

WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH in partnership with Help Musicians

15:00 OPENING

Welcome to delegates from **Simon Webb**, Director, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Chair, Association of British Orchestras and **Graham Sheffield CBE**, Chair, Help Musicians

15:20 AFTERSHOCK: DIVERSITY

While the topic of diversity and inclusion has been at the forefront of ABO Conferences in recent years, the Black Lives Matter movement has added urgency, with the tragic murder of George Floyd precipitating worldwide comment on racism and promoting an anti-racism narrative in the arts sector. So it's time to see a little less conversation, and a lot more action. And change involves everyone, from manager to musician. We kickstart our conference by taking stock of progress, and what more needs to be done. **Roger Wilson**, Director of Operations, Black Lives in Music, is joined by **Chi-chi Nwanoku OBE**, founder and Artistic & Executive Director, Chineke! Orchestra, **Victoria Sayles**, Violinist, London Mozart Players, and **Linton Stephens**, bassoonist and Chair, Musicians Union EDI Committee, to discuss racial inequity in UK orchestras today, the efforts being made to address this problem and the future success for orchestras in their quest for improved diversity.

16:05 BREAK

16:15 AFTERSHOCK: ADVANCING AN ANTI-RACIST ORCHESTRAL MODEL

As the call for action on diversity becomes all the more urgent, there is much to learn from our colleagues in the USA. **Mark Pemberton** talks to **Alex Laing**, senior consultant at Hillombo and principal clarinet, The Phoenix Symphony, and **Justin Laing**, founder and principal of Hillombo LLC and Alex's brother, about why orchestras need to change their model, their role as thought leaders on this crucial issue, the Adaptive Leadership programme they have developed, and its relevance to the UK's orchestral sector.

18:30 ENDS

THURSDAY 11 MARCH

10:00 OPENING

Simon Webb, Director, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Chair, Association of British Orchestras and **Philip Noyce**, Managing Editor, Classic FM

10.15 Speech and Q&A by **Caroline Dinenage MP**, Minister for Digital & Culture facilitated by Anne-Marie Minhall, Presenter, Classic FM

11:00 BREAK

11:15 AFTERSHOCK: LET'S CREATE

As we emerge from the state of hibernation forced on much of our activity by the pandemic, we hear from **Sir Nicholas Serota**, Chair, Arts Council England, on his vision for rebuilding the arts and delivering on ACE's 10 year strategy *Let's Create*, with **Simon Webb**, Director, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Chair, Association of British Orchestras.

11:45 BREAK

12:00 AFTERSHOCK: STATE OF THE NATION

A high-powered panel takes a close look at the economic and political landscape post-Covid and Brexit, and what this might mean for the arts and music industry. What are the prospects for recovery, and how long will the damage last? Led by **Mark Pemberton**, Director, Association of British Orchestras, with **Katy Balls**, Deputy Political Editor, The Spectator, **Chris Giles**, Economics Editor, Financial Times and **Jamie Njoku-Goodwin**, Chief Executive, UK Music.

13:00 BREAK

-14.00

13:00 AFTERSHOCK: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE CAREER

-14.00 This session focuses on launching the findings from the Future of Classical Music: building a sustainable career in classical music research project commissioned by Help Musicians. Conducted by **Susanna Eastburn MBE** and **Jane Williams**, the study brought together over 50 interviews from across the sector plus a wide-ranging literature review. The findings have been shaped into proposed outcomes and recommendations for key sector changes that will support and improve the sustainability of classical music careers over the next 10 years.

Hosted by Help Musicians, Susanna and Jane, and with contributions from Nadine Benjamin, Alasdair Tait and Professor Helena Gaunt, this session is the first opportunity for the sector to come together and discuss some of the key findings and how these might be put into action.

Key findings will be shared with participants in advance and part of the session will be interactive, attendees breaking into facilitated groups to think about current good practice, barriers and challenges and practical steps forward.

14:00 AFTERSHOCK: A HEALTHIER NATION

The pandemic has put a spotlight more than ever on the NHS and social care. Building on last year's conference session and the first comprehensive survey of UK orchestras' work in the health and social care sectors, we look at the implications for the 'social prescribing' agenda and the role orchestras can play to restore the health and wellbeing of the nation. **Sarah Derbyshire MBE**, Chief Executive, Orchestras Live and **Matthew Swann**, Chief Executive, City of London Sinfonia, will chair a specialist panel bringing together leading

fundere and healthcare professionals. Delegates will have the opportunity to pose questions in advance on "*How orchestras can integrate the development of musicians' creative engagement skills into work with health and social care settings* and '*Navigating health and social care networks to establish relationships that expand orchestras' role as service providers and generate earned income*". Speakers include **Natalie Ellis**, Head of Arts, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, **Gay Palmer**, Link Worker, Tessa Jowell Health Centre, NHS South East London Clinical Commissioning Group, **James Sanderson**, Director of Personalised Care, NHS England and NHS Improvement and CEO, National Academy of Social Prescribing, and **Katherine Spencer**, Principal Clarinet, City of London Sinfonia.

14:50 BREAK

15:00 AFTERSHOCK: THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

We are not alone in suffering the consequences of a dependency on earned and contributed income. We hear from international colleagues in other countries about how their orchestras have coped with the pandemic, and how they have adapted to a new landscape. Chaired by **Cathy Graham OBE**, Director of Music, British Council, with **Juan Antonio Cuéllar**, Manager, Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Colombia, **Nathaly Ossa**, Coordinator, Asociación Española de Orquestas Sinfónicas and **Simon Woods**, President and Chief Executive, League of American Orchestras.

