



Help  
Musicians

Let the soundtrack to  
your life live on:

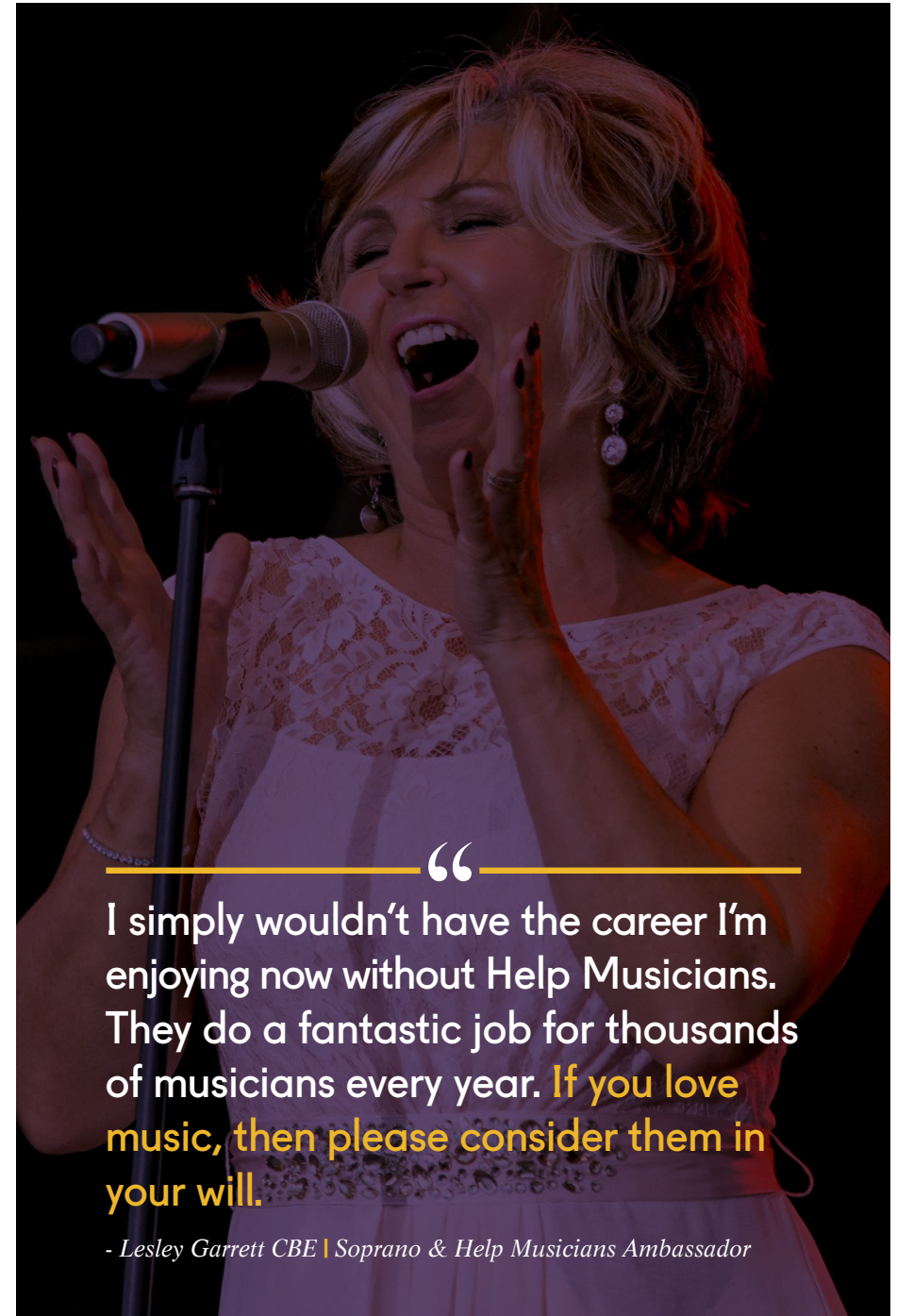
*Help musicians by leaving a gift in  
your will*

## Love music: Help Musicians

Music is the soundtrack to our lives. We can all think of pieces of music that matter to us and hold a special meaning. From first love to personal loss, music is there for us in times of celebration and sadness, enriching the highs and softening the lows. It evokes powerful memories, connects us with others, and brings alive our life experiences as we share them with family and friends.

