

# Royal Dublin Society

## Invitation to Quote for Evaluation Report

The Royal Dublin Society (RDS) wishes to engage an external consultant with relevant expertise and experience of the Irish cultural sector to undertake a piece of work related to the Society's philanthropic Arts Work Programme. The overarching goal of the programme is to provide a platform that supports the professional development of emerging artists in the areas of visual art, craft and classical music.

### **Background and context:**

The RDS is a philanthropic organisation which, since its establishment in 1731, has helped Ireland to thrive culturally and economically. Our commercial operations are the primary funding mechanism for this mission which we achieve by helping each new generation fulfil its potential in different areas of interest.

There is a great history of music in the RDS with the first regular music recitals beginning here in 1886. The RDS Concert Hall in Ballsbridge dates to 1925. Many acclaimed musicians have performed on this stage over the years which was, for decades, the premier venue for classical music in Dublin.

Today, the focus of the RDS Arts Work Programme is to provide a platform to help students to transition into early professional career in the areas of music, craft and visual art. We run two music programmes annually; they are the RDS Music Bursary Programme and the RDS Rising Stars Concerts.

The annual **RDS Music Bursary** is valued at €15,000 and in addition to the cash prize it comes with two professional performance engagements for the winner – one with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra and the second in London courtesy of an RDS partnership with Irish Heritage. In 2017, a second award of €5,000 called the RDS Jago Award, which

comes with a performance engagement with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra, was added as part of the Bursary Programme. For more information see: [www.rds.ie/musicbursary](http://www.rds.ie/musicbursary)

The aim of the RDS **Rising Stars Concerts** is a simple one; to showcase new talent in Irish classical music. We provide an audience and a venue for some of the most talented young instrumentalists and singers in Ireland's conservatories of music to help them gain valuable performance experience. Since 2017 the RDS has partnered with each of the three leading conservatories of music in Ireland – The Royal Irish Academy of Music, DIT Conservatory of Music & Drama and CIT Cork School of Music. Each college curates and programmes a concert which showcases their best current students and recent graduates. These concerts are free to attend and are open to all. Audiences average 450 – 500 in general. For more information see [www.rds.ie/risingstars](http://www.rds.ie/risingstars)

In November for the first time, we will partner with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra who will showcase the talents of one of the beneficiaries of our RDS Music Bursary Programme in 2017. Miriam Kaczor (flautist), the inaugural winner of the €5,000 RDS Jago Award last year, received a professional engagement as part of that award with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra. Miriam's performance is planned for November 28th in the RDS Concert Hall. If successful, it is anticipated that the RDS may continue with this model for the November Concert annually. The occasion will provide significant cross-sectorial engagement opportunities for the RDS Foundation Programme and is expected to have a deep and positive impact on the career progression of Miriam Kaczor. This concert should be attended by and included in the evaluation report by whoever is undertaking the review on behalf of the RDS.

#### **Specific Requirements of the Evaluation:**

A thorough data gathering, and consultation process will be required for this report that will involve the following key elements:

- Working closely with RDS staff and voluntary officers in the data collection process.
- Examination and understanding of the history of music in the RDS and of the strategic priorities in the RDS Foundation Plan

- Consultation with former RDS Rising Stars performers, the conservatories of music, Feis Ceoil and key people in classical music in Ireland – particularly those involved in fostering young talent.
- Research into existing comparable models of performance opportunities for talented young musicians in Ireland and elsewhere.
- Evaluation of the impact of participation in the RDS Rising Stars Concerts for the performers.
- To contextualise the Rising Stars programmes and to document the changes that have happened in recent years.
- To ascertain how well it is achieving its intended aims of selecting and presenting exceptional talent in Irish classical music.
- To determine the benefits of these two concerts to the RDS.
- To examine the two different concert models (the spring conservatory of music curated Concert and the new November RDS Jago Award Concert in partnership with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra).
- Production of a comprehensive reports with recommendations.
- It is expected that the consultant will spend roughly 20 days working on this project. They will be appointed in late October and the final report will be submitted to the RDS in January 2019.

### **Next steps**

Suitable consultants are now invited to submit proposals to undertake this music related evaluation report. Proposals should include the following:

- **Evidence of relevant experience and expertise**
- **Detailed methodology including timeframe**
- **Two references**
- **Costs (Fees quoted should be inclusive of VAT)**

### **Assessment of Tenders**

Tenders will be assessed based on relevant experience and expertise, understanding of and capacity to deliver the brief, overall quality of proposal and value for money. Please note the RDS reserves the right not to award any of the quotations received.

### **Timeframe**

The deadline for receipt of proposals is: **Tuesday 9, October**. Interviews may be held if necessary. It is expected that the research should take no more than 6 weeks and that the final evaluation report will be delivered by the appointed consultant by Wednesday, January 23, 2019.

Any queries for further information should be made to:

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**Foundation Administrator**

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