

## FONDS D'AIDE AUX ARTISTES (AIDA FUND) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Providing guidance and support for the career development of young instrumentalists, conductors, and singers specializing in classical music, the AIDA Fund—through a financial assistance program—offers the opportunity to reach a broad performance network and provides access to major, internationally renowned cultural institutions.

1. **Candidates sought:** any instrumentalist, conductor, or singer (hereafter referred to as “the artist”) with remarkable potential who is already committed to a professional career. By artists with “remarkable potential” we mean those who, through their talent, achievement, and performance skills, meet various criteria allowing them to take part in activities on a national, or even international, level.
2. **Eligibility:** Canadian citizen or have landed immigrant status AND be a resident of Quebec for at least 24 months.

**Definition:** A landed immigrant is a person who has changed their permanent residence to a Canadian province where they have residency rights even though they do not have Canadian citizenship rights. An example of a landed immigrant is a French citizen who has permanent residence in Canada. A permanent resident of Canada is an individual who is not a Canadian citizen and who has been granted permission to live in Canada without any time limit. Note that students from foreign countries are not usually considered landed immigrants, even if they have been living in Quebec for at least 24 months, since they must have a study permit to stay in Canada.

3. **Age:** age limits vary according to the instrument category:
  - *Conductor:* 35 years or under at the time of application
  - *Singer:* 32 years or under at the time of application
  - *Piano:* 30 years or under at the time of application
  - *Percussion:* 30 years or under at the time of application
  - *Woodwind:* 30 years or under at the time of application
  - *Brass:* 30 years or under at the time of application
  - *Strings:* 28 years or under at the time of application
4. **Types of projects eligible for financial support from the JM Canada Foundation:**
  - I. Participation in a competition
  - II. Advanced training at recognized institutions
  - III. Participation in internships/coaching with recognized instructors
  - IV. Working with a rehearsal pianist to prepare repertoires

- V. Participation in an audition tour (project aimed at developing strong relationships with agents, producers, orchestra and opera company directors, broadcasters, directors of national or international competitions, or other strategic persons in the career development process)
- VI. Any other project relating to the development of an artistic career (the JM Canada Foundation will assess its eligibility)

IMPORTANT: To be eligible, projects must start at least three (3) months after the application deadline.

For example:

	Registration deadlines	Minimum start date for submitted projects
Fall	October 5, 2026	January 5, 2027
Winter	February 5, 2027	May 5, 2027
Spring	May 5, 2027	August 5, 2027

5. **Types of projects NOT eligible for financial support from the JM Canada Foundation:**

Applications relating to:

- I. Recordings
- II. The remuneration of other musicians
- III. The production of promotional objects

Applicants must ensure that any activity for which they are seeking a scholarship does not conflict with existing commitments or contracts with the Jeunesses Musicales Canada or Fondation JMC. By submitting an application, applicants confirm that they are able to participate fully in the proposed activity without withdrawing from previously confirmed obligations. Conflicts between scholarship-funded activities and prior commitments may result in disqualification or withdrawal of funding.

If in doubt, check with the JM Canada Foundation to see if your project is eligible.

- 6. **Recurrence of requests:** Applicants may receive an AIDA Fund award once (1 X) per Foundation fiscal year, between July 1 and June 30 of the following year. Applicants may apply more than once per year, as long as no award has been received.
- 7. **Criteria for the presentation of projects:** Official application for the AIDA Fund takes place through the completion of an authorized online form, serving to demonstrate that the applicant has the talent and skills required for the fulfillment of a national and/or international career.

Applicants must show how their project is in keeping with a coherent professional approach, define its impact and the benefits it would have on the development of their national and/or international career, and demonstrate the ways in which it meets these objectives. Applications will be assessed based on the artist's qualifications, the quality of the submission, the value of the project, its feasibility, and its related costs.

Candidates may submit a project for which they have applied to participate (e.g., competitions, auditions, summer programs), but for which they have not yet received confirmation at the time of applying for the AIDA Fund. If the project is selected by the Grant Awarding Committee, the candidate will receive the grant amount subject to proof of registration.