The ability to touch souls and affect lives through music is a gift possessed by extraordinary people and is result of a life of dedication to their craft. For over 100 years, Help Musicians has been there to support the musicians who enhance your precious moments and significant memories.

**Leaving a gift in your will to Help Musicians is a wonderful way to ensure your passion for music lives on, taking care of musicians in times of crisis and opportunity and providing support for the next generation of inspiring musical talent.**



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I simply wouldn't have the career I'm enjoying now without Help Musicians. They do a fantastic job for thousands of musicians every year. **If you love music, then please consider them in your will.**

*- Lesley Garrett CBE | Soprano & Help Musicians Ambassador*



## About us

**Help Musicians: supporting musicians in times of crisis and opportunity for over 100 years.**

Help Musicians is a charity that loves music. For over 100 years, we have been working hard to make a meaningful difference to the lives of musicians across the UK. We want to create a world where musicians thrive.

We offer a broad range of help to support music creators in times of crisis and opportunity - ensuring musicians across the UK can achieve their creative potential and sustain a career in music.

Help Musicians would not have been able to celebrate its centenary in 2021 without the generosity of donors who had chosen to support musicians beyond their lifetime. When the pandemic hit in 2020, we were able to react quickly and decisively, supporting many thousands of musicians whose livelihood disappeared overnight. This was only possible because of the vital and generous support from legacy donors.

# Lea's Story

**It takes a lot of courage to move across the Atlantic to pursue an education, yet this is the brave decision Lea Shaw made back in 2013.**

Aged just 17, Lea began studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Glasgow became her second home and she is now an award-winning mezzo-soprano with a very bright future.

But were it not for Help Musicians, Lea would be living a completely different life. Finishing her postgraduate studies would have been impossible without the support she received through our Sybil Tutton Opera Award.

Lea's postgraduate studies were a vital period in her development as a classical musician. In addition to achieving her Master of Music and Opera degrees, it provided a time of personal and artistic growth that will be invaluable for the next steps of her career.

