



ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ORCHESTRAS

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2018/19

PREFACE

It is my pleasure to introduce the Association of British Orchestras' Review of the Year 2018/19.

The ABO exists to provide advice, support, intelligence and information to the people who make British orchestras a global success. Focusing on its three key objectives, Connecting, Championing and Developing – for both the UK's professional and youth orchestral sectors – the association presented a diverse and comprehensive programme of work throughout 2018/19.

The annual ABO Conference took place in Belfast with the title of Cross Border. Our hosts the Ulster Orchestra, worked closely with the ABO team to present a three-day event with impressive attendance and an extensive range of thought-provoking sessions. The conference once again proved to be a vitally important and highly relevant meeting place not only for colleagues from the UK's orchestral sector, but also from many overseas.

March 2018 saw the 70th anniversary of the ABO, and following a Parliamentary Reception in Westminster we were delighted to continue the celebrations with a Reception at the Scottish Parliament in December, where we could not only celebrate the remarkable achievements of the ABO and its Scottish members over many years, but also restate the value, importance and relevance of Scotland's orchestral sector today.

The ABO is committed to supporting the development of the people who work within the orchestral world. Amongst other regular and ongoing initiatives, its leadership programme Find Your Way – now in its fourth full year – is proving to be a highly effective means of nurturing the talent that exists within our sector. The ABO looks forward to the development of this important work in the coming years.

The ABO is also fully committed to the health and wellbeing of everyone who works in the orchestral sector in the UK. Engagement with issues such as Noise at Work regulations, prompted by the recent Royal Opera House case, will continue to be a very important area of focus.

Meanwhile Brexit continued to be a cause for concern throughout the year. The ABO's engagement with Government across many departments, and with the Migration Advisory Committee, aims to ensure that the most significant areas of concern for our members are being heard and considered at the highest levels.

I am as ever, grateful to my fellow board members for the support they give the ABO, and the Board acknowledges the significant support it receives on an ongoing basis from the management team, led by Director Mark Pemberton, which delivers the ABO's annual programme of work so effectively.



Gavin Reid
Chair

INTRODUCTION

2018/19 saw the ABO continue to deliver on its key objectives of connecting, championing and developing professional and youth orchestras across the UK.

We continue to hear positive reports from members of the successful implementation of Orchestra Tax Relief, providing an alternative and welcome source of funding for our members at a time of continued pressure on public investment for the arts, both at national and local level.

Less positively, we continued consulting members on the potential impact of Brexit on the orchestral sector, especially as a No Deal exit became a serious possibility. The ABO has continued to play an active role in liaising with the DCMS, other government departments and the Migration Advisory Committee on achieving a positive outcome for our sector.

Other priorities during the year saw us continue to support the Family Arts Campaign, and we are encouraged by the continued engagement with the campaign by our members. We continued to work in partnership with the PRS Foundation on the Resonate programme, and were delighted by the ongoing success of Sirens, which provides grants to programme works by historical women composers.

In line with our focus on leadership, the ABO ran its Find Your Way programme for a fourth year, supported by the ABO Trust with additional funding from Arts Council England.

Once again we held a very successful conference, with attendance exceeding expectations, seeing delegates drawn from across the globe. We are hugely grateful to our hosts, the Ulster Orchestra and our gratitude as ever goes to our principal media partner Classic FM, and to BBC Radio 3 for their input into the conference programme, as well to the many other sponsors and partners who helped make the conference such a success. We were particularly delighted to launch a new partnership with Help Musicians UK.

Our 70th anniversary celebrations continued with a Reception at the Scottish Parliament, attended by the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs.

We are grateful for the active support of board members during the year. As ever, we remain committed to delivering on our mission of connecting, championing and developing professional orchestras and youth ensembles across the UK, and to ensuring a vibrant and sustainable sector.



Mark Pemberton
Director

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2018/19

TO BE PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ORCHESTRAS

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

The ABO board agreed the following **mission statement** on 19 April 2016: The ABO's mission is to enable and support an innovative, collaborative and sustainable orchestral sector. It exists to provide advice, support, intelligence and information to the people who make British orchestras a global success.

