

Applying for an instrument

What does the NMF have to offer you?

The NMF has a large collection of instruments and bows at its disposal, including grand pianos, harps and stringed instruments (and bows) that can be given out on a long-term loan basis. The NMF also has collections of classical and baroque bows, as well as some special string and wind instruments, which can be given out on temporary loan for specific projects.

During your study and during the initial stages of your professional career there are a variety of possible reasons why you may not be in a position to purchase a high-quality instrument. In the most cases the biggest obstacle is the purchase price, however, the costs of a loan (assuming the bank is prepared to advance a loan in the first place) and insurance and maintenance costs are also often simply too high. In addition, it is generally the case that one only has the time and opportunity after finishing one's studies to acquire the knowledge and experience necessary to be able to select a suitable instrument. This applies particularly to string players; one is obliged to search for the ideal instrument in a jungle of impressive-sounding names of countless makers, from the present day or past centuries, offered by dealers throughout the world.

The NMF offers you the possibility of bridging this important period with a high quality loan instrument for a modest individual fee and an extremely low insurance premium. Furthermore, the NMF can call on a considerable amount of expertise and experience, which we are only too happy to share with you. Be sure to submit your application to our foundation in good time, as you will need to allow for a waiting period that in some occasions could run to more than a year.

What do you have to offer the NMF?

For her continued existence, the NMF is for almost 100% dependent on the involvement and donations of private individuals and foundations. You, as (future) user of an NMF-instrument, are our most important visible representative and you will play an important role as an ambassador who can reach new benefactors and can secure the affiliated benefactors. We expect to see your full and active commitment in this regard and we look forward to reading your thoughts on this matter in your application.

When can you submit an application?

Unfortunately we lack the resources to be able to help everybody. For this reason we set requirements concerning the level of playing and entrepreneurship of the musician and take the musician's musical activities and personal financial circumstances into account. In this way we are able to help those who will benefit the most.

Participation in the Dutch musical world

Even though the NMF is a 'national' foundation, musicians from abroad can also submit an application. However, you need to be inscribed in a Dutch municipality for at least two years and you need to show convincingly that you participate in the Dutch musical world in an active and structural way.

Criteria

Dependent on your personal situation your application needs to meet the following criteria:

- Your principal residence is in the Netherlands (with at least a two years inscription in a Dutch municipality) and that will remain so in the coming years, with the exception of temporary stays abroad for study or concert purposes.
- Your musical activities are mainly in the Netherlands, unless you are a Dutch national on a temporary stay abroad or building a Dutch based international career.
- Your 'talent' and your level are endorsed by a number of experienced professional musicians, as reflected in accompanying letters of recommendation and/or competition results, as well as a audio- or video recording.
- You are going through a positive musical development, as reflected in the accompanying curriculum vitae.
- You have a clear view on your own ambitions and your career development. You will substantiate this in an attached plan for the future.
- You have clear aspirations to continue your musical career at a professional level, as reflected by the motivation included in your application.
- You perform regularly on the concert stage (for example as a soloist, as a participant in a competition, as an orchestra member, as a member of a chamber music ensemble, etc.)
- You are developing at a broad musical level; for instance, you participate in courses, master classes, competitions, activities connected with chamber music, orchestras, festivals, etc.
- As a graduate you are active on the concert stage, seeking work as a professional performing musician and/or you are undertaking further musical studies.
- As a professional musician your financial position is such that you cannot be expected to be in a position to purchase a suitable instrument. In order to substantiate this claim, relevant financial data need to be supplied to the NMF.
- And of course: you do not have an instrument of sufficiently high quality at your disposal: we would like you to substantiate this conclusion in your application.
- You must show willingness to actively represent our foundation and be our ambassador. We look forward to reading your thoughts on this matter in your application.

Application costs

Upon applying for an instrument, new users are required to pay a one-off administration fee. The invoice will be drawn up and sent after the Commission of Applications and Instruments (IC) has accepted the application. In case of a rejection no costs will be charged. For the actual rates: see the document 'Annual Rates'.

Procedure and decision

Once we have received your written application, you will be invited at our office for an introduction meeting with one of the collection managers. We find it very important to get acquainted personally with our candidates, and relevant information can be exchanged during that meeting.

After that, the IC will take your application into consideration during the next meeting. The commission meets four times a year and is made up of a number of experts specialised in the field of music and the development of young musical talent. You will be informed of the decision in writing or by telephone. Should the commission reach the conclusion that it is not advisable, for whatever reason, to put you on the waiting list, your application will be turned down. This does not bar you from submitting a new application at a later date. A change in your circumstances can make a new application worthwhile.

Instrument Loan

In the event that your application is accepted, the NMF will try to provide you as quickly as possible with an instrument that is of sufficient quality to help further your musical development. Due to the large amount of applications received in relation to the number of instruments available, there is almost always a waiting period. As previously mentioned, this can run to more than a year in some cases. If you are a candidate for an instrument that has become available, you will be contacted by telephone to arrange an appointment for trying out the instrument. This generally takes place in the room especially reserved for this purpose in our office. In the case of a positive first impression you may take the instrument concerned for a maximum trial period of two weeks (naturally, this only applies to instruments that you can transport yourself). After this trial period the loan period commences automatically.

The loan is on a long-term basis, usually for 6 years, whereupon you can apply for an extension of the loan. The NMF can also decide for a shorter loan term. As a user you can always return the instrument to the NMF.

Accessories (cases, covers, etc.)

The NMF expects the musician to provide the instrument with the necessary accessories like a case or a cover of good quality and in good condition. In some specific occasions the NMF can make an exception on this policy.

Conditions of the Loan Agreement

The 'General Conditions' of the loan agreement and its attachment 'Annual Rates' are available on our website (as download) www.muzeinstrumentenfonds.nl or at our office (020-6221255 or info@muzeinstrumentenfonds.nl)