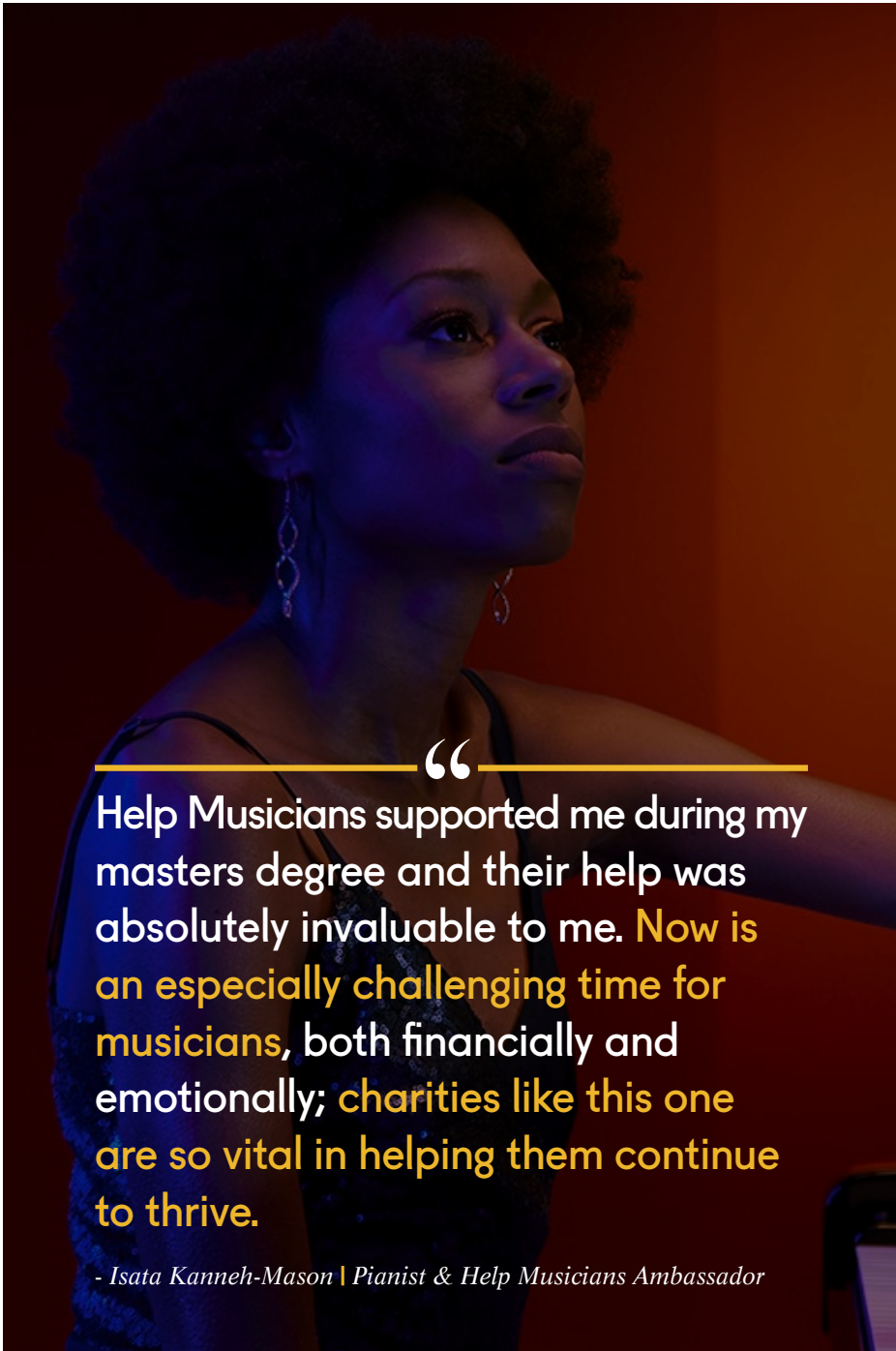
Thanks to support from Help Musicians, Lea's passion for opera burns as brightly as ever.

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I worked really hard to get where I am, and Help Musicians seeing and recognising that - not only what I'd done leading up to my award but also my potential - was really overwhelming. Often your formative years are the most impactful to your personal and artistic development, and I would say that awards like Help Musicians' Sybil Tutton Opera Award are crucial to keeping the music community alive.

- Lea Shaw | Mezzo Soprano





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Help Musicians supported me during my masters degree and their help was absolutely invaluable to me. **Now is an especially challenging time for musicians, both financially and emotionally; charities like this one are so vital in helping them continue to thrive.**

- Isata Kanneh-Mason | Pianist & Help Musicians Ambassador

## How do I leave a gift in my will?

We recognise that many people have demands on their finances which prevent them from making a gift to charities in their lifetime. Legacy gifts can be your lasting tribute to those causes that are important to you. Having an up-to-date will is vital to make sure that your family and friends, and any charities you wish to support, are provided for in the way you want.

If you have already made a will, it is a good idea to review it from time to time to ensure it reflects any changes in your personal circumstances, like marriage or the birth of children or grandchildren. It is also important to check if your estate is affected by any changes to inheritance tax legislation. If you want to make a change to your existing will, your solicitor can help prepare a document known as a codicil.

If you haven't made your will yet, it's never too soon to think about it. We recommend that you consult a solicitor when writing or amending your will to ensure it reflects your intentions and is legally valid – it doesn't have to be expensive but it's worth the money to ensure it's done correctly.

### Let the soundtrack to your life live on

If you would like to remember Help Musicians in your will, our team would be happy to talk to you about how your gift could benefit the next generation of musicians. All enquiries will be treated confidentially.

Writing your will is an important exercise, as is the decision about who will benefit from it. Please do consult your solicitor beforehand.

## What types of gift can I leave?

Any gift to Help Musicians, no matter how small, can make a real difference to musicians in need. Leaving a share of your estate, a fixed sum of money, or specific items whose sale can benefit us will all help our work enormously.

