

OPERA AND BALLET GRANT FOUNDATION

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR GRANT APPLICANTS

Opera and Ballet Grant Foundation awards grants from its funds to

- **creative and performing artists in the field of opera and ballet,**
- **other employees working for opera and ballet,**
- **students in the field of opera and ballet.**

Grants and scholarships are awarded in order to encourage in improving one's professional skills and abilities. Grants can only be granted, according to the foundation's by-laws, for **purposes which promote and develop opera and ballet artform in Finland or increase the representativeness and coziness of the Opera House**. They can be appropriated, for example, for course participation fees and travel costs. However, they are not appropriated to cover Finnish National Opera and Ballet training and travel costs.

A brief description of how and when the grant would be used is a prerequisite for a positive decision in the application process. Awarded grants must be used in the time schedule and for the purpose specified in the application. In addition, a clarification for the use of grant must be submitted by the end of the year in question. One may apply for change if necessary as described later.

Grant application period occurs once a year usually in November–December (subject to change) announced separately on the Opera and Ballet web-page <https://oopperabaletti.fi/talo/hallinto/tukisaatio/>. The Board of Opera and Ballet Grant Foundation decides on the grants. Grounds for the awards are not published. Successful applicants will be personally informed by email soonest possible, normally in February – March.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY OPERA AND BALLET GRANT FOUNDATION

PROFESSOR ALFONS ALMI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

For members of the Finnish National Opera Orchestra for training in Finland or field trips abroad. Not for purchasing musical instruments.

FINNISH OPERA SINGERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Study grants for Finnish opera singers.

FINNISH NATIONAL OPERA GRANT FUND

Grants for the improvement of professional skills and abilities for artists and other individuals working for Finnish opera and ballet art forms, including Ballet School students. Not for acquiring equipment.

MATTI AHDE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Grants for dancers and singers for improving their professional skills.

MIKKO FRANCK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Grants for employees working in the opera and ballet field or for especially gifted students for improving their professional skills.

KENNETH GREVE FUND

Grants for dancers, choreographers and other professionals, students and schoolchildren in order to sustain and develop the operations and high artistic quality of Finnish National Ballet and Ballet School of the Finnish National Opera and Ballet.

ESA-PEKKA SALONEN'S MUSIC AND TECHNOLOGY FUND

Grants to people working in connection with Finnish National Opera and Ballet for ordering new compositions or multimedia productions or for other activities supporting new opera and ballet arts especially through technology.

SCHEDULE AND SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

The application form is available for submission at <http://oopperabaletti.fi/talo/hallinto/tukisaatio/> during a separately defined time period. A free-form plan for the use of the grant and a cost estimate must be included in the application. Late or insufficiently completed applications will not be taken into consideration.

PAYMENT

Bank account details will be enquired from grant recipient when the award is informed. Payment schedule is informed together with the award (normally by the end of March).

GRANT CLARIFICATION

A grant recipient is obligated to submit a report on the use of grant by the end of the year in question. One should describe how the purpose of the grant was fulfilled which can be, for example, in the form of a travel report or a description of studies undertaken. Receipts for expenses (originals or copies) must be appended to the report. Should one not submit an acceptable report with receipts or apply for an extension for the grant by the above deadline, the grant may be reclaimed. Neglecting to submit a report will also jeopardize chances for future grants.

CHANGE IN THE PURPOSE OR TIMESCHEDULE FOR THE GRANT

One may apply for change in the purpose for the grant for example on the following reasons:

- Illness or injury makes the use impossible (for example participation in a training course)
- Training course or alike presented in the application is cancelled
- Applicant wants to change the purpose and presents proper reasons for it. Proper reasons can be, for example, occupational issues and benefits in professional development due to the change.

One may apply for change in the time schedule for example on the following reasons:

- Illness or injury makes the use impossible (for example participation in a training course)
- Training course or alike presented in the application is cancelled or moved.

Change application should be made in good time before the change. One is not allowed to apply for change more than three (3) times based on the reasons specified above. If it has not been possible to use the grant for improving one's professional skills and abilities in three years, one is obliged to return the grant to Opera and Ballet Grant Foundation. Change applications are submitted in free format to the Grant Foundation Executive Officer who will pass them for the Board's information or decision if necessary.

TAXATION

Under the Income Tax Act, grants for studies or artistic activities are tax-free, with certain restrictions. Tax-free status depends on who awards the grant and on the combined total of grants received by the recipient during the year (consult tax authorities if needed). By decision of the National Board of Taxes, Opera and Ballet Grant Foundation must report awarded grants of 1,000 € or more to the tax authorities annually.

Additional information: Opera and Ballet Grant Foundation's Executive Officer Ulla Paavola, tel. 040 532 2125, ulla.paavola@opera.fi