Artists must submit a complete application using the online form, including:

- **Proof of residence in Quebec**

To be eligible for an AIDA scholarship, you must:

1. Be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or landed immigrant;
2. Have been living in Quebec and paying taxes there for at least two (2) years.

**Required Documents (at least one of the following items)**

1. Your Revenu Québec notices of assessment **for the past two years** (official documents issued after filing your income tax returns).
2. If you are too young (generally under 20 years old) to have filed two full income tax returns, you may provide:
  - a. **Two proofs of residence in Quebec: One for each year** (e.g., lease, utility bill, or proof of enrollment in an institution in Quebec); this proof can be in your name or in the name of a family member you live with;

OR

- b. **Two bank statements or official documents** issued by a financial institution in Quebec in your name (one for each year).

**Studying Outside Quebec**

You can still submit an application even if you are studying outside Quebec, as long as you continue to file your income tax returns in Quebec.

- **Explanation of the project**  
In the form of a letter, the explanation of the project should answer the following questions:
  - 1) Presentation and motivation of the project
    - What is your project and why do you seek the help of the JM Canada Foundation?

- 2) The impact of a financial support
  - What would be the impact on your project of a possible financial support from the JM Canada Foundation, and what would happen to your project without this support?
- 3) Expected benefits of the project
  - Define the impacts and repercussions on the development of your national and / or international career.

- Biography
- Curriculum vitae
- Photo
- Video recording of a work of your choice (YouTube link)

All videos must be of high quality with excellent sound recording, shot with one static camera (no zooms or camera movement). Videos must not be edited, enhanced, or modified in any way. The work or movement must be performed in its entirety.

Artists must perform solo or may be accompanied by a pianist. Conductors must lead an ensemble of ten (10) or more musicians or singers, or two pianos. The conductor must be shot from the front, with full focus on him/her.

- Timeline
- Project budget: only budgets created with the use of our template will be accepted.
- Letter of recommendation

8. **Candidates' commitment:**

The JM Canada Foundation requires that candidates who make a request for assistance and benefit from support must commit to respecting the following principles:

- I. Using the services and/or the funds received exclusively for the purposes described in the request for assistance and for the candidate's own use.
- II. Carrying out the project described in the request for assistance to its completion and within the scheduled timeframe.
- III. Contacting the Foundation, as soon as possible, regarding any major modification to the project or its schedule. In the event that it becomes impossible to continue with the project, the candidate must contact the

Foundation in order to make the necessary arrangements.

- IV. Providing the Foundation with a detailed report—following the completion of the project—of how the received funds and/or services were used. This report must be submitted within a maximum of three months after the project’s completion.
  - V. Accepting that a failure to submit a report to the Foundation within the timeframe specified in point 6.IV. will result in the artist’s immediate elimination from the process of making another application for a new project.
  - VI. Mentioning the contribution of the JM Canada Foundation and the AIDA Fund in all informational and promotional materials if the project involves any performances or public appearances.
  - VII. Respecting the principles set out in this document, by signing the request for assistance.
9. **Methods of assessment and allocation of financial support:** Artists wishing to apply for support must submit their request using the online platform on the Foundation’s website. Only complete applications will be evaluated by the Grant Awarding Committee.

After an analysis of the submissions, the Grant Awarding Committee will determine the projects under consideration and will identify the appropriate actions to be taken to initiate their implementation and ensure their success.

Normally, the Grant Awarding Committee meets one month after the application deadlines each year to examine the requests for support.

The Grant Awarding Committee evaluates and approves the amounts to be granted based on the budgets submitted and the eligible costs.

For all requests in which the funds granted are equal to or more than \$5,000 CAD, the Foundation will pay out the amount in two instalments: 75% upon acceptance of the request and 25% after the submission of the final report.

If your project is selected and involves advanced training at recognized institutions, you will need to provide proof of registration.

**For further information, please contact the JM Canada Foundation:**

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514-845-4108, ext. 246