

# ***NEW ELIZABETHAN AWARD***

## **RULES & CONDITIONS**

### **1. Organisation**

1. The *New Elizabethan Award* is administered by the Worshipful Company of Musicians, 1 Speed Highwalk, Barbican, London EC2Y 8DX.  
Tel: 020 7496 8980 Fax: 020 7628 4528  
Email: [clerk@wcom.org.uk](mailto:clerk@wcom.org.uk) Website: [www.wcom.org.uk](http://www.wcom.org.uk)
2. The *New Elizabethan Award* will take place biennially.
3. The Selection Round for the *New Elizabethan Award* will next be held at the Royal Academy of Music, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5HT on:  
**9th July 2026**
4. The Showcase Concert will next be held at Wigmore Hall on: **13<sup>th</sup> February 2027**

### **2. Repertoire**

1. Any music for lute, either solo or in ensemble, by a British composer who lived during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603).
2. Any music for lute or guitar, either solo or in ensemble, by a British or Commonwealth composer who has lived during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II (1952-the present day).
3. Any music involving lute or guitar which has a demonstrably Elizabethan connection, but has been written by a composer from another country or in another age.
4. The above repertoire may be performed either in its original scoring or in transcription, arrangement or intabulation.
5. Performances from memory are encouraged but are not obligatory.

### **3. Application**

1. Application forms can be downloaded from the Worshipful Company of Musicians' website at [www.wcom.org.uk/new-elizabethan-award](http://www.wcom.org.uk/new-elizabethan-award)
2. The application form must be completed by the lutenist or guitarist applying.
3. Lutenists and guitarists of any nationality may apply.

4. All lutenists and guitarists (and, if applicable, members of their ensembles) must have been born on or after **1st January 1994**.
5. Applicants are allowed to submit a maximum of two entries, one as a soloist and one as an ensemble player. Ensemble programmes may also feature solo lute and guitar items. A separate application form and entry fee must be submitted for each application.
6. The applicant must submit for each performer:
  - i) a curriculum vitae (on a single page of A4) supported by references from two distinguished musicians, who should email their references to [clerk@wcom.org.uk](mailto:clerk@wcom.org.uk)
  - ii) a photocopy of their passport
  - iii) an identity photograph.

The applicant must also submit:

- iv) an unedited, high quality 15-20 minute video recording of representative items from their proposed 30 minute Selection Round programme; the applicant's name must be announced at the start of the recording; the video must be uploaded as an unlisted video on YouTube or as a password-protected video on Vimeo; links and passwords must also be provided
  - v) written details of the 30 minute programme, including the musical titles, names of performers, timings, and an abstract of not more than 200 words explaining the content of their programme
  - vi) an entry fee of £95 per application.
7. Completed application forms, including items 3.6.i)-vi), must be emailed to [assistant@wcom.org.uk](mailto:assistant@wcom.org.uk) from **1st January 2026 to the deadline of 12 noon on 30th April 2026**.
8. Applications will be reviewed by a pre-selection panel of distinguished musicians to create a shortlist of no more than eight candidates to progress to the Selection Round.
9. Applicants will be notified of the results by email and the shortlist of candidates will be posted on the Worshipful Company of Musicians' website.

#### **4. Selection Round**

1. Shortlisted candidates must present in person, on the lute and/or guitar, a programme of 30 minutes' duration comprising music from at least two of the categories described in 2.1., 2.2. and 2.3.. Other instruments and/or voice(s) may be included in an ensemble of the candidate's choice.
2. Candidates must provide two copies of the works they are to perform for the Panel. Photocopies may be used but candidates should seek permission from the publisher where necessary, see [www.mpaonline.org.uk](http://www.mpaonline.org.uk) for guidance.

3. Candidates bear full responsibility for their visa arrangements and for travel to and accommodation in London. Travel bookings must not be made until a place in the Selection Round has been confirmed by the Clerk of the Musicians' Company. Candidates, who are not UK citizens, must send the Clerk proof of a valid and appropriate visa for the period in which the Selection Round will take place.

If travel restrictions, due to Covid-19 or other *force majeure*, prevent the Selection Round from being held live, arrangements will be made for it to be adjudicated by the Selection Round Panel online. In this case the Clerk will give appropriate notice to all the candidates of the procedures which will then apply.

## **5. Adjudication**

1. The Panel for the Selection Round will comprise persons of the highest standing from within or directly associated with the musical profession.
2. The Panel will normally include:
  - i) a classical guitarist
  - ii) a lutenist
  - iii) a composer
  - iv) a concert promoter
  - v) a Court Member of the Worshipful Company of Musicians
3. No member of the Panel is permitted to adjudicate a performance by any candidate who has been their student within the previous two years.
4. The Panel's decision will be announced on completion of the Selection Round and the result will be posted on the Worshipful Company of Musicians' website within three days.
5. In the event of a tied decision the Panel may opt to divide the *New Elizabethan Award* between a maximum of two candidates.
6. The Panel has the right not to make an award should there be no performance deserving of it.
7. The Panel's decision is final and indisputable.

## **6. Showcase Concert**

1. The selected Award Holder(s) must present an innovative programme, comprising music from at least two of the categories described in 2.1., 2.2. and 2.3.. Other instruments and voice(s) may be included in an ensemble of the Award Holder's choice.

2. Notice of the required duration of the programme will be emailed to each Award Holder by the Clerk of the Musicians' Company shortly after the Selection Round. Full details of the programme itself must then be provided by the Award Holder(s) no later than the deadline specified by the Clerk.
3. Any recordings of performances in the Showcase Concert will be the property of the Worshipful Company of Musicians and may be used to promote both the Award and the Award Holders.
4. Award Holders bear full responsibility for their visa arrangements and for travel to and accommodation in London. Travel bookings must not be made until arrangements for the Showcase Concert have been confirmed by the Clerk of the Musicians' Company. Award Holders, who are not UK citizens, must send the Clerk proof of a valid and appropriate visa for the period in which the Showcase Concert will take place.

If travel restrictions, due to Covid-19 or other *force majeure*, prevent the Showcase Concert from being held live, the Musicians' Company in consultation with Wigmore Hall will arrange for it to be livestreamed. In this case the Clerk will give appropriate notice to the Award Holder(s) of the procedures which will then apply.

## 7. The Award

1. The *New Elizabethan Award* will comprise a cash sum and concerts with a total value of **£15,000 (GBP)**.
2. Holders of the *New Elizabethan Award* will sign a contract to undertake all the concert engagements in which they are invited to perform as part of the *New Elizabethan Award*.
3. In these concert engagements Award Holders will uphold the general aims of the *New Elizabethan Award*, which are:
  - i) to promote the lute music of British composers living during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I
  - ii) to promote the lute and guitar music of British and Commonwealth composers living during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II
  - iii) to include music (involving lute and/or guitar) which has a demonstrably Elizabethan connection but has been written by composers from other countries and in other ages
  - iv) to encourage the imaginative research and presentation of solo and ensemble programmes featuring the above music
  - v) to stimulate public awareness and the expansion of this repertoire
  - vi) to utilise selected and appropriate venues which may have special historical associations with either Queen Elizabeth I or Queen Elizabeth II