The key objectives of the Association cover three areas of activity:

- **Connecting**
- **Championing**
- **Developing**

Using the framework of the mission statement, our key **aspirations** for 2016-2019 will be to deliver on these key objectives through:

- **Connecting** members to other members and the wider industry through networking opportunities, keeping our members well-informed and up-to-date with best practice to help build resilience and financial sustainability.
- **Championing** British orchestras and the wider membership, raising their profile and influence with key stakeholders and the British public, through political engagement, the media, social media and stakeholder bulletins. We will track and influence the development of cultural policy from the European Union, UK government, local government and devolved administrations, and advocate the value of public and private investment in the orchestral sector.
- **Developing** the skills and knowledge of our members' staff, including providing and signposting to high quality professional development opportunities for all tiers of management and musicians and nurturing emerging leaders

We will apply the same key objectives to our **youth ensemble** membership:

- **Connecting** the youth ensemble membership with each other and with the professional sector, keeping them well-informed and up-to-date with best practice to help build resilience and sustainability.
- **Championing** youth ensembles, raising their profile and influence with key stakeholders and the British public, through political engagement, the media, social media and stakeholder bulletins. We will track and influence the development of cultural policy and advocate the value of support for youth ensembles through local music education bodies and private investment.
- **Developing** the skills and knowledge of those who work for or volunteer their time to support their local youth ensemble.

2018/19: THE YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL

Fundraising, Finance and Scottish Members meetings. ABO Board meeting.

MAY

Concert & Orchestra, Digital & Communications, Education, Stage & Transport and Chamber Orchestras meetings. Director chairs orchestra sessions at Classical:Next in Rotterdam. Find Your Way group meeting with Simon Woods, Chief Executive, LA Philharmonic. Director attends Pearle conference in Tallinn.

JUNE

Chairs & Trustees and Period Instrument Ensembles meetings. HR for Non-HR Managers, Introduction to Marketing, Essentials of Fundraising and Essentials of Find Your Way courses. Director speaks at Creative Skills Europe conference in Paris and attends League of American Orchestras conference in Chicago. APPG on Classical Music AGM.

JULY

Opera & Ballet Managers meeting. ABO News sent to key stakeholders. Find Your Way final group meeting. ABO Board meeting.

AUGUST

Annual Kubk Challenge match with IAMA. Operations & Membership Manager attends CITES Sustainable Users group meeting.

SEPTEMBER

ABO Board meeting. Education & Youth Ensembles consultant attends ABO music and health working group meeting. Noise at Work training days in London and Manchester. ABO fringe event at Labour Party Conference.

OCTOBER

Education, Finance, Fundraising & Marketing, Stage & Transport, Concert & Orchestra and Chamber Orchestras meetings. Find Your Way first group meeting. ABO co-hosts CACIN fringe event at Conservative Party Conference. Director chairs ACEVO Arts & Heritage Special Interest Group. Live Performance Sector Social Dialogue Committee Meeting in Brussels. APPG on Classical Music meeting.

NOVEMBER

Welsh Members meeting. ABO board meeting and AGM. Director speaks at Deutscher Orchestertag in Berlin and Danish Composers Conference in Copenhagen, and attends Pearle conference in Antwerp. Essentials of Fundraising, Introduction to Marketing and Working with Creative People courses. ABO News sent to key stakeholders.

DECEMBER

ABO Reception in Scottish Parliament. Director awarded Honorary Fellowship by Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.

JANUARY

ABO Conference in Belfast. Presentation of ABO Award to Cathy Graham and ABO/Classical Music Awards for Orchestra Manager, Concert Hall Manager and Artist Manager of the Year.

FEBRUARY

Find Your Way residential course at Snape Maltings. ABO Board meeting, ABO hosts European Orchestras Forum. Director presents Fantastic for Families Awards at the Family Arts Conference in Liverpool. Live Performance Sector Social Dialogue Committee Meeting in Brussels. APPG on Classical Music meeting with Nicola Benedetti CBE.

MARCH

Operations & Membership Manager attends CITES Sustainable Users group meeting. ABO News sent to key stakeholders.

CONNECTING

ABO CONFERENCE

This year's Conference, in association with our Principal Media Partner **Classic FM**, Print Media Partner **Classical Music** and Charity Partner **Help Musicians UK** took place in Belfast from 23-25 January 2019, hosted by the **Ulster Orchestra**.

The Conference theme was **Cross Border**. Speakers included Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle CBE DL, Lord Lieutenant of Belfast; Sean Rainbird, Director, National Gallery of Ireland; Professor Frank Lyons, Associate Dean of Research and Impact, Ulster University; María Claudia Parias, Presidenta Ejecutiva, Fundación Nacional Batuta; Dr Katy Radford, Vice-Chair, Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Project Manager and Senior Researcher, Institute for Conflict Research; Alistair Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy, Belfast City Council; Stephen Peover, Chair, Ulster Orchestra and former Permanent Secretary at Stormont; broadcaster and journalist Brenda Emmanus; Christopher Widauer, Head of Digital Development, Wiener Staatsoper; Helen Williams, Deputy Director, Arts, Libraries and Digital Culture, DCMS; Sir Roger Scruton and the Find Your Way 2018/19 cohort.

