

ABO

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ORCHESTRAS

CARDIFF

24–26 January 2018



COLLABORATION



Hosted by



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ABO CONFERENCE WELCOME

CROESO I GAERDYDD – WELCOME TO CARDIFF!

It is a great pleasure, as the newly elected Chair of the ABO, to welcome you to Cardiff for our 33rd annual conference. Our friends here in this great city have been generous and welcoming hosts to us on several occasions over the years and it is lovely to be back. Many of our discussions this week will be focussed on the subject of collaboration, so it is particularly fitting that not merely one musical organisation, but three, will be our hosts. On behalf of the ABO, I should like to thank Sophie Lewis, Michael Garvey and Peter Harrap, along with their colleagues in Sinfonia Cymru, the BBC National Orchestra & Chorus of Wales and Welsh National Opera for all they have done – and I am sure will continue to do – to make our conference a huge success. We also look forward enormously to the performances that each orchestra will give during the week.

Partnerships and collaboration have defined the ethos of the ABO for many years. We are therefore delighted to continue our association with Classic FM in this their 25th year – their support of our conference is highly valued by us all and we look forward to hearing from Managing Editor Sam Jackson. Also important is our partnership with Rhinegold Publishing, who each year help us celebrate the very best in artist, venue and orchestral management. As usual, this year's awards will be presented at our dinner on Thursday evening.

Two organisations which play a crucial role in developing and sustaining creative and robust partnerships are the Arts Council of Wales and the British Council. I am very pleased that we will welcome their respective Chief Executives - Nick Capaldi and Sir Ciarán Devane - to our opening session.

Our sector faces some tough challenges over the next few years. Nobody needs reminding of the potential impact that Brexit could have on our collective ability to engage with artists, promoters, venues, and funders in Europe. Pressures on public funding show no signs of easing and we cannot and must not lose sight of the need to address issues of diversity and inclusion. So it will be fascinating to hear from Shadow Culture Minister Kevin Brennan MP as he sets out his vision for the arts beyond 2019.

Before we get too far ahead of ourselves, we have an important anniversary to celebrate this year: 2018 is of course our 70th anniversary. The ABO began life as the Orchestral Employers Association. From the outset, a vital and enduring link was made with the Musicians' Union and on Thursday we will hear from their new General Secretary Horace Trubridge.

The OEA's first Chair, back in 1948, was the BBC's then Head of Music. The BBC – in particular Radio 3 – has been a hugely important supporter of what then became the ABO and so it is entirely fitting to welcome Tony Hall, the current Director-General of the BBC to speak on Friday afternoon about the BBC's ongoing commitment to classical music across the UK.

My thanks go to all of my colleagues on the ABO Board for the time, expertise and wise counsel that they provide throughout the year; to Mark Pemberton and his team, not only for their commitment to all of our members, but especially for the hard work that goes into presenting a conference of this breadth and scale and of course to all of our speakers and contributors.

Finally my thanks to you the delegates, for supporting the ABO and giving your time to attend our conference. I sincerely hope you have a stimulating, challenging and extremely enjoyable few days with us here in Cardiff.

Gavin Reid
Chair, ABO



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Following yet another hugely successful conference in 2017, with its focus on Disruption, the 2018 ABO conference sees a return to Cardiff, a regular host over the past 30 years. Last held in the city in 2009, our focus then was on sustainability and climate change. And how much the climate for orchestras has indeed changed, from the global financial crisis and cuts in public funding, to three General Elections and the Brexit referendum. If the next decade is going to be as disruptive to our industry, we are going to have to forge the tools to survive. And Collaboration will be key.

We look forward to welcoming delegates once again to the impressive Wales Millennium Centre, but also for the first time to the BBC's magnificent Hoddinott Hall. And in line with our Collaboration theme, we have music from our three hosts, a joint concert by the BBC National Orchestra & Chorus of Wales and Welsh National Opera, and a concert by Sinfonia Cymru.

We are delighted that our partnerships continue with Classic FM, our Principal Media Partner, and Rhinegold Publishing, our Print Media Partner. And we are pleased to see an enhanced partnership with the ISM, who are this year supporting the pre-concert reception at the Senedd. They have also supported a conference session, and other session partners include London Music Masters and Orchestras Live.

Key to the success of the conference is the active support of BBC Radio 3, who have not only curated two sessions and our closing session with keynote speaker Tony Hall, but are welcoming delegates to a 'breakfast with Alan and Michael' on Thursday morning.

The British Council have been active partners too, and we look forward to welcoming their Chief Executive, Sir Ciarán Devane, as our keynote speaker on the opening afternoon.

