

## **ABO guidance following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

**9 September 2022**

Dear colleagues

The ABO wishes to express its condolences to the Royal Family on the death of Her Majesty The Queen. We know that many ABO members benefit from Royal Patronage so will be particularly saddened by the news.

Members have begun to ask us for advice on what they should be doing in response. It is our understanding that Her Majesty The Queen's wish was that life should go on as usual after her death, and therefore there is no need to cancel performances. Members may, however, wish to revisit their concert programming to ensure it reflects the mood of the nation. DCMS has published official [guidance](#) and advised as follows:

*“There is no obligation to cancel or postpone events and sporting fixtures, or close entertainment venues during the National Mourning period; this is at the discretion of individual organisations.”*

*“If sporting fixtures or events are planned for the day of the State Funeral, organisations may want to adjust the event timings in order to de-conflict with the timings of the funeral service and associated proceedings”*

*“As a mark of respect, and in keeping with the tone of National Mourning, organisers may wish to hold a one-minute silence and/or play the National Anthem at the start of events or sporting fixtures, and players may wish to wear black armbands”.*

It is looking increasingly likely the funeral will take place on Monday 19 September. This will be a day of national mourning and members may wish to cancel performances scheduled for that day.

God save the King.

Best wishes,

Mark

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## **About the ABO**

The Association of British Orchestras is the representative body for professional orchestras, and youth ensembles.

Its mission is to enable and support an innovative, collaborative and sustainable orchestral sector, and to provide advice, support, intelligence and information to the people who make UK orchestras a global success.

We represent 115 Full and Associate member orchestras ranging from internationally renowned symphony orchestras to chamber, opera and ballet orchestras as well as conservatoires and national youth orchestras and the wider classical music industry.