Our hosts presented a concert at the Waterfront Hall, conducted by their music director Rafael Payare, which included musicians from other British, Spanish, Dutch and Czech orchestras. Musicians from the Ulster Orchestra and the Chavorenge children's choir performed during the official opening.

Funding was gratefully received from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, and sponsors of the conference included the British Association of Concert Halls, British Council and the ISM. We are also grateful to the Musicians' Union for providing financial support for attendance by musicians.

Headline numbers for the conference are that in 3 days we:

- put on **24** different sessions (including 2 breakfast events)
- with **51** speakers / panellists
- to **342** total unique delegates
- seated **240** at the awards dinner
- and sold **172** tickets for the Ulster Orchestra concert

SPECIALIST MANAGERS MEETINGS

Specialist Managers Meetings continued to form the backbone of the ABO's events programme. Meetings for Chairs & Trustees, Chamber Orchestras, Concert & Orchestra, Communications, Digital, Education, Fundraising, Finance, Period Instrument, Opera & Ballet and Stage & Transport Managers, along with Scottish and Welsh members took place during the year, with **451** attendees in total. We also held a Follow-Up Session on the implementation of General Data Protection Regulation at Barbican Centre.

The Specialist Managers Meetings provide opportunities for colleagues from different organisations to meet and discuss subjects of mutual interest and benefit from the latest developments in their field through talks and surgeries given by experts. Reports of the meetings are available to download from the members' area of the ABO website.

During the year, members heard from a range of external speakers including Arts Council England; Arts Marketing Association; Awards for Young Musicians; Baker Richards; British Safety Council; CASE; City and Cambridge Consultancy; Clore Leadership Programme; Cog Design; Copyright Licensing Agency; DCMS; Farrer & Co; Health and Communities; Help Musicians UK; HMRC; Indigo-Ltd; Laytons LLP; MishMash Productions; Music Mark; Musicians' Hearing Services; Musicians' Union; PRS Foundation; Roundhouse; Skinner's Academy, Hackney; Sound Connections; and UK Theatre.

We are hugely grateful to the chairs of the respective specialist manager groups for helping develop agendas and source external speakers:

- Chairs & Trustees – Nicky Oppenheimer, Trustee, The English Concert
- Chamber Orchestras – Andrew Burke, London Sinfonietta
- Concert & Orchestra Managers – Alex Walden, BBC Concert Orchestra and Phil Boughton, Opera North
- Digital & Communications Managers – Jo Johnson, London Symphony Orchestra
- Education Managers – Steve Pickett, Hallé Orchestra and Catherine Arlidge, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra/ National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
- Finance Managers – Ivan Rockey, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Simon Webb, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra
- Fundraising Managers – Nick Jackman, London Philharmonic Orchestra and Matthew Swann, City of London Sinfonia
- Opera & Ballet – Phil Boughton, Opera North
- Scottish Members – Fraser Anderson, Scottish Ensemble
- Welsh Members – Peter Bellingham, Sinfonia Cymru

CHAMPIONING

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The ABO team met regularly during the year with representatives from the government and funding agencies, and holds regular meetings with the UK's arts associations and entertainment unions to discuss common strategies on arts policy and funding.

In April 2017 the ABO appointed Connect Communications to serve as Public Affairs consultants. Their role is to provide strategic advice, monitoring and research as well as help with the production of key documents and assist with the production of responses to government consultations.

Over the year, meetings were held with officials at the DCMS, Migration Advisory Committee and with MPs to present evidence on the impact of Brexit on the orchestral sector. The Director also attended meetings with the Minister for Arts & Heritage and a roundtable on music education with Creative Industries Minister Margot James MP and Schools Minister Nick Gibb MP. A Westminster Hall debate on Orchestras and Brexit, led by Stephen Timms MP, took place in December.

As a continuation of its 70th anniversary celebrations, the ABO held a reception on 11 December at the Scottish Parliament attended by MSPs and representatives from Scotland's classical music sector. Hosted by Tom Arthur MSP, attendees also heard from Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs and enjoyed a performance by Sirocco Winds, a professional wind ensemble comprising current Masters students or graduates of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and alumni of the National Youth Orchestras of Scotland. The reception was sponsored by Classic FM.

The reception coincided with the publication of [Scotland's Music Matters](#), a report showcasing the work and achievements of the Scottish members of the ABO.

Our e-bulletin, *ABO News*, with news and information on the activity of ABO members, was sent to parliamentarians and key stakeholders at regular points during the year.

COMMUNICATIONS

Claire Willis of ElevenTenths continues to work with the ABO team. In April 2018 *The Sun on Sunday* ran a story in which Michael Dugher of UK Music argued that the allocation of ACE funding should be urgently reviewed, as it was unjustly biased towards opera and classical music. The ABO was able to respond swiftly, thanks to the good relationship with David Wooding, Political Editor of *The Sun on Sunday* (who attended the Parliamentary Reception in March 2018), to put these claims in context and explain the case for public funding of classical music and opera.

