

JPAP Ballet Conducting Course - January 2026

A three-day course for women and marginalised gender conductors, curated by JPAP and led by Birmingham Royal Ballet Music Director Paul Murphy, with guest tutor and Constant Lambert Fellowship alumna Charlotte Politi. This course is a collaboration with The Royal Ballet Sinfonia, The Royal Ballet Music Staff, and The Royal Ballet Aud Jebsen Young Dancers.

WHEN: Thursday 8 January – Saturday 10 January 2026

WHERE: Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London

WHAT CAN I EXPECT ON THIS COURSE?

This professional development opportunity will be led by Paul Murphy, assisted by Charlotte Politi. Participants will prepare four contrasting repertoire extracts together with Royal Ballet Head of Music Rob Clark and répétiteur Kate Shipway. Aud Jebsen Young Dancers will then join the process, enabling conductors to practise the specific rehearsal techniques required in working with dancers. The course culminates on Saturday with participants conducting the dancers and an ensemble from the Royal Ballet Sinfonia in two Pas de Deux: Stravinsky's *Apollo* and Massenet's *Thaïs*. Participants will also look at the contemporary dance work *Nothing is Forever* by Mathew Hindson, working with both piano and ensemble, and explore the technical complexities of Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du printemps* (piano only).

There are places for 6 participants and 6 observers on this course.

The course will focus on the following repertoire:

- *Apollo* Pas de Deux (Balanchine / Stravinsky) - piano, ensemble, and dancers
- *Thaïs* Pas de Deux (Ashton / Massenet) - piano, ensemble, and dancers
- *Nothing is Forever* (Mathew Hindson) - piano, ensemble
- *Le Sacre du printemps*, 'Danse Sacrée' Fig.142-End (Stravinsky) - piano only

WHO CAN APPLY?

We are looking for early career conductors who are women or of marginalised genders who are technically proficient and already have professional experience conducting an orchestra. You do not have to be a resident of the UK in order to apply for this course.

We are particularly keen to receive applications from those who are underrepresented in mainstream ballet.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted via our [online form](#) by **midday on Wednesday 12 November 2025**. There are no application fees.

Applicants will need to submit the following:

- Your CV (no more than 1 page)
- 1 or 2 conducting videos (3-5 minutes)
Video recordings should represent your current level of expertise and, if possible, show you conducting an orchestra or ensemble. We do not expect you to have footage of you conducting orchestra and dancers.
- An 'About Me' video of you talking to camera for one or two (max) minutes.
Help us get to know you; tell us why you are applying for the course, what you would contribute to the course and how would it help you.

Invitations to attend the course will be sent out by Tuesday 23 December 2025. All applicants will receive an update on their application regardless of whether they are successful.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Participants and observers will be required to organise their own accommodation and travel to attend this course.

Participants travelling from outside London or the UK who need to stay in London overnight to participate will be eligible to receive a financial contribution of up to £500.

Observers may apply for a financial bursary of up to £250, once their place is confirmed.

Please do not let financial circumstances be a barrier to applying for the course in the first instance. If the provisions set out here would not cover your circumstances, JPAP is open to conversations about additional support once places have been offered.

VISAS

Participants and observers requiring an ETA (electronic travel authorisation) or visa to attend the course will need to arrange this themselves. JPAP can provide a Letter of Invitation for applicants to take to their local British Embassy/Consulate to support any visa application.