



## ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ORCHESTRAS OPENS APPLICATIONS FOR FIFTH ROUND OF SIRENS FUND GRANTS TO CHAMPION MUSIC BY HISTORIC WOMEN COMPOSERS

Applications have now opened for the ABO's latest round of grants from its **Sirens Fund** which offers UK orchestras with financial support for projects to raise the awareness and appreciation of music written by historic women composers from around the world.

Open to full and associate members of the ABO, the deadline for receipt of applications is 1 March 2021. For more information on how to apply visit <https://abo.org.uk/what-we-do/developing/development-projects/sirens> or email [fiona@abo.org.uk](mailto:fiona@abo.org.uk).

The ABO Trust is also delighted to announce the seven orchestras – the highest number of recipients of the fund to date – awarded with funding from its 2020 round of grants. The successful applicants include **Bath Philharmonia, Manchester Camerata, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Southbank Sinfonia** and **Ulster Orchestra** who will give performances of music by **Grażyna Bacewicz, Anna Amalia von Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach, Amy Beach, Helena Munktell, Clara Schumann, Grace Williams** and **Elizabeth Maconchy**. As a result of the impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic, performance dates will be confirmed at a later date with each orchestra announcing further information relating to their individual performances and associated learning and participation work as guidance evolves over the coming months.

**Diana Ambache** founded the scheme in 2016, and comments: *“Over the past eight months, the pandemic has placed our world-leading orchestras in an unprecedented position. Nevertheless, musicians have continued to offer their music to us in creative and imaginative ways, using technology to connect with the public. At this time of ‘distancing’, emotional communication and affinity with others is more important than ever. The ABO Sirens programme was set up with the aim of working towards a fairer and richer picture of our musical heritage; I hope that despite the challenges we are currently all facing, we can continue in our plan to bring wider appreciation and value to these pieces.*

To find out more about Sirens visit: <https://abo.org.uk/what-we-do/developing/development-projects/sirens>

#sirensawards @aborchestras  
[www.abo.org.uk](http://www.abo.org.uk)

### **ABOUT SIRENS**

The ABO Trust received a generous gift from Diana Ambache in 2016 to run a new fund, Sirens, which aims to raise awareness and appreciation of the music written by historical women from around the world. Annual grants are allocated according to the range and value of each project. Each year over 10 years up to £19,000 is shared between 4 to 5 projects for concerts, tours, recordings and education work deemed to be doing most to advance and promote the understanding of music by women. Now in its fourth year, the scheme has supported performances of works by Dorothy

**Media Contact: Victoria Taylor PR**  
[victoria@victoriataylorpr.com](mailto:victoria@victoriataylorpr.com) / 07900183560

Howell and Maria Antonia Walpurgis, Germaine Tailleferre, and Cécile Chaminade. Orchestras are encouraged to use The Women of Note website ([www.womenofnote.co.uk](http://www.womenofnote.co.uk)) as a resource, which lists orchestral music by historical women composers. The awards panel for the current round of awards comprised Diana Ambache, Gillian Moore, Southbank Centre, Edwina Wolstencroft, BBC Radio 3, Helen Wallace, Kings Place Foundation, and Fiona Harvey, ABO.

#### **ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ORCHESTRAS (ABO)**

The ABO is the national body representing the collective interests of professional orchestras, youth ensembles and the wider classical music industry throughout the UK. The ABO's 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 build resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic. [www.abo.org.uk](http://www.abo.org.uk) @aborchestras