The second round of Sirens awards were announced in June 2018 – with a press release to specialist outlets and positive engagement from participants on the scheme on their social media channels. In September Professor Linda Merrick was announced as the first conservatoire chief to be appointed to the ABO Board, with coverage in the specialist media. November 2018 saw the launch of 'Scotland's Music Matters' report at the Scottish Parliament for which Claire co-ordinated a press release with quotes from Fiona Hyslop MSP and Tom Arthur MSP.

For the ABO Conference in Belfast, Claire worked with communications teams from the Ulster Orchestra, HMUK, BBC Classical and Northern Ireland, Czech Philharmonic and with media partners Classic FM and Classical Music to ensure the smooth running of media and PR around the conference. Claire also formed part of the ABO conference team, liaising with speakers and VIP guests, provided social media support and live-tweets for the awards, and coordinating photography and distribution of press information.

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY CLASSICAL MUSIC GROUP

The Group's purpose is to bring together parliamentarians who have an interest in and wish to further the appreciation of classical music; to act as an interface between British orchestras' on and off-stage activities, the wider classical music industry, including broadcasters and the recording industry, and key decision makers and opinion formers; and to look at the potential for establishing parliamentary classical music awards and promoting and supporting young musicians. The ABO serves as the Group's secretariat, and advised parliamentarians during year on various issues.

Meetings took place in June, where parliamentarians heard from Sir Nicholas Kenyon, Managing Director, Barbican Centre; in October with Darren Henley OBE, Chief Executive and Claire Mera-Nelson, Director of Music, Arts Council England; and in February with Nicola Benedetti CBE.

ABO/MU CASUAL CONCERT/FREELANCE ORCHESTRAL AGREEMENT

The ABO continued to negotiate the ABO/MU Agreement through its working party comprised of Mark Pemberton and Jenny Lomas, ABO; John Harte, Aurora Orchestra; Elaine Baines, City of London Sinfonia; Timothy Walker, London Philharmonic Orchestra; James Williams, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra; and Peter Helps, Sinfonia Viva. A 2 year agreement for 2018-20 was concluded in November.

The ABO and MU launched a joint Manifesto for British Orchestras at the ABO Conference.

AWARDS

The **ABO Award** was presented during the ABO Conference dinner to **Cathy Graham**, Director of Music at the British Council.

ABO/Classical Music Awards were presented by Jenny Jones, Classic FM presenter, to **David Wilson**, General Manager, London Mozart Players (Orchestra Manager of the Year), **Suzanne Rolt**, Chief Executive, St George's Bristol (Concert Hall Manager of the Year) and **Angela Sulivan**, Sulivan Sweetland (Artist Manager of the Year).

The **ABO/RPS Salomon Prize** was presented to **Janet Fulton**, Principal Percussionist in the Manchester Camerata, at Stoller Hall in April 2019. There were special commendations for two other players, Jackie Shave, leader of Britten Sinfonia, and Bradley Creswick, leader of the Royal Northern Sinfonia. The 2019 Salomon Prize was kindly supported by musicalchairs.

NATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL AND MUSIC EDUCATION COUNCIL

The ABO is a member of the National Music Council, which exists to promote the interests of the music sector. The Director was re-elected as the NMC's Chairman in December 2018. It is also a member of the Music Education Council and was elected to the MEC Forum in [May 2017](#).

PEARLE* AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The ABO and its members benefit hugely from membership of Pearle* (Live Performance Europe), the European league of performing arts associations, which helps the ABO keep track of and influence legislative and regulatory developments within the EU and which holds twice-yearly conferences of its members. The Director attended its conferences in Tallinn in May and Antwerp in November. He also attended meetings of the Live Performance Sector Social Dialogue Committee in Brussels, which brings together employers' associations and trade unions from across the EU.

The ABO benefits from attending international conferences and engaging with colleagues abroad, through forging connections with arts leaders, orchestras and orchestral associations in other countries, and sharing and disseminating best practice to our respective memberships. These included Classical Next in Rotterdam in May, where the Director chaired two sessions for orchestral delegates; the League of American Orchestras in Chicago in June; Danish Composers Conference in Copenhagen in November; and Deutscher Orchestertag in Berlin in November.

WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA AND UPDATE

The ABO's website continued to be an invaluable source of communication and information for members and the general public. Figures show that there were 74,960 visits from 24,679 unique visitors generating over 160,204 page views. These are an excellent measurement of how valuable the website has become in communicating its message to members and the wider world.