15:50 BREAK

16:00 AFTERSHOCK: BLACK LIVES MATTER

COVID-19 and Brexit have not been the only shocks to our sector in 2020. The Black Lives Matter movement has also reignited the call for action on diversity and inclusion. We hear from colleagues in the USA about the steps American orchestras are taking to embed change. Chaired by **Simon Woods**, President and Chief Executive, League of American Orchestras, with **Sakurako Fisher**, former Chair, San Francisco Symphony, **Aaron Flagg**, DMA Chair, Associate Director, Juilliard Jazz Studies Program, and **Anthony McGill**, Principal Clarinet, New York Philharmonic.

16:50 WRAP-UP

17:00 BRITISH COUNCIL NETWORKING MEETING

An informal networking session for delegates based in the UK and internationally. Find out more about the work of some of our overseas guests, including delegates from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico. It will be an opportunity for those interested in creating international collaborations to meet other, make and renew connections before you head over to the Quiz. Hosted by **Cathy Graham OBE** and **Michael Duffy**.

18:00 -19:30 FUNDRAISING QUIZ for Help Musicians Grab a drink and come and test your musical knowledge!

FRIDAY 12 MARCH

09:00 BRITISH COUNCIL NETWORKING MEETING

Start your day with this informal networking session for delegates based in the UK and internationally. Find out more about the work of some of our overseas guests, including delegates from Georgia, Lebanon, North Macedonia, Palestine, Serbia and Ukraine. It will be an opportunity for those interested in creating international collaborations to meet other, make and renew connections. Hosted by **Cathy Graham OBE** and **Michael Duffy**.

10:00 AFTERSHOCK: THE BBC SESSION

How has the pandemic affected our national broadcaster's programming and priorities? **Alan Davey CBE**, Controller of BBC Radio 3 and Classical Music, gives us his take on our 'aftershock' theme, and what recovery looks like to the BBC, with **Kate Molleson**, journalist and presenter, BBC Radio 3.

10:45 BREAK

11:00 AFTERSHOCK: THE FUTURE OF TOURING

After the double whammy of COVID and Brexit, it's time to take stock of what the prospects are for a return to international touring, inbound and outbound. Will it be business as usual, or do we need to narrow our horizons? Do we now need to 'think local', not least in recognition of the climate emergency? Chaired by BBC Radio 3 presenter **Georgia Mann**, with **Angela Dixon**, Chief Executive, Saffron Hall, **Kathryn McDowell CBE**, Managing Director, London Symphony Orchestra and **John Summers**, former Chief Executive, The Hallé.

11:50 BREAK

12:00 AFTERSHOCK: REFLECT, REBUILD, RECONNECT

We all know what went wrong in 2020, but what went right? The 2020-21 Find Your Way cohort reflect on the innovations that inspired them over the past year. Expect an uplifting session that points to our industry's success stories as the catalyst for vital rebuilding and reconnecting post-COVID. Led by **Richard Collins**, Head of Programming, Royal Northern College of Music, **Ursula Heidecker Allen**, Violinist, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, **Sumita Menon**, Choral and Schools Projects Manager, London Symphony Orchestra, **Ruth Millar**, Deputy Orchestra Manager, Ulster Orchestra, **Nick Thorne**, Executive Director, Orchestras for All and **Kate Whitlock**, General Manager, Hebrides Ensemble.

13:00 BREAK

14:00 AFTERSHOCK: A NEW CONTRACT?

Endless cancellations due to COVID-19 have tested the integrity of contracts as never before. What does 'force majeure' mean in a post-COVID world? How do we rebuild the relationship between orchestra, promoter and artist manager? Chaired by **Ellen Gallagher**, Associate, Hamlins LLP, with **Lorna Aizlewood**, Chief Operating Officer & General Counsel, Harrison Parrott, **Donagh Collins**, Chief Executive, Askonas Holt and **Stephen Maddock OBE**, Chief Executive, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

14:50 BREAK

15:00 AFTERSHOCK: A DIGITAL DIVIDEND?

If there is one thing the orchestral sector has learnt during the pandemic, it has been how to adapt to digital platforms. Is this a permanent shift, and if so, are there ways of turning it into a meaningful income stream? Chaired by **James Murphy**, Chief Executive, Royal Philharmonic Society, with **Susannah Simons**, Director of Partnerships, Marquee TV, digital consultant **David Taylor** and **Crispin Woodhead**, Chief Executive, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

15:50 BREAK

16:00 AFTERSHOCK: TOWARDS A NEW CANON?

How have the seismic events of the past 18 months influenced the music that's composed and commissioned? Changes are already afoot in the United States, so what might this mean for future programming? Hear from composers and industry experts about their aspirations for the future of orchestral music and the artistic disruptions we should treasure and sustain. Chaired by **Vanessa Reed**, President & CEO, New Music USA with composer and flautist **Valerie Coleman**, composer and multi-instrumentalist **Angélica Negrón** and **Matías Tarnopolsky**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Philadelphia Orchestra.

Find out more about this session's panel below:

[New Music USA's Amplifying Voices program](#); [Valerie Coleman's Seven O'Clock Shout](#); [Valerie Coleman: Flautist & Composer](#); [Angélica Negrón](#)

16:50 BREAK

17:00 AFTERSHOCK: CLOSING SESSION AND AWARDS

We wrap up the conference with an overview of the issues discussed and look forward to our next conference in 2022. Then grab a drink, and join us as we announce the winners of this year's ABO/Classical Music Awards and ABO Award presented by **Classic FM's Margherita Taylor**.

18:00 ENDS