



Jo Buckley and Paul Philbert MBE elected to Board of ABO

Following an election on Tuesday 22 June 2021, the Association of British Orchestras (ABO) has today announced the appointment of **Jo Buckley** and **Paul Philbert MBE** as nominated directors to its board.

Jo Buckley is the Chief Executive of the Dunedin Consort. She graduated from Cambridge University with a First-Class degree in 2004, and went on to gain a PhD in Musicology from Durham University, focusing on the role of the slow movement in Beethoven's music. After working with Britten Sinfonia, Northern Sinfonia and Live Music Now, she moved to Scotland and was Label Manager for Delphian Records before joining Dunedin Consort in 2018. She is also a freelance writer, specialising in programme notes for concerts and recordings, with a range of clients that include the BBC Proms, London Symphony Orchestra and Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Jo is a former external assessor for Creative Scotland, and is the author of the 2014 Royal Conservatoire of Scotland/New Music Scotland Mapping Report on the provision of new music in Scotland. She is a member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh's Young Academy of Scotland, and is on the Board of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh.

Paul Philbert MBE is Principal Timpanist & Player-Director of Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Born in London, Paul Philbert displayed his musical propensity early in life, studying at the Purcell School of Music, and further, at Trinity College of Music. He then established himself on the professional stage as the founding Principal Timpanist of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra in 1998. Paul has appeared as a guest performer with many renowned ensembles in the UK and Asia, including the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Seoul Philharmonic, the Philharmonia, BBC Symphony, the Hallé and Qatar Philharmonic, to name but a few. In 2015, Paul became the founding Principal Timpanist of the Chineke! Orchestra. He was also appointed Principal Timpanist of the Orchestra of Opera North, a position he held for three years before moving to Scotland where he is now the Principal Timpanist, and a Player-Director with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, a member of the Board for Sistema Scotland, Direct Mediation Services, & Spectrum Culture Exchange, a Timpani

Tutor at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and continues his role with Chineke! Paul was awarded an MBE for services to music in H.M. the Queen's Birthday Honours List on 10 October 2020.

This announcement follows the recent appointment of **Leslie Kwan** and **Chris Loughran** to the ABO board as co-opted directors earlier this year.

The Board now comprises **Peter Bellingham**, Chief Executive, Sinfonia Cymru; **Phil Boughton**, Director of Orchestra & Chorus, Opera North; **Jo Buckley**, Chief Executive, Dunedin Consort; **Thorben Dittes**, Director, Royal Northern Sinfonia and Classical Music Programme, Sage Gateshead; **Ellen Gallagher**, Associate, Hamlins LLP; **Jenny Jamison**, Chief Executive, Scottish Ensemble; **Leslie Kwan**, Founder and Managing Director, Lionsgate Music; **Chris Loughran**, Senior Policy & Advocacy Advisor, The HALO Trust; **Linda Merrick**, Principal and Professor, Royal Northern College of Music; **Paul Philbert MBE**, Principal Timpanist & Player-Director, Royal Scottish National Orchestra; **Simon Webb**, Director, BBC Philharmonic (Chair); and **James Williams**, Managing Director, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

ABO Chair, Simon Webb said: 'I'm delighted to welcome Paul and Jo to the ABO board. They will bring perspectives and insights that will be of great value to the ABO and our work on behalf of our members. Over the last few months, the ABO board has been reflecting on its role. A key decision over that period of reflection has been to broaden access to the board to ensure we hear from the widest range of voices as we work to champion, connect, and develop the UK's orchestral sector. Jo and Paul bring a breadth of experience that will enrich our work at the ABO.'

The Association of British Orchestras is the national body representing the collective interests of professional orchestras, youth ensembles and the wider classical music industry throughout the UK. 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. Recent initiatives include 'Resonate' in association with PRS Foundation and BBC Radio 3, which supports the best orchestral music of the last 25 years, and 'Find Your Way' which identifies and offers training to future sector leaders. The ABO campaigned successfully for Orchestra Tax Relief and continues to campaign for the sector at the highest levels, to help re-build resilience out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Current priorities include the impact of Brexit, and creating a platform for a more diverse and inclusive orchestral sector. These and other issues will be discussed at its next annual conference in Glasgow, 9 – 11 February 2022.

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

Follow us on Twitter @aborchestras

For press enquiries contact libby@sharpartsmedia.com / 07841 463 056