

MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE

ABO announces new cohort of future industry leaders on the 'Find Your Way' programme, with new funding partnerships with Jerwood Charitable Foundation and Arts Council England.

Find Your Way is the annual programme of sector-specific mentoring and placements for senior and emerging managers in ABO member organizations. Designed to utilise the existing resources, artistic skills and expertise of the ABO and its members, Find Your Way offers emerging leaders the opportunity to discover their long-term potential. The nine-month programme, starting in October 2017, offers professional development based around a tailored individual development plan co-developed with an experienced coach.

Richard Wigley of Wigley Arts Management Ltd, a company designed to provide high level support to the orchestral sector, and currently Managing Director of the Ulster Orchestra, leads the programme, joined by leadership trainer **Andy Beaumont**, and **Fiona Harvey**, ABO Education & Youth Ensembles Consultant, the programme's Project Manager.

The successful applicants for 2017/18 are:

Claire Bayliss, Orchestra Manager, City of London Sinfonia
Toks Dada, Programme Coordinator, Town Hall Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Helen Dunne, Orchestra Manager, Royal Opera House
Simon Fairclough, Director of Development, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra
Nick Jackman, Development Director, London Philharmonic Orchestra
Annie Lydford, Head of Communications, English National Opera

At the heart of Find Your Way is the commitment of aspiring managers and musicians to drive their own knowledge, skills and profile, in combination with mentoring from orchestra CEOs. In return it is expected of the participants that they will contribute energy to their mentor's orchestra through assisting on agreed projects, research and ideas, to bring valuable new thinking to their own organisations, and curating a 'Fresh Thinking' session at the ABO Annual Conference.

Alumni from the pilot and first years will be actively involved in the programme. The 2015-16 pilot year participants were: Cath Arlidge, CBSO; Flo Ambrose, Royal College of Music; Tim Davy, London Symphony Orchestra; Patrick McCarthy, Ulster Orchestra; and Sue Voysey, The Hallé. The 2016-17 programme year participants were: Anthony Brice, Academy of Ancient Music; Jenny Chadwick, Academy of St Martin in the Fields; Matt Downes, Welsh National Opera; Jeongmin Kim, London Philharmonic Orchestra; James Thomas, Sinfonia Cymru; and Alex Walden, BBC Concert Orchestra.

Following a successful pilot residential course held at Snape Maltings in 2017, Jerwood Charitable Foundation will be supporting the participants to attend the residential course in 2018.

JERWOOD CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



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NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Association of British Orchestras (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 for Music 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 lobby for the sector at the highest levels.

www.abo.org.uk

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Jerwood Charitable Foundation is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. The aim of its funding is to allow artists and arts organisations to thrive; to continue to develop their skills, imagination and creativity with integrity. It works with artists across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts.

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