



News Release

13 October 2022: ABO Announces 2021/22 Round of 'Sirens' Grants to Promote Music of Historical Women

Today (Thursday 13 October 2022), the ABO has announced the sixth round of grants from the **Sirens Fund** awarded to orchestras performing music by historic women composers from around the world.

This year, funds have been awarded to six orchestras – **Britten Sinfonia, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra** and **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**. The composers championed through these grant-winning organisations include **Dorothy Carwithen, Dame Elizabeth Maconchy, Dame Ethel Smyth, Florence Price, Grażyna Bacewicz, Louise Farrenc** and **Marianna Martines**.

Britten Sinfonia – *Symphony for Double String Orchestra* by Dame Elizabeth Maconchy

Britten Sinfonia will perform Elizabeth Maconchy's *Symphony for Double String Orchestra* in May 2023. The work will be performed in *Musical Everests*, a concert programme of British music from 1953 to mark 70 years since Everest was summited, and representing dizzying, but rarely heard, artistic heights. The work will be performed on 24 May 2023 at **Milton Court**, London and on 21 May 2023 at **The Halls**, Norwich. Further details can be found at <https://brittensinfonia.com/event/musical-everests/>.

London Philharmonic Orchestra – *Violin Concerto No. 2* by Florence Price

The London Philharmonic Orchestra is delighted to present Florence Price's *Violin Concerto No. 2* during its 2023/24 season. Although completed in 1952, the year before Florence Price's sudden death at age 66, the manuscript was never published and it was considered lost until 2009. It was discovered, along with other music and personal papers, after renovators opened up an abandoned house Price once owned, south of Chicago. The work will be performed on 29 November 2023.

London Symphony Orchestra – *Symphony No. 3, Excerpt from Movement 2, Scherzo – Vivace* by Louise Farrenc; *The Boatswain's Mate Overture* by Dame Ethel Smyth; *Overture for Orchestra* by Grażyna Bacewicz; and *Symphony No. 1, Extract from Movement 1* by Florence Price.

The LSO's Key Stage 2 and 3 Concerts, which took place in May 2022: *Spark Catchers – the often-secret story of women composers*, focused entirely on the performance of music by both historic and living women composers, including the music of Farrenc, Smyth, Bacewicz, Price, Derbyshire, Hannah Kendall, Rachel Leach and Jessie Montgomery.

Philharmonia – *Overture for Symphony Orchestra* by Grażyna Bacewicz

Energetic and dynamic, Bacewicz's *Overture for Symphony Orchestra* was written during World War II when her country (Poland) was suffering occupation by Nazi and Soviet forces. Motifs of combat and struggle are masterfully balanced with determination and optimism, giving a whistlestop tour of the orchestra in just a few minutes. The work was performed on 26 September 2022 at **Bedford Corn Exchange** and on 27 September 2022 at **De Montfort Hall**, Leicester.

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra – *Orgoglioso fiumicello* by Marianna Martines

Marianna Martines was a prolific composer, singer and teacher who thrived in 18th Century Vienna amongst Europe's greatest composers. The cantata *Orgoglioso fiumicello* was written for the female voice and was likely composed with the intention of being performed by Martines herself, or one of her students, representing her many talents. The piece will be performed on 18 February 2023 at the **Liverpool Philharmonic Hall**.

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra – *The Bishop Rock Overture* by Dorothy Carwithen

Bishop Rock is the westernmost point of England on the edge of the Isles of Scilly. The lighthouse is the last sight seafarers have of land and is a symbol of welcome after the bleak waters of the Atlantic. Written in 1952 and scored for full symphony orchestra, Carwithen's rarely performed *The Bishop Rock Overture* is an impression of the thoughts stimulated by the lighthouse and depicts the Bishop Rock in storm and calm. The work will be performed on 27 September 2023.

This year's announcement also coincides with an expanded Sirens catalogue, which has been updated by Diana Ambache, to include a more diverse range of historical female composers. The catalogue can be found at <https://abo.org.uk/what-we-do/developing/sirens>. With so much more music now accessible for performers and promoters, a wealth of additional resources have also been added to Ambache's www.womenofnote.co.uk website.

Diana Ambache, author, pianist and musician and generous supporter of the Sirens fund, said: “The interest in performing music by women has grown substantially over the last 6 years, both through the Sirens fund and the increased access to the music. I welcome the variety this brings to the repertoire, and enjoy hearing their works.”

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 will be allocated according to the range and value of each project. Each year over 10 years up to £19,000 will be 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. To date the scheme has supported performances of works by Germaine Tailleferre, Cécile Chaminade, Dorothy Howell and Maria Antonia Walpurgis. Orchestras are encouraged to use The Women of Note website as a resource, which lists orchestral music by historical women composers. The awards panel for the current round comprised ***Diana Ambache, Helen Wallace, Kings Place, Edwina Wolstencroft, Gillian Moore, Southbank Centre, and Fiona Harvey, ABO.***

For further information about the ABO visit www.abo.org.uk.

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