There are three main types of legacies: **residuary, pecuniary, and specific.**

**A residuary legacy** is a gift of the entire estate or a percentage of the estate, after all other gifts have been distributed and all debts and expenses have been paid. Any share will make a tremendous difference to our work.

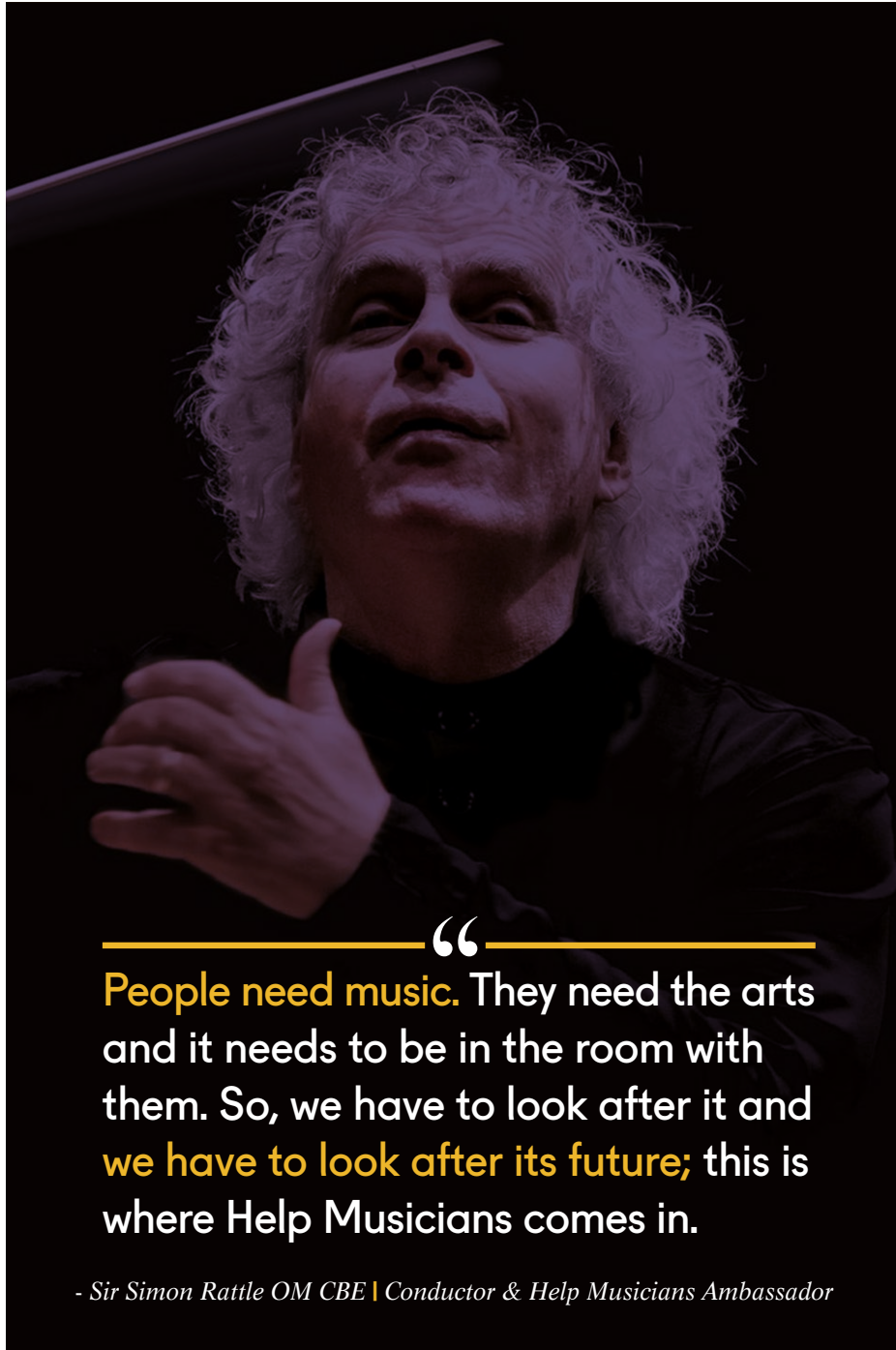
**A pecuniary legacy** is a fixed sum of money. When making this type of gift it is possible to index link your gift to ensure the intended value is secure.