In line with the international dimension to the conference, and our commitment to maintaining connections with colleagues in Europe, we are delighted that this conference is an official event in the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage. Do have a look at www.2018-eych-uk.eu to find out how you can add your own events to their calendar.

With a host of sessions, conversations and workshops, music and socialising, there is as ever more than enough to keep us occupied through to Friday afternoon, where we will celebrate the BBC, and then look ahead to the ABO's 70th anniversary in March 2018 and the next ABO Conference in Belfast 2019.

Finally, throughout the conference classical music blogger, digital producer and coach Jon Jacob will be producing a daily ABO podcast with contributors, speakers, and audience members, providing a catch-up on some of the events you may have missed, and exploring some of the issues that have emerged. The podcast will be made available on the ABO website.

Mark Pemberton

Director, ABO



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2018 
 EUROPEAN YEAR
 OF CULTURAL
 HERITAGE
 #EuropeForCulture

ADS SPACE

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WELCOME TO CARDIFF

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HOSTS

On behalf of everyone at the BBC National Orchestra & Chorus of Wales, Sinfonia Cymru and Welsh National Opera Orchestra, we warmly welcome you to Cardiff, the capital City of Wales.

We're proud that for the first time the ABO Conference will be co-hosted by three orchestras in 2018, demonstrating our firm commitment to working collaboratively across our organisations.

In preparing for the next few days, we have built on our existing mutual trust and respect, got to know each other better, taken the lead at times and taken a step back at others and ultimately worked together towards a common goal. This has been a natural extension of our work together through the Orchestral Consortium in South East Wales, which since 2012 has seen the region's orchestras and venues working together in planning, promotion and learning activity – putting our audience front and centre of what we do.

Collaboration is also at the heart of all that we do as individual orchestras. BBC NOW works with organisations the length and breadth of Wales and is looking forward to giving the world premieres of five new works this spring from leading Welsh composers, including commissions supported by key partners BBC Radio 3 and Ty Cerdd – all part of its 90th birthday celebrations. Sinfonia Cymru collaborates with its young musicians and guest artists to provide a platform to express their own creative ideas. Alongside its operatic programme in Wales and England, WNO is working with many venues across both countries, increasing concert work, small scale operatic performances and outreach presence (both schools and family events). Important talent development activity includes its partnership with Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, as well as work with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and the National Opera Studio.

Cardiff is a great location to have a conversation about artistic and cultural collaboration – recently declared a 'Music City', work is currently underway to harness the city's creative power through a new music policy that will drive regeneration, benefit the economy, boost tourism and strengthen communities. Here, creating culture and collaboration go hand in hand, from Roald Dahl's City of the Unexpected (celebrating the author's centenary) to the recent Russia 17 season, landmark events have been generated as a result of organisations stepping back from their own identities and working together, with one consistent collaborator: our audiences. We hope that during the conference you may find opportunities to explore potential collaborations for yourselves – the more surprising the better!

Putting on a conference of this scale naturally requires a team effort, so we are grateful for the support of all who have helped, and in particular the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and Wales Millennium Centre, alongside the Arts Council of Wales and the BBC.

We very much hope you enjoy your time in Cardiff.

Michael Garvey, Director, BBC National Orchestra & Chorus of Wales, **Sophie Lewis**, Chief Executive, Sinfonia Cymru and **Peter Harrap**, Chorus and Orchestra Director, Welsh National Opera



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AT A GLANCE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY - WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE	
12.30	Registration opens and Welcome Lunch
WESTON STUDIO	
14.00	OFFICIAL OPENING
15.15	Tea / Coffee Networking Break
15.45-17.00	The Big Debate: International Collaboration
18.15	Pre-concert reception: The Senedd
19.30	WNO ORCHESTRA AND BBC NATIONAL ORCHESTRA OF WALES CONCERT: BBC Hoddinott Hall
21.15	Post-concert reception: Awen Penderyn Bar

THURSDAY 25 JANUARY - WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE				
09.00	Registration Opens			
09.00	BREAKFAST WITH ALAN AND MICHAEL: David Morgan Room			
	WESTON STUDIO	PRESELI	SELIGMAN	SONY
10.00	Diversity in Action: I'm Biased	International Collaboration: Creative Europe	Collaboration: Consortium Working	The Collaborative Musician: Health & Well-Being
11.15	Tea / Coffee Networking Break			
11.45	Collaborative Learning: Effective partnership working	The Classic FM Session: Collaborative Recordings	International Collaboration: The Gulf States	Diversity in Action: I'm In
13.00	Lunch Break			
	WESTON STUDIO	PRESELI	SELIGMAN	SONY
14.00		The Collaborative Musician or Don't You Trust Me?	Diversity in Action: Inspiring change in our leadership approach to disability	The Collaborative Audience
15.30	Tea / Coffee Networking Break			
16.00	SINFONIA CYMRU CONCERT			
17.00-17.15	Keynote Speech: Horace Trubridge			
19.00	Pre-Dinner reception: The Exchange			
20.00	CONFERENCE DINNER AND AWARDS			