The ABO has continued to "tweet" relevant news via Twitter to over 7500 followers and the hashtag for the ABO Conference was widely used by delegates as well as observers away from the conference.

The ABO continued to distribute its much-valued monthly members Update, and Education and Youth Ensemble e-bulletins.

DEVELOPING

The ABO continues to provide access to a range of briefing sheets on topics of relevance and concern to the membership, and provides up-to-date information on events and information via its monthly email Update for members. The ABO continued to offer advice for the benefit of its members, and we are grateful for the pro-bono advice on VAT provided by Graham Elliott and tax advice from Smith & Williamson.

FAMILY ARTS CAMPAIGN

The ABO remains a member of the Family Arts Campaign consortium and is represented on the Project Board. The Campaign is now an Arts Council England Sector Support Organisation, with The Albany as accountable body. Projects include Family Arts Campaign webinars and widening access to data on family audiences through a partnership with The Audience Agency's Audience Finder database.

Work on core activity continue, including promotion of family events via the Fantastic for Families listings website, training including the biennial Family Arts Conference, support to local Family Arts Network, and promotion of the Family Arts Standards quality-mark.

Work on promoting age-friendly and intergenerational practices continue through promotion of the new Age-Friendly Standards and biannual Celebrating Age sharing seminars.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

There were **154** attendees for the ABO's training courses, with attendees very positive about the content and insight gained. ABO courses included Fundraising, HR for non-HR Managers, Marketing, and Working with Creative People, while ABO members also attended a range of UK Theatre courses. The ABO also ran four training sessions for members covering Noise regulations, which were all very well attended.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME: FIND YOUR WAY (FYW)

The previous year's programme finished with a final group meeting in July 2018 where participants heard from Gillian Moore, Southbank Centre, Nicky Oppenheimer, Odgers Berndtsen and the ABO Director. Over the summer the ABO put out an open call for applications to the 2018/19 programme and, following phone interviews, selected six participants. The programme in 2018/19 was jointly run by Richard Wigley, Wigley Arts Management and leadership trainer Andy Beaumont, to help Richard Wigley to allocate his time alongside his CEO role at Ulster Orchestra. Richard and the Education & Youth Ensembles Consultant matched participants with mentors. In 2018/19, the ABO attracted funding from Arts Council England in addition to funding from the ABO Trust.

The full list of participants and their mentors is:

Participant	Mentor
Rebekah Cork, Artistic Planning & Tours Manager, Royal Scottish National Orchestra	Matthew Swann, CEO, City of London Sinfonia
Joanne Green, Violinist, Scottish Ensemble	Louise Mitchell, CEO, Bristol Music Trust
Jo Johnson, Senior Marketing Manager, Digital Communications, London Symphony Orchestra	Michael Eakin, CEO, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra
Chris Lewis-Todd, Orchestra Manager, Halle	Dougie Scarfe, Chief Executive, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
Hannah Muddiman, Planning and Tours Manager, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra	Helen Sprott, Managing Director, Philharmonia Orchestra
Louisa Stanway, Orchestra Manager, Scottish Chamber Orchestra	Peter Harrap, Welsh National Opera

The 2018 group's first meeting took place in October, led by Richard Wigley and Andy Beaumont, and included Gavin Reid, Scottish Chamber Orchestra. A second meeting took place in November, when the group met with Tim Walker, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Lydia Connolly, Harrison Parrott, and Morris Stemp, Musicians' Union. Richard held one-to-one meetings with the participants in October/November. A third group meeting took place at the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, when the group met with Michael Eakin, CEO, and Peter Garden, Executive Director - Performance and Learning. A number of Alumni also attended the meeting. The cohort ran a session at the ABO Conference in January, using the 'Cross Border' theme, titled 'Freeing the Elephants in the Room', stepping out of their comfort zones and cross borders to explore some of the major challenges and concerns they felt were silently looming in the orchestral industry - drawing attention to the elephants affecting our orchestras today in order to set them (and ourselves) free.

The residential course took place at Snape Maltings from 22-24 February. Led by Richard Wigley and Andy Beaumont, it included the participation of Roger Wright, Sarah Gee (Marketing), Anna Rowe (Finance), Mark Pemberton (ABO), Claire Wrathall (writer and editor) and the Education & Youth Ensembles Consultant. The course was opened to six additional participants through a selection process. Places were also made available to non-UK orchestras through Pearle. The additional 7

participants were:

- Helen Brew, Associate Principal Flute, Royal Scottish National Orchestra
- Lydia Brookes, consultant manager
- Howard Croft, Chorus Manager, Opera North
- Kirsteen Davidson-Kelly, Creative Learning Director, Scottish Chamber Orchestra
- Natalia Klingbajl, Manager, Wroclaw Philharmonic Orchestra
- Helen Macleod, Choruses Manager, BBC Symphony Orchestra & BBC Proms Youth Choir
- Tom Philpott, Planning Manager, BBC Symphony Orchestra

The first half of the course included coaching, subject specific information on finance, marketing, fundraising and artistic planning; the second half included individual and group presentations, a session on delivering difficult messages, and coaching on giving feedback and mentoring.

