

Tuesday 9th April: ABO Concert & Orchestra Managers Meeting

ISSUES RAISED

- Furloughing: Most organisations are furloughing staff. ABO reading of scheme is that those furloughed are unable to provide any service to employer, including volunteer, but can volunteer for another employer.. Query over potential of 'sharing' between organisations. Clarification sought over how long it takes to un-furlough workers, and issue of furloughed workers still accruing holiday. Noted that players with an NT code can still be furloughed.
- Digital content: Some organisations uploading archive material – concerns arising over whether players appearing in footage should be paid, and caution warned over publisher charges.
- Business support packages: Concern that package could finish at end of May especially as sector is not looking to resume until autumn. **ABO to raise with DCMS**. Charity package announced recently will not apply to arts charities..
- Venues: Some organisations encountered difficulty over non-return of deposits. ABO to assist.
- Cancellations: Mixture of organisations paying full fee to musicians for cancelled performances, or paying a percentage. Some paying up to a certain month depending on calendar, and others following 28-day rule. Some unable to pay cancellation fees because not received cancellation fees from promoters, or from cancelled summer tours. Variation between organisations being officially cancelled from end of April to October. Many waiting on final confirmation over BBC Proms.
- Wellbeing: Some members have organised non-work Zoom calls to check on staff, or for technical help (e.g. those teaching from home).

LONGER TERM OUTLOOK

- Future performances: Mixture of organisations fixing/not fixing for new autumn season, and some fixing for late autumn tours due to visa timelines. Issue arising over venues planning to be open before orchestras are ready to return to business.
- C&Os staff to be furloughed should email ABO with personal email address if they still want to be in touch.
- **Next meeting: Friday 15th May (Original SMM date)**