No: 60800600, using your surname or ensemble name as a reference. Cheques (payable to The Tillett Trust) should be sent to: The Tillett Trust, 16 Kingsnorth Gardens, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QW.

Only complete applications will be accepted.

Video recording specifications, PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

Repertoire for video recording auditions will be left entirely to the candidate's choice, subject to the further requirements below:

- Please email just a **single link** to your audition video, preferably on a streaming service like Youtube.
- The video should be a **maximum of 10 minutes of music**, to include **not fewer than 2 contrasting recital works/movements** and should include **at least 2 different composers**. The works do not need to be complete movements. The music can fade out or it can be a section of a movement. Concerto movements are not acceptable.
- The audition video can be a compilation of different recordings but each work/movement must be one continuous, unedited recording, preferably with no camera cuts, camera movement, titles, fadeouts, transitions or commentary during each work/movement.

- **You must timestamp** and include titles and composers to ALL pieces and movements in the video blurb so that the panel can easily navigate through the video from one piece to another.
- The recording must be of excellent technical quality and preferably recorded professionally.
- **Think very carefully** about the angle of the camera. The applicant must be clearly visible throughout the recording and not too obscured by music stands or audience or other obstructions. Pianists need to be filmed at an angle where the upper body and keyboard can be seen.
- During the selection process, the quality of your presentation WILL be taken into account.
- The video must be made within **6 months** of the submission of the application.
- **String ensembles** must include at least one work/movement from the Classical repertoire.
- Ideally, the programme for the video round should include a work/movement the performer would like to include in their London recital programme if chosen for the scheme. **No work from the video round may be repeated in the live round.**

If any of the above requirements is disregarded, the application will be disqualified.

What happens next?

A screening committee, whose decision shall be final, will assess documents and audition video recordings and will select up to 16 candidates to attend a LIVE audition in London on **Monday 25 January 2027, please make sure you are available on this date before applying.** All applicants will be informed of the panel's decision by email and the list of candidates invited to the live auditions will appear on our website by 11 December.

Live auditions: The LIVE auditions will be held in London on **Monday 25 January 2027.**

LIVE Audition Programmes:

Those performers selected from the video round will be allocated an audition slot during which they must present a programme of their own choice of music designed to illustrate the breadth of their interests and talent, excluding any items already included in the video round. Either the video round or live round programme should include at least one work/movement which would be included in a London recital, if chosen for the scheme.

- **The programme should not exceed 11 minutes playing time.** Please DO NOT expect the panel to stop you mid-work, the programme should be designed to be 11 minutes of completed works/movements.
- The performers will then be invited to answer **two pre-set questions** (three for ensembles):
 - Explain why it is important to win this opportunity
 - Describe an event or experience in your musical career which you consider has made a major impact on your life
 - Members of ensembles will also be asked to confirm their individual commitment to the group

Results announcements:

All performers at the live auditions will be informed of the panel's decision within a few days of the live auditions and the selected Tillett Debut Artists will be announced as soon as they have given confirmation of their participation in the Scheme.