**A specific legacy** of an item such as property or shares.

### **Royalties**

If you receive royalty payments, you may consider gifting these to Help Musicians in your will. By leaving your royalties as a legacy, you are making an ongoing investment in the future of music, supporting musicians for many years to come.





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**People need music.** They need the arts and it needs to be in the room with them. So, we have to look after it and **we have to look after its future;** this is where Help Musicians comes in.

- Sir Simon Rattle OM CBE | Conductor & Help Musicians Ambassador

## How to make your gift

Leaving a legacy to Help Musicians in your will is a straightforward process. When you are making a bequest, please provide your solicitor with the details below:

Help Musicians (the working name of the Musicians Benevolent Fund)  
Registered Charity No. 228089  
Help Musicians, 7-11 Britannia Street, London WC1X 9JS

## What about tax?

Help Musicians is a registered UK charity (No. 228089) and any gifts to it are currently exempt from UK Inheritance Tax and Capital Gains Tax.

When making your will, you may wish to discuss the various tax exemptions which are available to UK charities with your solicitor.

## Help us make a real difference

**A gift in your will could be the most important gift you ever make. It is your chance to make a meaningful investment in the future of musicians and let your love of music and the soundtrack to your life live on.**

If you choose to leave a gift to Help Musicians in your will, we would love to say thank you and keep you involved with our plans and invite you to events – so please do let us know by giving us a call on **020 7239 9142** or emailing **[legacy@helpmusicians.org.uk](mailto:legacy@helpmusicians.org.uk)**.

However, we understand that leaving a legacy is a very private matter and if you wish to remain anonymous, we respect your decision. Thank you very much for leaving us a gift.





# Mark's Story

**Musicians often need our help most in response to a crisis and the challenges posed by the pandemic hit vocalist and songwriter Mark Hegarty extremely hard.**

Covid-19 cancelled all of Mark's gigs overnight, and the live show Mark had spent two years developing was indefinitely put on hold.

Despite taking a job as a supermarket delivery driver, Mark's lost work created serious financial struggles. Fortunately during the pandemic he applied for and received ongoing support from the Help Musicians' Coronavirus Hardship Fund. Mark was then able to use lockdown as a period of creativity, adapting his career to become less reliant on gigs and developing a TV series featuring his music.

