

# The Trench Award 2024



Applications are invited from young singers and musicians who are pursuing a career in professional performance in the classical field.

**The Trench Award** aims to assist a young singer or musician develop their professional career through further study at home or abroad. The bursary will be awarded to a student attending, or having been offered a confirmed place at, University/Conservatoire/Young Artist Programme/other specialist music institute undertaking classical music studies, either instrumental or vocal, in pursuit of a career in professional performance.

Six finalists will be invited to attend Birr Festival of Music from Friday 3 May to Monday 6 May 2024, and to perform a 15-minute programme at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre, Birr, Co. Offaly on Sunday 5 May 2024 when The Trench Award and other bursaries will be awarded by an international selection panel.

## *Eligibility*

Applicants must be from the general Midlands region and under 27 years on 1 January 2024

Application form and further information available from [www.birrfestivalofmusic.com](http://www.birrfestivalofmusic.com) or by request from [thetrenchaward@gmail.com](mailto:thetrenchaward@gmail.com).

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***Deadline for receipt of application: Thursday 22 February 2024***

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## *Important Dates*

<b>Thursday 22 February:</b>	Application Deadline
<b>Monday 11 March:</b>	Applicants will be notified
<b>Thursday 2 May – Monday 6 May:</b>	Birr Festival of Music
<b>Sunday 5 May:</b>	The Trench Award Gala Concert

For further information contact: Maureen de Forge 087 283 6675 [thetrenchaward@gmail.com](mailto:thetrenchaward@gmail.com)

# The Trench Award 2024

## Julia & Patrick Trench

The late Julia & Patrick Trench were noted for their musical evenings at Sopwell Hall, Ballingarry in North Tipperary. Patrick played flute, harp and organ, Julia played piano and organ. Music was the bonding glue in Patrick's marriage with Julia who, even in wartime, travelled weekly to London to enjoy the opera season. Julia Trench, who died in 2007, designated that the residue of her estate be used to create a Trust Fund to support educational, cultural, religious and community projects. Thus, the JVM Trench Trust was established and has since been supporting appropriate projects, mainly in the Midlands of Ireland. Julia Trench was one of the many generous benefactors involved in the establishment of Birr Theatre & Arts Centre in the mid-1990s.

## Further Information

- **The Trench Award** is €5000. Further bursaries, to the value of €5000 may be awarded *including the Birr Lions Club Bursary, the Canto al Serchio Prize (for voice), the Audrey Chisholm Award (for instrument) and the Audience Prize.*
- Applications are invited from students attending, or having been offered a confirmed place at, a University/Conservatoire/Young Artist Programme/specialist music establishment undertaking classical music studies, either instrumental or vocal, in pursuit of a career in professional performance.
- Applicants must be from the general Midlands region and under 27 years on 1 January 2024
- Previous Trench Award recipients may not apply.
- Application forms are available to **download** on [www.birrfestivalofmusic.com](http://www.birrfestivalofmusic.com) or by request from [thetrenchaward@gmail.com](mailto:thetrenchaward@gmail.com).
- **Applicants are requested to complete an Application Form and return it with a recording (MP3) of two contrasting pieces and a high-resolution headshot to [thetrenchaward@gmail.com](mailto:thetrenchaward@gmail.com) by Thursday 22 February 2024, 3pm.**
- Successful applicants will be notified by Monday 11 March 2024. Finalists will perform a 15 minute programme at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre on Sunday 5 May 2024 at 7.30pm.
- The 15-minute programme can be of the applicant's choice and should include a variety of styles. Awards will take into account not only this 15 minute performance, but also interviews, future plans and use of bursaries.
- Successful applicants will have 30-minutes rehearsal time with the official accompanist.
- Successful applicants must provide a copy of all music programme choices by email no later than Tuesday 2 April 2024.
- Award recipient(s) are required to acknowledge 'The Trench Award' in programme biographies and CVs.
- The Trench Award Accompanist – **Dearbhla Brosnan**.

# The Trench Award 2024

## APPLICATION FORM

Full Name:		
Date of Birth:		<i>Age as at 1 Jan 2024</i>
Address (While at college):		
Address (Home):		
Email Address:		
Phone Number:		
Instrument / Voice type:		
Course Title and Year:		
Name of Current University/Music College/Institution:		
Name of Proposed University/Music College/Institution:		

Music Educational Details to date to include examinations:

Year	Awarding Body	Results (if available)

*(insert more rows if required)*

**Are you in receipt of any other bursaries, awards or scholarships, please specify:**

**Professional Engagements (if applicable) – Past and Future:**

**Name and contact details of referee, eg: Instrumental/Vocal Teacher; Head of Music or Department at University/College/Institute.**

Name	Contact Details

**Music Programme - 15 minutes - Please outline proposed choice of repertoire. *(Some changes may be made at a later stage)***

**Please state what you hope to achieve through your continued training and why you believe you should be awarded this bursary (max 200 words)**

**Biography (100-150 words)**

**Where did you hear about The Trench Award?**

Please submit an mp3 recording of two contrasting pieces and a High Resolution Headshot (at least 1MB in jpeg or PNG formats).

*\*Studio quality recording is NOT required. Please use whatever equipment you have already e.g. phone.*

### **Check List**

- Completed application form (.doc or .docx format only)
- High-Res Headshot (must be at least 1MB and 300dpi)
- MP3 recording

Applications should be e-mailed to [thetrenchaward@gmail.com](mailto:thetrenchaward@gmail.com)

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