



ABO ANNOUNCES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS AT AGM

ABO DIRECTOR MARK PEMBERTON WARNS OF IMPLICATIONS FOR EEA MUSICIANS WORKING IN THE UK AFTER BREXIT

London 28 November, 2018

At the ABO's Annual General Meeting, held yesterday, two new board members were elected: **Jenny Jamison, Chief Executive of the Scottish Ensemble**, and **Peter Bellingham, Chief Executive of Sinfonia Cymru**.

Matthew Swann of City of London Sinfonia was re-elected, and the board has confirmed the re-appointment as co-opted directors of Catherine Arlidge MBE, Ginny Macbeth, Professor Linda Merrick and Louise Mitchell.

The assembled leadership of the UK's orchestral sector heard from ABO Director Mark Pemberton about the organisation's ongoing work supplying information from the sector to the UK Government in the run up to Brexit. There were reminders about the implications for EEA nationals currently employed in British orchestras, and particular concern was raised about **the impact of the exit from the EU on the self-employed**, a significant factor in the orchestral world where many musicians are freelancers.

ABO Chair Gavin Reid said "We are delighted to welcome Jenny and Peter at this critical time for the sector. They bring initiative, experience, European and international connections, and further enhance the diversity of our board, with representation of both Welsh and Scottish orchestras."

In the course of its 70th anniversary year, ABO has held a Parliamentary Reception at Westminster, a reception in the Welsh Senedd, and will hold an event in the Scottish Parliament on 11 December. Its annual conference takes place in Belfast from 23-25 January 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ORCHESTRAS

The Association of British Orchestras represents the interests of professional orchestras and youth ensembles across the UK. Its members range from the symphony orchestras to chamber, opera and ballet orchestras, as well as music conservatoires, national and local youth orchestras, venues, festivals, broadcasters, funding agencies, agents and publishers.

Its 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.

The ABO board is drawn from orchestras and other organisations across the UK. Its chair is Gavin Reid, Chief Executive, Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

Jenny Jamison Chief Executive, Scottish Ensemble

Jenny is Chief Executive at Scottish Ensemble, the UK's leading string orchestra, having stepped up from the General Manager position in August 2018. Now leading on an ambitious strategy which will see the organisation through its 50th anniversary in 2019-20, Jenny has been a key part of the organisation's change and growth over the past 7 years, with experience across strategic and artistic planning, fundraising, concert management/production and, especially, in developing music-led cross-artform collaborations.

Strengthening SE's international connections, Jenny also acts as Lead Project Coordinator on a new Creative Europe-funded cooperation, *The Bridge*, having instigated and led the funding application process. The Bridge will bring together string ensembles from across Europe by establishing a network and festival to harness, develop and champion the innovation that is being driven forward by these small flexible string groups.

Other experience includes strategic consultancy for soloist Nicola Benedetti (developing music education initiatives), and previous roles with the National Youth Orchestras of Scotland and as Chair of New Opera in Scotland Events. Jenny has held one of three Scottish Fellowships for emerging global arts leaders with the International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) since 2017: the Scottish Fellowship programme is supported by Creative Scotland.

Born in Glasgow, Jenny received her musical education through local authority teaching and orchestras, Douglas Academy Music School, and the National Youth Orchestras of Scotland (where she met her now-husband). Throughout her higher education (French and Russian at the University of Edinburgh) and her work in the performing arts, Jenny has continued to exercise her passion as an amateur violinist.

Peter Bellingham Chief Executive, Sinfonia Cymru

A late starter on the piano, Peter studied at the Royal Northern College of Music but quickly reached the conclusion that a performing career was not an option. More than 40 years later, Peter can look back on an extensive, varied and successful career in arts management and leadership - in keyboard terms, swapping Steinway for Apple was definitely the right move!

In the early part of his career, he focused mainly on arts marketing, with some elements of operational management and programming; later moving to a general management role as Managing Director of Welsh

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National Opera, where he led the company operationally for thirteen years, working with three different artistic directors. He has worked in drama, ballet and opera, for producing companies and venues. He has significant experience of working across the UK, as well as internationally, taking WNO to the Hong Kong, Finland, Oman, and Dubai.

In 2015, he left WNO to set up a consultancy practice, working in an interim capacity as Consultant Executive Director at National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and Transition Director at National Youth Arts Wales, as well as a number of other short-term projects.

Since February 2018, he has been Chief Executive of Sinfonia Cymru. Peter had come to know Sinfonia Cymru through serving as a Trustee / Board member and, inspired by the orchestra's mission to support professional musicians in the early years of their careers, was delighted to be given the opportunity to lead the organisation over the next few years.