



Classical MUSIC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alan Davey CBE, Controller, BBC Radio 3, Honoured at the Association of British Orchestras Awards 2023

- The Association of British Orchestras (ABO) has presented its prestigious ABO Award to Alan Davey CBE, Controller, BBC Radio 3.
- Nominated by their peers throughout the industry and celebrated with the ABO/Classical Music Awards are Askonas Holt CEO, Donagh Collins; Cadogan Hall Managing Director, Adam McGinlay; and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra CEO, Dougie Scarfe.
- A posthumous award was presented for celebrated pianist and conductor, Lars Vogt.
- A special commendation was also given to Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra Artistic Planning Director (Orchestra and Ensembles), Sandra Parr.
- The annual ABO Conference, the UK's leading classical music forum, took place in-person in Leeds and was streamed online bringing together over 350 delegates from every part of the industry from the UK and abroad this week (1 - 3 February).

As the Association of British Orchestras Conference kicks off in Leeds, the industry body has announced **Alan Davey CBE, Controller, BBC Radio 3** as the recipient of its prestigious annual **ABO Award**. Davey was recognised for his championing of orchestral music, and his nurturing of the BBC's orchestras as part of the wider ecology of the UK orchestral scene, that has benefitted the whole sector.

The ABO Award is presented annually to the individual or institution considered by the membership to have made the most important contribution to the orchestral life of the UK. The ABO Award is unique among the many prestigious awards and prizes in the music world because its recipient is nominated by the member orchestras themselves.

Jenny Jamison, Interim Chair of ABO said: 'It is with our grateful thanks and appreciation that we present Alan Davey CBE with the ABO Award 2023. Throughout his career, Alan has been a passionate supporter of orchestral music and musicians. From leading the DCMS, Arts Council England and now BBC Radio 3, he is a lover of the riskiest live performance, appreciative of tradition

and a determined and perceptive supporter of new music and emerging talent. Every member of the ABO has benefitted from his appreciation for what we do.'

Announced at a live event at the Royal Armouries in Leeds on the evening of Wednesday 1 February, the award ceremony also revealed the winners of the 2023 **ABO/Classical Music Awards**, celebrating the achievements of colleagues across the sector through nominations by their peers, and were presented with ABO Media Partner **Classical Music**.

The ABO/Classical Music Award for 2023 **Artist Manager of the Year** was awarded to **Donagh Collins**, Chief Executive of the international arts management company, Askonas Holt. Collins was recognised for the pivotal role that he played in turning the idea of the Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra into reality, against all odds. The initiative, originally the inspired idea of conductor Keri-Lynn Wilson and her husband Peter Gelb, general manager of the Metropolitan Opera in New York, brought together Ukrainian musicians from inside and outside the country. Collins led his team in tackling the logistics of pulling together a 12-concert tour for the new orchestra in just a matter of weeks - embracing the UK, the USA, Poland, Germany, France and Ireland. As a result, the debut tour was one of the musical triumphs of the year, showcasing Ukrainian repertoire and Ukrainian performing talent and lifting spirits during a time of devastating war.

The winner of the **Concert Hall Manager of the Year** category was **Adam McGinlay**, Managing Director of Cadogan Hall. Despite the unprecedented challenges during the pandemic, across the sector there are many remarkable stories of creativity, innovation and sheer dogged determination on the part of venue managers. McGinlay's response to these challenges resulted in Cadogan Hall having one of its most successful years since it opened in 2004. Building on his track record of presenting a wide range of attractions from classical music to music theatre, to jazz/rock/folk and spoken word (and even fashion shows), McGinlay reacted swiftly to the easing of Covid restrictions, contributing to discussions with UK Government over how halls could remain safe during the pandemic and worked with promoters to enable them to develop new ways for their artists to perform. Not only could venue staff continue to engage with the workplace and come back on site, but artists could get back onstage to perform.