FRIDAY 26 JANUARY - WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE				
09.00	Registration Opens			
09.00	BREAKFAST WITH THE BRITISH COUNCIL: David Morgan Room			
	WESTON STUDIO	PRESELI	SELIGMAN	SONY
10.00	Collaborative Commissioning	The BBC Sessions: The Collaborative Radio Orchestra	Diversity in Action: One Year On	Collaboration: Find Your Way
11.15	Tea / Coffee Networking Break			
11.45	The Art of Collaboration	The BBC Sessions: The Collaborative Broadcaster	The Collaborative Orchestra: Choruses	Youth Ensembles: Collaborating for long term sustainability
13.00	Lunch Break			
	BBC HODDINOTT HALL			
14.00	CLOSING SESSION			
15.30	Conference ends			

2018 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY

- 12:30** **REGISTRATION AND LUNCH (INCLUDING FIRST TIME DELEGATES)**
 WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE
-
- 14:00** **OPENING SESSION**
 WESTON STUDIO
 Welcome to delegates from **Gavin Reid**, Chair, ABO, our Welsh hosts, **Nick Capaldi**, Chief Executive, Arts Council of Wales and **Sam Jackson**, Managing Editor, Classic FM
 Opening Address by **Kevin Brennan MP**, Shadow Culture Minister
 Keynote Speaker: **Sir Ciarán Devane**, Chief Executive, British Council
-
- 15:15** **NETWORKING BREAK** sponsored by **BACH**

-
- 15:45-17:00** **THE BIG DEBATE: INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION**
 WESTON STUDIO
 As Brexit looms, and our government talks up the prospects for new trade deals and emerging markets, how do we sustain the collaborations we have achieved with colleagues in Europe over many decades, while also forging new collaborations in new places? Chaired by **Phil George**, Chair, Arts Council of Wales and featuring **Sir Ciarán Devane**, Chief Executive, British Council; **Eluned Haf**, Head of Wales Arts International; and **Julie Ward MEP**, member of the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education.
-
- 18:15** **PRE-CONCERT RECEPTION** sponsored by **ISM**

 THE SENEDD
 Join **Lord Elis-Thomas AM**, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport, **Gavin Reid**, Chair, ABO, **Deborah Annetts**, Chief Executive, ISM and musicians from Sinfonia Cymru for drinks and music before the concert.
-
- 19:30** **BBC NATIONAL ORCHESTRA OF WALES / WELSH NATIONAL OPERA ORCHESTRA CONCERT**
 BBC HODDINOTT HALL
-
- 21:15** **POST-CONCERT SUPPER**
 AWEN PENDERYN BAR



Wales Millennium Centre

© PHIL BOORMAN

THURSDAY 25 JANUARY

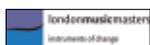
09:00 **REGISTRATION OPENS**
WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE

09:00 **BREAKFAST** with **Alan** and **Michael**
DAVID MORGAN ROOM



Join **Michael Garvey**, Director of BBC National Orchestra & Chorus of Wales and **Alan Davey CBE**, Controller BBC Radio 3, BBC Proms, BBC Orchestras and Choirs for an informal breakfast. Alan and Michael will introduce delegates to BBC NOW's 90th birthday year and what BBC Radio 3 has in store programming-wise for 2018.

10:00 **DIVERSITY IN ACTION: I'M BIASED**
WESTON STUDIO



Following the diversity strand at the 2017 conference we kick off a series of sessions looking at progress on this crucial issue one year on. Through roundtable discussions and facilitated practical exercises, we will begin to explore the concept of unconscious bias, its influence on the decisions we make, and the outcomes we see in the industry as a result. Much has happened in the 12 months since London Music Masters' 2017 conference session 'Diversity – the musician' and we look forward to sharing stories from across the sector with this year's delegates. With **Rob Adediran**, Executive Director, London Music Masters and **Hannah Kendall**, LMM Awards Director, London Music Masters and **Aesha Zafar**, HR, Learning & Development, Projects & Change, BBC.