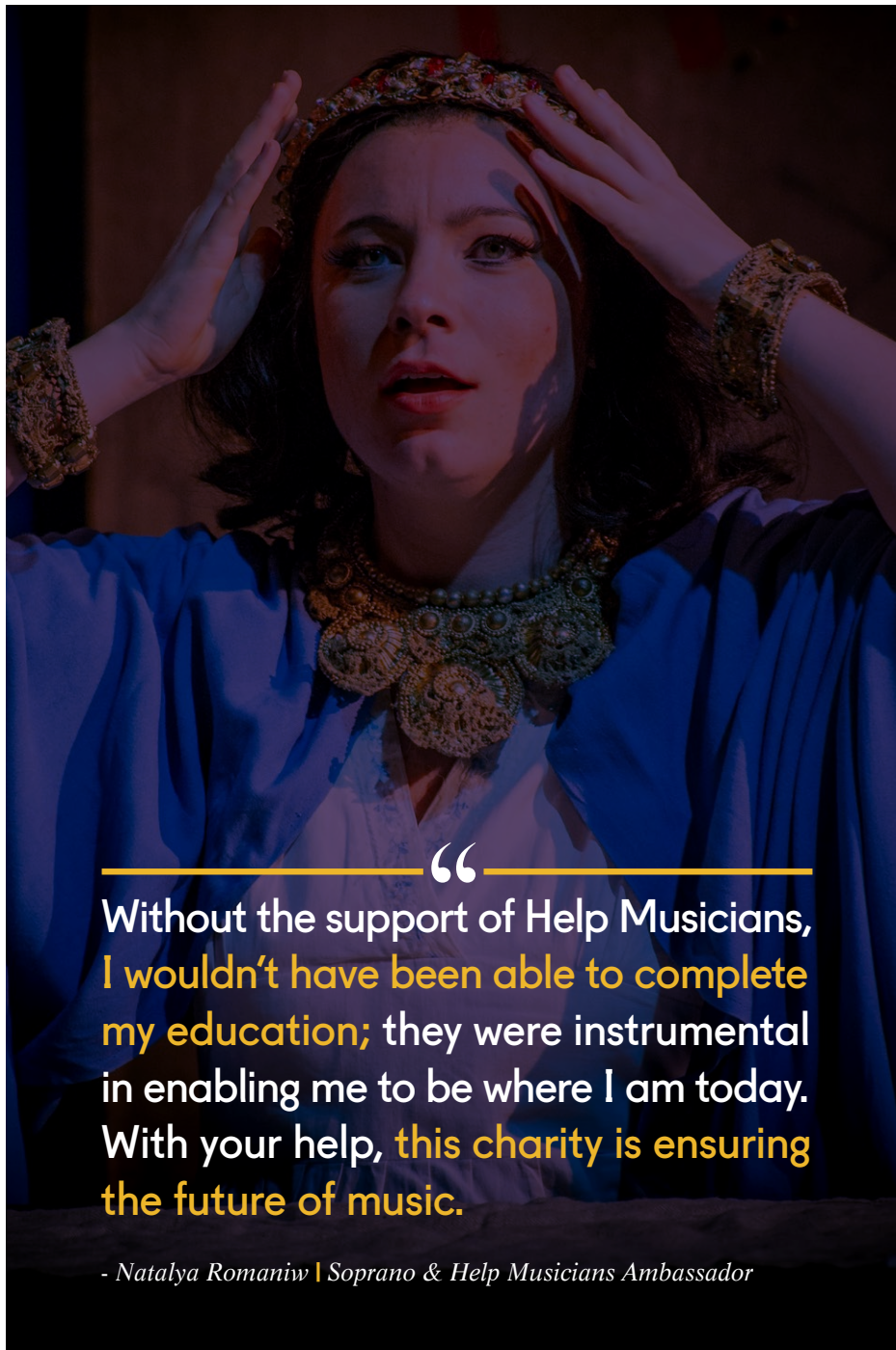
Our support is always available to musicians but especially during a crisis. Mark's story is one of resilience in the face of adversity and Help Musicians was there to help along the way.

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To lose all my income and see a lifetime's investment in my show wiped out overnight was tough; the overpowering urge to overthink the future uncertainty of our industry can be equally overwhelming. **Help Musicians 'get it'**. They're real people who understand our position and offer empathetic, practical support while encouraging you not to give up. **They understand that the world will always need music and how much musicians matter.**

- Mark Hegarty | Singer, songwriter & show creator





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Without the support of Help Musicians, I wouldn't have been able to complete my education; they were instrumental in enabling me to be where I am today. With your help, this charity is ensuring the future of music.

- Natalya Romaniw | Soprano & Help Musicians Ambassador

## Find out more

Help Musicians is a registered UK charity (No. 228089) and any gifts to it are currently exempt from UK Inheritance Tax and Capital Gains Tax.


If you would like to have a confidential discussion about leaving a legacy to Help Musicians, please get in touch:

 **020 7239 9142**

 **legacy@helpmusicians.org.uk**

 **helpmusicians.org.uk/giftinwill**

This guide provides general information and does not constitute legal or financial advice. For expert and personal advice, please always consult a qualified professional.



[helpmusicians.org.uk](https://helpmusicians.org.uk)

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Help Musicians is the working name of the Musicians Benevolent Fund.  
Company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales No. 252783  
and in Scotland No. SC049625 | Incorporating the Scottish Musicians  
Benevolent Fund. Registered office 7-11 Britannia Street | London WC1X 9JS

Registered charity No. 228089