The recipient of this year's **Orchestra Manager of the Year** award was **Dougie Scarfe**, CEO of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Scarfe's passionate dedication to inclusion in all that his orchestra does was reflected in his orchestra's digital offer during the pandemic, ensuring that the public were served with inspiring musical experiences and that musicians were kept active and engaged. His deep commitment to providing opportunities for disabled musicians resulted in a collaboration with Royal Northern Sinfonia and Sage Gateshead enabling disabled musicians to take their rightful place on the concert platform. In addition, Scarfe is passionate about building partnerships between British orchestras to further pull open the door open to a greater number of people from diverse backgrounds. A commitment to his chief conductor's interest in symphonic repertoire of Eastern Europe and Asia further served this commitment to diversity with the development of a realisation of Stravinsky's 'Rite of Spring' in partnership with Seeta Patel Dance, embracing classical South Indian traditions.

The awards panel also awarded a **special commendation** in this category to **Sandra Parr** of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Parr planned and delivered her orchestra's first full post-pandemic season with an ambitious and diverse programme. This included fifteen new works in

2021-22, more than half of them written by women. She led an increase in the presence of women conductors working with the orchestra, inviting nine women to conduct major repertoire during the season. Two global majority artists-in-residence, Isata Kanneh-Mason and Roderick Williams, embodied a further commitment to diversity. Parr led a major recruitment drive for her orchestra's choir to increase its numbers in 2022 and oversaw a re-imagining for the orchestra of the last two Beatles albums, featuring newly commissioned arrangements which were taken on a tour of venues in England and Scotland.

A special, **posthumous award** was given for acclaimed pianist and conductor, the late **Lars Vogt**. The award was collected on his behalf by his agent, Askonas Holt Director, **Celia Willis**. Having appeared as a soloist with all professional British symphony orchestras and most major British conductors, from Rattle to Gardiner, Norrington to Elder and Ticciati to Harding, Lars Vogt built an illustrious international career, encompassing solo concertos, recitals, recordings, chamber music, teaching and conducting, and was celebrated by critics from New York to Tokyo. He won the hearts of audiences when he took on the Music Directorship of the Royal Northern Sinfonia, and later as Principal Artistic Partner. This posthumous award marks Lars' unique and outstanding musical and human contribution to British orchestras.

The theme of the 2023 Conference, 'United', is a crucial factor in how the sector will approach the challenges of the coming year, working together both within and beyond the sector. Delegates from all areas of the classical music industry have come together to explore urgent issues including strengthening and diversifying the workforce at a time of economic crisis; creating the infrastructure to stimulate new works; building future resilience and the case for arts funding; and understanding and connecting with audiences. International delegates joined the event from countries including Columbia, Poland, Qatar and Ukraine.

The three-day Conference will hear from over 40 prominent figures from across the worlds of music, culture and politics including **Lord Parkinson**, Minister for Arts and Heritage; **Aubrey Bergauer**, heralded as "the Steve Jobs of classical music" (Observer); **Naomi Pohl**, General Secretary of the Musicians' Union; and **Roger Wilson**, Director of Operations at Black Lives in Music.

For further details on the conference and the work that the ABO does, visit www.abo.org.uk.

For further information and images

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Notes To Editors:

ABO CONFERENCE AWARDS – 2023 WINNERS

ABO AWARD:

Alan Davey CBE, Controller, BBC Radio 3

Posthumous Award

Lars Vogt, Pianist and Conductor

ABO/CLASSICAL MUSIC AWARDS:

Artist Manager of the Year

Donagh Collins, Chief Executive, Askonas Holt

Concert Hall Manager of the Year

Adam McGinlay, Managing Director, Cadogan Hall

Orchestra Manager of the Year

Dougie Scarfe, Chief Executive, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Commendation

Sandra Parr, Artistic Planning Director (Orchestra and Ensembles), Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

About the Association of British Orchestras (ABO)

The ABO is the national body representing the collective interest of professional orchestras, youth ensembles and the wider classical music industry throughout the UK. Our mission is to enable and support an innovative, collaborative and sustainable orchestral sector by providing advice, support, intelligence and information to the people who make British orchestras a global success.

www.abo.org.uk @aborchestras

About Classical Music

Classical Music is the only dedicated magazine and website for the Classical Music industry in the UK, with features, news and reviews for performers, agents, managers, promoters along with anyone with an interest in the music world.

Subscribers receive a quarterly print magazine, daily e-newsletters (which collate the top stories from us and other notable news sources from around the world) and a weekly e-news digest. We provide unique insight into what's going on in the sector, with regular coverage of festivals, competitions, courses and concerts, as well as key career information for musicians and details of new appointments. You'll also find the latest job vacancies on our recruitment platform

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