



# ABO

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ORCHESTRAS

## **ABO News**

### **Winter 2024**

Welcome to the latest **ABO News**, showcasing the impactful and innovative work of **ABO** member orchestras across the country, on and off the stage.

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## Festive Performances

**City of London Sinfonia** will be performing [Handel's Messiah](#) at St Paul's Cathedral. They invited you to experience the beauty and power of Handel's Messiah, one of the most famous pieces of music ever written, under the breathtaking dome of St Paul's Cathedral.



**WNO Chorus** are celebrating a Festive [Evening](#) performed side by side with singers from the **Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama** to present a thrilling evening of operatic singing in the heart of the city, the beautiful Tabernacle chapel in the Hayes hosts a concert that will showcase these massed voices performing opera, musical theatre, sacred repertoire, the Welsh choral tradition and music.

ABO Award winners at the ABO Conference in Bristol 2024

**Sinfonia Smith Square** and National Youth Voices hosted an evening of [Christmas choral classics](#) and audience carols. From works by Sir John Rutter to Erollyn Wallen, 'O Holy Night' to 'Away in a Manger', don't miss a magical concert by these emerging professional musicians.

## News from the ABO

**The ABO Annual Conference**, the UK's leading classical music forum, will come to Gateshead on 5 – 7 February 2025, hosted by The Glasshouse International Centre for Music, and is now on sale. To see our Programme and book a ticket, please click [here](#).

**Curriculum and Assessment Review** - ABO submitted a response to the Department for Education's [call for evidence](#) for the Curriculum and Assessment Review. You can see the ABO submission [here](#).

**ABO**  
ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ORCHESTRAS

**ABO Annual Conference Gateshead**

5-7 February 2025

Book now at [abo.org.uk/conference](http://abo.org.uk/conference)

Principal Media Partner: **CLASSIC fm**

International Partner: **BRITISH COUNCIL**

Hosted By: **The Glasshouse International Centre for Music**



# Orchestras in Education

**Bristol Beacon** is developing a [programme](#) of fun, inclusive music activities for disabled young people across Bristol. They are looking for both disabled young people and their parents/carers, to share their thoughts, ideas, and experiences.

**The Hallé** hosted a series of Family Fun Heritage Afternoons. There were free arts and craft activities in the Victoria Wood Hall. Explore the surrounding area of Ancoats and become a history detective with our new heritage discovery map.

**London Mozart Players** are working with Croydon Music & Arts on their new series of CPD sessions for primary school teachers in Croydon, aimed at ECTs and any other teachers looking to develop their skills in teaching curriculum music lessons. Find out more [here](#).

**Ulster Orchestra's** [Come and Play](#) is an opportunity for aspiring amateur musicians of all ages to come and play with Northern Ireland's only professional symphony orchestra for a day. Amateur musicians play side-by-side with Ulster Orchestra musicians, gaining valuable support and encouragement in an afternoon of rehearsals. The day culminates in a showcase concert for family and friends.

[Hallé Inspire](#) is a long-term partnership programme delivering creative music workshops with primary schools that aim to raise aspirations in communities across Greater Manchester.

**London Sinfonietta's** [Schools Concert](#) is back, London Sinfonietta musicians and the Sound Out Young Ensemble explore how to compose and create new music, led by presenter Patrick Bailey. Listen to pieces by living composers, join in with the performance and hear new work by young people who have taken part in Composition Challenges.

**BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra's** [Inspiration for All](#) project collaborates with schools across Scotland with young people of all ages, inspiring young people to get excited about music and creativity.

**The Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO)** and **Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO)** are collaborating on a [Youth Assembly](#), a joint initiative to embed young voices into the heart of each organisation. The Youth Assembly serves in an advisory capacity for strengthening youth engagement in both organisations.

**Aurora Orchestra** offers a specific performance for school children of Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen's much-loved children's story, *The Wolf, the Duck and the Mouse*. Find out more [here](#).

For graduates in the North of England, **Manchester Camerata's** new year-long training programme, [Camerata 360°](#), is built upon decades of excellence and diverse experience to train the next generation of musicians.

**The Mozartists** have created the [MOZART 250 DISCOVERY PROJECT](#). This immersive, dynamic series comprises 4 music workshops, an 18th century hat making workshop, and a final showcase. It introduces children to some of Mozart's childhood music, placing it in the context of 18th century history. Students learn about the life and times of Mozart then use this as inspiration to create their own mini opera.





**The Mozartists** run an ambitious [outreach programme](#), which seeks to make classical music accessible to children across Ealing. To date they have worked with over 1200 children, including pupils in ARP schools through a new strand of SEND workshops. Alongside their education partner, Ealing Music Service, they engage with students and teachers across the borough, inspiring them through Mozart's music, getting them participating directly in their own music-making and fuelling their creativity.

**The National Children's Orchestra's** campaign Music Matters emphasises why music is important for health and wellbeing, especially in children's development. Find out more [here](#).

**Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** has produced [Puzzle Tots](#), A family concert inspired by puzzles featuring music from the 17th and 18th Centuries. This interactive workshop is for children between two and five, sitting up-close to orchestral musicians and taking part with their parents, guardians and carers. Get inspired by the rhythms and tunes of Baroque music.

**LSO** have opened applications for the third intake of their LSO Pathways scheme, a two-year programme of support and activity designed for emerging orchestral musicians who face barriers which may have hindered their progress and development. To find out more and apply click [here](#).

**Orchestras Live** has developed New Connections, a partnership project with Leeds Conservatoire, providing students with training and experience in orchestral community music making. To watch more please click [here](#).

Ulster Orchestra's [Come and Play](#)



# Diverse & Inclusive Orchestras

**Bristol Beacon** is putting on two days of practical workshops, music making, and discussion and reflection for the [Inclusive Practitioner Training: Musical Development & Disability](#). A practical and discussion-based session exploring the different ways that musical development can take place when working with young people with physical impairments, sensory impairments, learning difficulties, learning disabilities and how to support this in varied settings including classrooms, community groups, workshops and 1:1's.

**Scottish Ensemble's** [Music for Wellbeing](#) is a part of a multi-year research partnership with cancer charity Maggie's, and in partnership with the Central and West Integration Network. The project has developed to support the New Scots community - refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers living in Glasgow, boosting mental wellbeing.

**Manchester Camerata** launched their Under 30's campaign, promoting £10 tickets for Under 30s, inviting people to come and see us who perhaps might not consider an orchestra being for them.

**Orchestras Live** partnered with **Britten Sinfonia** and the Suffolk Archives to create [Deaf Perspectives: Past and Present](#). The project took Walton's story as a starting point for creative activities with d/Deaf children and young people at Westgate Community Primary School and King Edward VI School in Bury St Edmunds. Both schools have Deaf Resource Bases which provide support for their d/Deaf and hard of hearing students.

Bristol Beacon's Inclusive Practitioner Training: Musical Development & Disability





**Britten Sinfonia's** [Music On Your Doorstep](#) residencies bring **Britten Sinfonia** musicians into culturally under-served parts of the region for performances, interactive workshops and activities for all ages.

**Scottish Chamber Orchestra's** celebration of Black History Month continues with the first concert in their Digital Season, in which SCO Leader Stephanie Gonley directs a pair of [Coleridge -Taylor Novelletten](#)

**Sinfonia Viva** and **Orchestras Live** launched a project working with asylum seeking young people, [Culture Café Makes Music](#), is a music workshop program developed with Learning Through Arts.

**Orchestras for All** developed the [Modulo](#) programme aiming to create an inclusive environment where young people from any background can thrive and enjoy making music with others, regardless of their musical ability, previous experience or the instrument they choose to play.

**Drake Music Scotland's** The Digital Orchestra is a group of talented young musicians with disabilities who meet up at our studios every week to rehearse, develop their musical skills and create new music using inclusive music technologies.

**Bristol Beacon** is hosting DIASPORA! an arts festival for Bristol and the South West which aims to showcase and better reflect the variety of talent within the region's cultural communities. Developed by the Diverse Artists Network (DAN), and taking place in 2024 for the very first time, the festival will platform artists from underrepresented cultural backgrounds including people largely from the Diasporas of countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Central and South America. Find out more [here](#).

Drake Music Scotland's Digital Orchestra





# Green Orchestras

**Sinfonia Cymru's** performance *Regenerate: Season's For Change* reimagines the future of our planet for the next generation featuring a reimagining of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, a reimagining of Vaughan Williams' *Lark Ascending* alongside traditional folk music. Climate activists and musicians Simmy Singh (violin), Delia Stevens (percussion) and triple BBC Folk Musician of the Year nominee, Will Pound (harmonica) will perform with Sinfonia Cymru's incredible under 30's musicians.

**English Touring Opera's** production of *The Vanishing Forest* is the final instalment in ETO's climate change trilogy for children aged 7-11. *The Vanishing Forest* follows the events of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, educating children on the issue of deforestation with song, puppetry and adventure. Hear more about it [here](#).

**Orchestras Live** have announced their digital [sustainability pledge](#) for 2024/25, focussing on how they can reduce their digital carbon footprint. In this blog, they have shared useful insights on their website guidelines, how they've progressed, and their hopes for an even greener future.



**City of London Sinfonia's** Autumn series [Patterns of Nature](#) focused on a program that highlights environmental themes in a fresh, engaging way. Expect a mix of well-loved Western classical pieces (Vivaldi's *Summer*) and rare finds (Anna Borvaldsdóttir's *Spectra*), all intended to spark meaningful conversations about climate awareness and the importance of our shared responsibility to the Earth.

