

## Thursday 2nd April: Freelance Orchestras Meeting

### UK UPDATE

- England: ACE funds coming from lottery grants and future lottery commitments therefore will impact on availability of project grants in the future. ACE is not completely excluding organisations that have not had a recent project grant from them.
- Scotland: Freelance applications already closed as not enough money to go around. Regularly funded organisations can keep confirmed grants and repurpose if required.
- Wales: Resilience scheme for arts of £7m, mostly to organisations in a critical position. Uncertain the funds will go very far, even with a smaller organisation portfolio compared to England. £8m for sports, £1m for creative industries including TV production companies and gig venues, and some smaller amounts for freelancers and digital library sector.

### ISSUES RAISED

- Government business support packages: Noted that if an organisation is already funded to pay staff salaries, the organisation **cannot** apply for the job retention scheme. There is confusion over whether classical music organisations can apply for 'leisure' grants.
- Furloughed staff: Clarification is still needed over whether furloughed staff can be on training or can volunteer.
- Well-being: Some organisations are running weekly non-based work calls for staff
- Paying musicians: Mixture of organisations paying musicians for postponed work and those not. Some unable to set up hardship funds due to constitution.
- Self-employed scheme: Some players not immediately eligible for self-employed scheme for reasons including: recent graduates/breaks in work e.g. injury, maternity/both self and employed/personal services company. **ABO to put together organisational survey, perhaps in collaboration with MU.**
- Cancellations: HMRC agreed organisations can claim gift-aid if customer has converted ticket purchase to donation. Organisations unsure if OTR can be claimed on committed costs – general agreement that organisations would deem the issuing of the schedule to be the musicians' contract.

### LONGER TERM OUTLOOK

- Return to business: Organisations generally not wishing to promote next season until greater clarity from government. Much of classical music industry work attracts older generation – will take more time for that age range to want to mingle in close quarters
- ABO requested organisations to private email if facing significant risk
- **Next meeting: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2pm**