In June 2018, the ABO piloted an introductory “Essentials of Find Your Way”, consisting of a day and half of leadership training, with three weeks between each day. The 11 participants heard from Kathryn McDowell, LSO. The course was for those who were interested in finding out more about the principles of Find Your Way. Two of the eleven participants were subsequently selected to be on the 2018/19 programme and two further participants joined the residential course.

HEALTHY ORCHESTRA

The ABO maintained its Healthy Orchestra programme. The ABO is a partner in Conservatoires UK’s Musical Impact project, which over four years will work to enhance the health and wellbeing of musicians studying and working in Britain.

EDUCATION & YOUTH ENSEMBLES

Over the year the ABO worked hard to ensure that orchestras were kept up to date on developments in music education, including Music Education Hubs, safeguarding, child performance licensing, diversity and inclusion, the Music Commission (looking at music progression), music and health, and Government consultations.

The ABO continued to work with the Music Education Council’s (MEC) Task and Finish group - Music for Youth, Music Mark, Making Music, Brass Bands England, Choir Schools Association and British and International Federation of Festivals - to pressurise the Department for Education to effect changes in the law on Child Performance Licensing. The ABO continued to support the #baccforthefuture campaign.

The Education & Youth Ensembles Consultant represented the ABO on the BBC Ten Pieces Stakeholders group.

The bi-annual Specialist Manager Meetings of education managers continue to enable members to share their work, including guest speakers who represent participants in orchestral education projects, or those who work with the participants such as teachers.

In May 2018 the morning’s agenda included ABO updates on youth ensembles, child performance licensing, EBacc, Music Education Council, the Music Commission, GDPR, ABO Conference 2019,

Brexit, Diversity and Inclusion, Dignity at Work, Noise at Work, and BBC Ten Pieces Year Two. The afternoon focused on youth led work with guests and presentations from Jason Thornton, Bath Philharmonia on their work with young careers, Hannah Taylor, Awards for Young Musicians, on their work with young talented musicians and Lucy Geddes, Manchester Camerata, Nick Thorne, NYO Inspire and Adem Holness and Julia Roderick, Sound Connections on their youth-led work.

In October 2018, hosted by Opera North in Leeds, the morning featured updates on ABO Conference 2019, Noise, Child Performance Licensing, Music and Health, and the Music Education Council. Morris Stemp, Musicians' Union, presented 'The Musician behind the moment' and Liz Muge, MishMash Productions, spoke about music/theatre for young audiences. The afternoon focussed on the current state of music education on all four UK nations with presentations from Kirsteen Davidson-Kelly, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Suzanne Hay, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Bridget Whyte, Music Mark, and Lucy McCullagh, Ulster Orchestra.

The ABO music and health working group held its first meeting at Snape Maltings (13/14 September) to discuss and share work, and to develop a shared strategy. The group's actions included gathering more data, and holding a future meeting with academic researchers in the field to develop a shared language when talking about, and evaluating the work in a variety of health settings.

YOUTH ENSEMBLES

The ABO's offer to its youth ensemble membership included opportunities to meet during the Annual Conference and a tailored E-Bulletin.

Following the second Youth Ensembles event in Birmingham (March 2017), we continued to work in partnership with Music Mark. In November 2018, the Education Consultant chaired a session on youth voice with Drake Music, Open Up Music, NYJO, Orchestras for All and EFDSS. The ABO is also developing a strategic partnership with Music for Youth.

The national youth orchestras of GB, Wales, Ireland, National Children's Orchestras of GB, and Ulster Orchestra met in June 2018 and at the ABO Conference, to discuss and share work, artistic and operational issues.

During the year the Education & Youth Ensembles Consultant attended the following seminars/events on behalf of the ABO:

- BBC Ten Pieces Stakeholders meeting
- BSO Changemakers evaluation
- Music in Society House of Lords Inquiry
- Music Education Council 2018 winter seminar on inclusivity and 2019 spring seminar on music education.

FINANCE

The ABO made a surplus for the year ended 31 March 2019 of £33,402. This resulted in the reserves increasing to £223,575.

The ABO Trust was a beneficiary of a legacy from the estate of Mrs Elizabeth Ashton Edwards in 2010. The trustees have agreed to make a grant to the ABO towards the costs of its Education & Youth Ensembles and Find Your Way programmes.

