

## SUPPORTING BRITAIN'S ORCHESTRAL SECTOR

Britain is home to world-leading orchestras that showcase the very best of British culture and musical expertise. The orchestral sector plays a vital economic, cultural and tourism role in the UK. It employs nearly 2,500 musicians directly, and creates many more jobs indirectly. Orchestral performances bring in large revenues for the tax payer, and by performing around the world we provide a vital public relations role for the UK.

To maintain our success in a global industry, the orchestral sector requires support from the next Government. This is why the Association of British Orchestras is calling on all political parties to commit to supporting Britain's orchestral sector in their 2017 General Election manifesto and to:

- **Maintain public funding for the arts at national and local level.** The ABO's most recent statistics show a drop in government funding of 11% since 2010, and a reduction in local authority funding of 18%. British orchestras wish to build on their strength and extend their excellence into the future, and public funding is vital to achieving this objective.
- **Maintain current creative tax reliefs.** The value of tax incentives to ABO members has already been recognised through the implementation of Theatre Tax Relief in 2014 and Orchestra Tax Relief in 2016. Our members also benefit from tax relief for films, TV and games, with British orchestras featuring on some of this country's best-known soundtracks. It is vital that creative tax reliefs are protected by the next Government.
- **Introduce tax incentives for corporate investment in cultural organisations.** Corporate support for cultural organisations has declined significantly since its peak in 2008. We urge parties to commit to a new tax incentive for corporate investment in cultural organisations, building on the existing tax credit model for Research & Development.
- **Maintain and increase investment in music education hubs in England.** It is vital that government investment in music education hubs in England increases over the next Parliament. The National Foundation for Educational Research has shown that music education hubs "face continued challenges if they are to ensure effective progression and contribute to a high quality music education for an increasing number of pupils in future." We urge parties to commit to increasing funding to meet the needs of all schoolchildren in England.
- **Increase investment in home-grown talent.** With Britain leaving the European Union, it is vital that our orchestras have a wealth of home grown talent to choose from, and that young musicians see a viable future in the UK orchestral sector. We urge parties to commit to provide increased investment in British musicians and to ensure there is a well-resourced pipeline into professional employment post-Brexit.
- **A transitional deal for orchestral musicians to ensure access to global talent.** To ensure UK orchestras have access to top global talent, we urge parties to commit to a transitional deal for orchestral musicians, along the lines of the current inclusion of non-EEA musicians in the Shortage Occupation List for Migrant Workers. We also need parties to commit to negotiating a Brexit deal that will enable British orchestras to continue touring into Europe without increased costs and bureaucracy.

For more information about Britain's orchestras, please contact Mark Pemberton, Director, ABO on [mark@abo.org.uk](mailto:mark@abo.org.uk) or call 020 7557 6770.