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION: CREATIVE EUROPE
PRESELI

Following our opening debate on international collaboration, we look at the role played by the Creative Europe programme in forging partnerships across Europe, and what makes for a genuine and successful collaboration where the impact and success goes well beyond the funding aspect. Chaired by **Christoph Jankowski**, Head of Culture, Creative Europe Desk UK with **Carole Blade**, Creative Producer, Coreo Cymru, **Luke O'Shaughnessy**, Project Manager, The Opera Platform and **Vanessa Reed**, Chief Executive, PRS Foundation.

COLLABORATION: CONSORTIUM WORKING
SELIGMAN

What value does working as a consortium bring to creating new audiences for orchestral music? We look at two recent case studies, one urban, one rural, that illustrate the power of partnership. Classically Yours has developed a ground-breaking, collaborative approach to audience development in a rural, culturally underserved area. Orchestras Live and partners, including the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Sinfonia Viva and Manchester Camerata, will share their experience of this new way of working. South East Wales Orchestral Consortium brought together a range of orchestral partners in Cardiff and the surrounding region, and has been through the classic phases of 'group development' whilst keeping the ultimate goal of serving the audience always front of mind. Come and hear about how a range of different and independent organisations can throw off history and previous attitudes, to work together to deliver audience growth and a sense of civic pride. Chaired by **Michael Garvey**, Director, BBC National Orchestra & Chorus of Wales, with **Laura Drane**, consultant to the Cardiff Consortium and **Sarah Derbyshire MBE**, Chief Executive, Orchestras Live.



THE COLLABORATIVE MUSICIAN: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
SONY

Key to a collaborative relationship between managers and musicians is providing a healthy working environment. We'll take a look at two recent initiatives, one focusing on what we can learn from sports psychology to help performing musicians tackle performance anxiety and integrate psychological strategies to optimise their music performance, and the other embedding a Performance and Wellbeing programme for musicians focusing on performance enhancement, physical and emotional health and wellbeing. Chaired by **Simon Webb**, General Manager, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, with consultant **Alison Daubney**, sports psychologist **Greg Daubney**, **Peter Garden**, Executive Director (Performance and Learning), Liverpool Philharmonic and **Joe Hastings**, Health & Welfare Manager, Help Musicians UK.

11:15 **NETWORKING BREAK** sponsored by **TRG Arts**



11:45

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING: EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WORKING – GETTING BEYOND THE RHETORIC

WESTON STUDIO

Partnership is a much used term in music and music education but what does an effective partnership really look like in high quality, orchestral education practice? What are the vital ingredients to make it successful and what are the pitfalls to watch out for? Hear from leaders in the field about their approach to partnership working and current best practice. Following the panel discussion, delegates will work in table groups to discuss their own partnership working and how this can be developed in the future and then feedback. Chaired by **Matt Griffiths**, Chief Executive, Youth Music, with **Cherry Forbes**, Education Director, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, **Suzanne Hay**, Head of Partnerships and Learning, BBC National Orchestra & Chorus of Wales, **David Nunn**, LSO On Track Projects Manager, London Symphony Orchestra and **Matthew Swann**, Chief Executive, City of London Sinfonia.


THE CLASSIC FM SESSION: COLLABORATIVE RECORDINGS

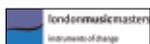
PRESELI

As the record industry adapts to the disruptive forces on its business model, new approaches to classical music recordings are becoming the norm. What future collaborations will we need to ensure we maintain a presence in the recorded marketplace? Chaired by **Sam Jackson**, Managing Editor, Classic FM, with **Rebecca Allen**, President, Decca Records Group UK, **Mark Crawford**, Head of Audience and Brand Insight, Global, and **Steve Long**, Director, Signum Records.


INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION: THE GULF STATES

SELIGMAN

One of the emerging markets the UK Government is keen for orchestras to engage with is the Gulf States. What have we learnt from recent visits, what is the potential for growth, what more can we offer promoters, and how can we build sustained relationships? Chaired by **Cathy Graham**, Director of Music, British Council with **Emma Flatley**, Director of Engagement & Partnerships, Welsh National Opera, **Jonathan Harper**, Executive Producer, The Paraorchestra and Friends, **Jasper Hope**, Chief Executive, Dubai Opera and **Paul Hughes**, General Manager, BBC Symphony Orchestra.


DIVERSITY IN ACTION: I'M IN

SONY

Building on the earlier "I'm Biased" session, delegates will analyse a new approach to addressing the lack of diversity in the classical music industry: a tool developed by London Music Masters, with a wide range of industry leaders, which uncovers the bias within our organisational structures. The tool is built on the premise that unconscious bias is a contributing factor to the lack of diversity in our industry, and that uncovering its effects in our day-to-day work is the first step to countering its impact. In this session delegates will have the opportunity to explore and critique this new approach. With **Rob Adediran**, Executive Director, London Music Masters, **Irfaan Arif**, National Centre for Diversity and **Aesha Zafar**, HR, Learning & Development, Projects & Change, BBC.