The ABO Trust also received a donation of £200,000 in 2016 from Diana Ambache to support the costs of the Sirens fund, to encourage the programming of works by historical women composers for a 10 year period. The fund has an annual end of February deadline. In 2018, four awards were made to:

- Trinity Laban – *Symphony no. 2*, Grace Williams
- Royal Philharmonic Orchestra – *D'un matin de printemps*, Lili Boulanger
- Academy of Ancient Music – *Sinfonia* from *Pallade e Marte* Maria Grimaldi and *Symphony (Overture) in C*, Marianna Martinez
- Aurora Orchestra - *Symphony no. 3*, Louise Farrenc

MEMBERSHIP

This year saw a number of new members: Henry Wood Chamber Orchestra as Full Members; National Opera Studio as Associate Members; Aircraft Chartering Services as Corporate Members; English Folk Dance and Song Society (National Youth Folk Ensemble, London Youth Folk Ensemble) as Youth Ensemble Members; and Lydia Brookes and Harriet Lawrence as Sole Trader members. A full membership list is included in this Annual Review.

GOVERNANCE

The Board met five times during the year, ensuring scrutiny of the Association's activities and finances.

Following the resignations of Fraser Anderson (Scottish Ensemble) and Sophie Lewis (Sinfonia Cymru), Jenny Jamison (Scottish Ensemble) and Peter Bellingham (Sinfonia Cymru) were elected to the board at the AGM in November 2018.

Professor Linda Merrick, Principal, Royal Northern College of Music was co-opted to the board, to replace Carol Main MBE of Live Music Now Scotland, who completed her 6 year term as a co-opted director at the AGM in November 2017.

The ABO is very grateful to Laurie Watt, former Senior Counsel at Charles Russell Speechlys, for his support as the Association's Honorary Legal Adviser, particularly for the use of meeting space.

STAFF

Mark Pemberton continued to serve as Director, Jenny Lomas as Membership & Operations Manager and Emma Nevell as Office & Events Administrator.

The staff were supported by Fiona Harvey, Education & Youth Ensembles Consultant; Stewart Powell, Finance Manager at SOLT/UK Theatre; Claire Willis of ElevenTenths PR; and Connect Communications.

ABO MEMBERSHIP 2018/19

FULL MEMBERS

Those professional orchestras and ensembles which have existed for not less than two years in the UK, and have undertaken no fewer than 24 public performances, entitled to all services and discounts and having a vote at General Meetings.

12 Ensemble	Orchestra of the Swan
Academy of Ancient Music	Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique
Academy of St Martin in the Fields	Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra
Aurora Orchestra	Philharmonia Orchestra
Bath Philharmonia	Red Note Ensemble
BBC Concert Orchestra	Royal Liverpool Philharmonic
BBC National Orchestra of Wales	Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra
BBC Philharmonic Orchestra	Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra	Royal Scottish National Orchestra
BBC Symphony Orchestra	Sage Gateshead (Royal Northern Sinfonia)
Birmingham Contemporary Music Group	Scottish Chamber Orchestra
Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra	Scottish Ensemble
Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra	Sinfonia Cymru
Britten Sinfonia	Sinfonia Verdi
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra	Sinfonia ViVA
City of London Sinfonia	Southbank Sinfonia
Classical Opera	The English Concert
Dunedin Consort	The Hallé
English Baroque Soloists	The Hanover Band
Gabrieli Consort & Players	The Sixteen
Henry Wood Chamber Orchestra	Ulster Orchestra
London Chamber Orchestra	
London Contemporary Orchestra	Opera/Ballet Orchestras
London Handel Orchestra	Orchestra of English National Ballet
London Mozart Players	Orchestra of English National Opera
London Philharmonic Orchestra	Glyndebourne on Tour Orchestra
London Sinfonietta	Northern Ballet Theatre Orchestra
London Symphony Orchestra	Orchestra of Opera North
Manchester Camerata	Royal Ballet Sinfonia (Birmingham Royal Ballet)
Monteverdi Choir and Orchestras	Orchestra of the Royal Opera House
National Symphony Orchestra	Orchestra of Scottish Ballet
Northern Chamber Orchestra	Orchestra of Scottish Opera
Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment	Orchestra of Welsh National Opera

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Those orchestras that have been in existence for less than two years or have given less than 24 professional public performances in the UK; non-UK professional orchestras; conservatoires; national youth orchestras

Australian Chamber Orchestra	Royal College of Music
Chamber Orchestra of Europe	Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
Chineke Foundation	Royal Northern College of Music
Guildhall School of Music and Drama	Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
Multi-Story	RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra
National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain	Snape Maltings
National Opera Studio	Singapore Symphony Orchestra
National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain	The Paraorchestra and Friends
National Youth Orchestras of Scotland	Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance
Royal Academy of Music	University of Birmingham Music Department
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire	