The **Philharmonia's** performance of [Notes on Nature 4: The Human Dimension](#). Ahead of the closing concert in their Nordic Soundscapes series, our hosts challenge you to debate the role of individual artists and arts organisations in addressing the climate crisis, over coffee and cinnamon buns.

**Glyndebourne's** New community opera: [Uprising](#) from acclaimed composer Jonathan Dove and writer April De Angelis will be on stage at Glyndebourne in the spring and looks at the climate crisis through the eyes of the young.





Ulster Orchestra in Craigavon Area Hospital



Sudbury Sounds with Sinfonia Viva

## Orchestras in Local Community & Healthcare

[Children at Craigavon Area Hospital](#) have been enjoying unique music sessions thanks to **Ulster Orchestra**. These special two-hour sessions at Blossom Children's Ward are a mixture of music making workshops for children who are able to gather in their reception area as well as some bedside visits for those children who can't leave their ward/room.

**Orchestras Live and the Philharmonia** are collaborating with Music 4 Memory on [Hear and Now](#), an award-winning intergenerational community creative project that unites the old and the young in music making.

**Ulster Orchestra's** [Move to the Music](#) project is targeted at older people who may feel isolated and people at risk of social exclusion across Northern Ireland. The project provides free access to selected Ulster Orchestra season concerts, engagement opportunities and sustained projects for community groups, Tea Dances aimed at those over 65, and Musician on Call visits to senior day centres and care homes.

**Sinfonia Viva** has collaborated with **Orchestras Live** to create [Sudbury Sounds](#) a project was designed to support vulnerable adults and older people by tackling social isolation and bringing people together through the shared joy of live music. The project offered participants a creative outlet to meet their unique needs and aspirations.

**The Hallé** works with a number of care homes that specialise in caring for the elderly and those suffering from dementia and similar health conditions. Hallé players are trained on the impact of dementia on both patients and carers and deliver sessions in Care Homes around Greater Manchester as part of their [Care Home Projects](#).

**Welsh National Opera's** programme [Cradle](#) is an intergenerational project designed to enrich the lives of people affected by dementia and raise awareness of the disease within school children.

**Orchestras Live's** project [Good Company](#) is a collaborative, two-year programme which aims to support people living with dementia and their family carers in the Borough of Brentwood and the South Essex locality, involving them in an inclusive creative company together with a range of professional artists including orchestral musicians.







## Orchestras making change

2024 marks the 25th year of **Academy of St Martin in the Fields** musicians delivering music-making workshops with people experiencing homelessness, which they marked with first public performance of their collaborative work with this community. Find out more [here](#). This evening will see the culmination of their autumn term playing, devising and composing together alongside students and Fellows from the **Royal Academy of Music's** Open Academy Department.

The **London Philharmonic Orchestra's** program [Crisis Creates](#) is a project offering creative performance opportunities to adults who have experienced or are at risk of homelessness. Working with national charity Crisis UK, they aim to improve participants' wellbeing and confidence through self-expression, collaboration and developing creative skills.

**Bath Philharmonia's** [Young Carers' Choir](#), together with Ed Davey, recorded a single to release at Christmas in support of the Carers Trust and Bath Philharmonia's work with young carers. Love is Enough was co-created by six young carers and former young carers with Bath Phil's Creative Learning Team as a tribute to the caring responsibilities of young carers and the bond they share with the people they care for.

**Manchester Camerata's** Music Cafes, since Greater Manchester became the UK's first Centre of Excellence for Music and Dementia, hosted by Manchester Camerata, have expanded to all ten boroughs of Greater Manchester, Read more about their work [here](#).







## Digital Orchestras

**Scottish Chamber Orchestra's** Digital Season continues with [GIPPS Seascape](#), one of three specially commissioned films, SCO musicians send music from Scotland across the globe in intimate concerts captured in Edinburgh's historic Leith Theatre, bringing you up close to the players and the intensity of the music.

**The Royal Scottish National Orchestra's** [digital care packages](#) are concert recordings. These are available for free to anyone living or working in care homes, hospices, healthcare settings or homecare, and part of a three-part series of recorded performances.

The **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's** pivoted to global broadcasting in 2020 – on 4 December 2024, it marks 100 Digital Concerts from Lighthouse, Poole. The Orchestra's Chief Conductor, Mark Wigglesworth conducts the musical milestone in Poole (4 Dec) alongside pianist Boris Giltburg before touring to Portsmouth Guildhall.

**Scottish Opera's** [The Small Magician](#), a new, trauma-aware, inclusive, accessible vocal education resource, created by Education Artist in Residence, Lea Shaw, enables participants to healthily challenge and build their vocal technique and knowledge from the comfort of their own home or chosen space.

**English National Opera's** Finish This... Primary KS2 is a free music making programme for schools nationwide; bringing a fusion of opera, film and animation into your classroom, as a creative springboard for collaborative composition work. Co-created with teachers and primary specialists, this project is aligned with the KS2 curriculum. To find out more click [here](#).





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