



## News Release

### 11 October 2022: Judith Webster Confirmed as New ABO Chief Executive

**Today (11 October 2022), The Association of British Orchestras (ABO) announces Judith Webster as its new Chief Executive.**

Judith Webster has been appointed Chief Executive of the Association of British Orchestras (ABO). Judith will join the ABO on 14 November 2022, following the departure of Mark Pemberton, who left the ABO on 30 September after 15 years in post.

Judith's distinguished and successful career has most recently seen her leading Music for Youth, the national music education charity which presents the annual MFY Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, for ten years. She brings a wealth of experience to the role having previously developed engagement programmes for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and London Sinfonietta, and designed and directed a post-graduate diploma in Creative Leadership for the Royal College of Music, all of which demonstrate that she is a strong advocate for the importance and impact of orchestral music making at both a cultural and personal level.

Judith Webster said: "The opportunity to lead the ABO at this time is a perfect fit for me, combining as it does my passion for orchestras and my deep rooted commitment to embracing change and supporting innovation in all aspects of their work. I am indebted to Mark Pemberton and ABO colleagues for their tireless work in supporting the sector throughout the pandemic and look forward to working with ABO members and introducing new voices to the debate around how best to enable orchestras to thrive and build on the innovation of recent years."

Commenting on Judith Webster's appointment, Simon Webb, Chair of the ABO, said: "Judith is an established and highly regarded colleague in the orchestral and music education sectors. She has demonstrated her understanding of the sector and ability to deliver real and effective change both in orchestras and in the music education sector more broadly. She is a familiar and respected colleague to many of our members through her work with the RPO, London Sinfonietta, RCM and Music for Youth, where many of us have worked with Judith and admired her vision and determination to deliver high quality work with and for young people. Judith has a deep understanding of orchestras and the full range of their work and I look forward to working with her as the ABO builds on Mark Pemberton's excellent work and, under Judith's leadership, works with our members to create a secure and flourishing future for British orchestras."

The Association of British Orchestras is the national body representing the collective interests of professional orchestras, youth ensembles and the wider classical music industry throughout the UK. Its 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. Recent initiatives include 'Resonate' in association with PRS Foundation and BBC Radio 3, which supports the best orchestral music of the last 25 years, and 'Find Your Way' which identifies and offers training to future sector leaders. The ABO campaigned successfully for Orchestra Tax Relief and continues to campaign for the sector at the highest levels, to help re-build



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resilience out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Current priorities include the impact of Brexit and creating a platform for a more diverse and inclusive orchestral sector.

For further information about the ABO visit [www.abo.org.uk](http://www.abo.org.uk).

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