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Those organisations involved with the presentation, support and commissioning of the work of the Association and its full members, such as funding agencies, broadcasters, festivals and venues

Arts Council England, and nine regional offices	Opera & Music Theatre Forum
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music	Orchestras Live
Barbican Centre	Royal Albert Hall
BBC Proms	Royal Philharmonic Society
BBC Radio 3	Saffron Hall Trust
Bristol Music Trust	Serious
British Council	Southbank Centre
Cadogan Hall	Spitalfields Festival
Classic FM	St David's Hall
Help Musicians UK	St John's, Smith Square
Incorporated Society of Musicians	Music Mark
Live Music Now Scotland	Three Choirs Festival
Making Music	Town Hall & Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Music For Youth	Wigmore Hall

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Other interested parties and commercial organisations that support the work of the Association and its members

Action for Children's Arts	Macbeth Media Relations
Aircraft Chartering Service	Maestro Tour Management
AOR Management Inc	Morgensterns
ArtAxis Music Ltd	Orchestras Canada
Arts Marketing Association	Oxford University Press
Askonas Holt Ltd	Smith & Williamson
Boomerang Carnets	Sound Sense
British Academy of Composers and Songwriters	Sound Space Vision
China Symphony Development Foundation	Specialised Travel Ltd
Harrison Parrott	Stagecast Ltd
IMG Artists	Symphony Services International
Intermusica Artists' Management	The Musicians Answering Service
International Artist Managers' Association	The Tutor Pages
La Playa	Young Classical Artists Trust
Latitude 45 Arts Promotions Inc	2434.com Ltd
League of American Orchestras	

YOUTH ENSEMBLES MEMBERS

Those youth and student orchestras and other ensembles that work with young people up to the age of 21. Music conservatoires, national youth music organisations and orchestras and ensembles that offer professional development opportunities should apply for Associate membership.

Arabian Youth Orchestra	Irish Association of Youth Orchestras
Bristol Plays Music	Kingston Upon Hull Music Service National Open Youth Orchestra
Chetham's School of Music	National Youth String Orchestra
Congleton Youth Orchestra	Nottingham Youth Orchestra
Devon Music Education Hub	Severn Arts
Digital Orchestra (Drake Music)	Stoneleigh Youth Orchestra
East Dunbartonshire Music Service	Thames Youth Orchestra
East Riding Youth Orchestra	The Szilvay Foundation & Colourstrings
English Folk Dance and Song Society (National Youth Folk Ensemble, London Youth Folk Ensemble)	Trinity College Junior Dept Symphony Orchestra
Hallé Youth Orchestra	Wells Cathedral School
Highgate School	Westmorland Youth Orchestra
	Yorkshire Young Sinfonia

SOLE TRADER MEMBERS

Anna Rowe	Marion Friend MBE
Eleven Tenths PR	Trudy Wright Executive Coaching & Music Consultancy
Harriet Lawrence	VLT Legal Services
Katherine Zeserson	
Lydia Brookes	

HONORARY MEMBERS

By invitation of the ABO board

Andrew Bennett	Ian Maclay
Simon Crookall	Roy McEwan OBE
Trevor Ford	Edward Smith
Sir Clive Gillinson	Malcolm Warne Holland
Michael Henson	Laurie Watt
Antony Lewis-Crosby	David Whelton OBE

ABO BOARD

Catherine Arlidge MBE	Sub-Principal Second Violin/ Artistic Director	City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra/ National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain
Peter Bellingham	Chief Executive	Sinfonia Cymru
Phil Boughton	Director of Orchestra & Chorus	Opera North
Jenny Jamison	Chief Executive	Scottish Ensemble
Ginny Macbeth	Director	Macbeth Media Relations
Professor Linda Merrick	Principal	Royal Northern College of Music
Louise Mitchell	Chief Executive	Bristol Music Trust
Gavin Reid (<i>chair</i>)	Chief Executive	Scottish Chamber Orchestra
Helen Spratt	Managing Director	Philharmonia Orchestra
John Summers	Chief Executive	Hallé Concerts Society
Matthew Swann	Chief Executive	City of London Sinfonia
Simon Webb	General Manager	BBC Philharmonic Orchestra

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Jenny Lomas

Membership & Operations Manager

Emma Nevell

Office & Events Administrator

Fiona Harvey

Education & Youth Ensembles Consultant

Association of British Orchestras

32 Rose Street

London WC2E 9ET

020 7557 6770 / info@abo.org.uk / www.abo.org.uk

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