13:00

LUNCH

14:00

THE COLLABORATIVE MUSICIAN or DON'T YOU TRUST ME?

PRESELI

Collaboration within orchestras, between musicians and managers, should, you might think, be straight forward. However, with well-defined and arguably narrow roles and job descriptions it is not easy to achieve. It requires trust. Trust is essential in any relationship and not an instant phenomenon. It is earned over a period of time. That time can be shortened and trust strengthened by the application of some simple actions and habits. This interactive session will have you practice some of these with potentially complete strangers. Warning – shy people should think twice before attending! Led by **Catherine Arlidge MBE**, artistic director, National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain and violinist in the CBSO, and **John Kieser**, Executive Vice President and Provost, New World Symphony.

DIVERSITY IN ACTION: INSPIRING CHANGE IN OUR LEADERSHIP APPROACH TO DISABILITY

SELIGMAN

UK funding agency statistics suggest that very few disabled people are employed by us, play for us or sit on our boards, yet they make up a significant element of our audiences. How do we harness the experience, knowledge and talent of disabled people to make our orchestras and opera companies better and stronger? Our panel will offer insight drawn from the award-winning *Ramps on The Moon* theatre initiative, Arts Council England's *Changemaker* programme and one of the newest ABO members, The Paraorchestra and Friends. Chaired by **Andrew Miller**, Executive Associate, Royal & Derngate with **Lloyd Coleman**, Associate Music Director, The Paraorchestra and Friends; **Sarah Holmes**, Chief Executive, New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich; **Abid Hussain**, Director of Diversity, Arts Council England; and **Michèle Taylor**, Director for Change, Ramps on the Moon.

THE COLLABORATIVE AUDIENCE

SONY

In an era where people want to be creators and collaborators as well as just consumers, it's more important than ever that we engage with our audiences, current and potential. In this session, led by **William Norris**, Managing Director, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, we'll explore why it's important to engage with audiences and look at real-life examples of audience collaboration in action, from across the orchestral sector and beyond. With **Suzanne Hay**, Head of Partnerships and Learning, BBC National Orchestra & Chorus of Wales and **Charlie Rachwal**, Head of Marketing and Communications, Octagon Theatre Bolton.

15:30 NETWORKING BREAK

16:00 SINFONIA CYMRU CONCERT

WESTON STUDIO

Birdsong / Cân yr Adar is a collaboration between pianist/composer Gwilym Simcock, singer/songwriter Kizzy Crawford and Sinfonia Cymru, which fuses jazz, classical and soul-folk music through a collection of bilingual songs inspired by the ancient forests of Carngafallt in Mid Wales. Audience members will also be able to enjoy a free bespoke Sinfonia Cymru beer - a perfectly pitched IPA and the ideal accompaniment to the mesmerizing, haunting, upbeat and invigorating world of Birdsong / Cân yr Adar.

This performance has been kindly supported by funding from



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales

ARIENNIR GAN
Y LOTERI
LOTTERY FUNDED



17:00-17.15

KEYNOTE SPEECH: Horace Trubridge

WESTON STUDIO

The recently elected General Secretary of the Musicians' Union will give us his perspective on collaboration between managers and musicians.



19:00

PRE-DINNER RECEPTION sponsored by **Classic FM**

THE EXCHANGE



20:00

CONFERENCE DINNER

THE EXCHANGE

Featuring the presentation of the ABO Award and Rhinegold Awards by **Anne-Marie Minhall**, presenter, Classic FM.



Enjoy after-dinner jazz from the new generation of performers from the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama. Led by Michael Blanchfield on piano, the quartet will feature Ines Castillo on vocals, Matheus Prado on double bass and Eddie Jones-West on drums.



Exchange Grand Hall

© PETER MORGAN PHOTOGRAPHY

FRIDAY 26 JANUARY

09:00

REGISTRATION OPENS

WALES MILLENNIUM CENTRE

09:00



BREAKFAST with the BRITISH COUNCIL

DAVID MORGAN ROOM

The British Council invites both UK-based and international delegates to join them for breakfast and coffee. This will be an opportunity for those interested in creating international collaborations to meet each other, make and renew connections.

10:00

COLLABORATIVE COMMISSIONING

WESTON STUDIO

Putting communities at the heart of the creative process is a great way of shifting our audiences from consumers to collaborators. We look at two recent projects across music and theatre, Live Music Now's *Songs from Above and Below* and National Theatre of Wales's *We're Still Here*, which worked with people from mining and steelworking communities, and explore the benefits for performers and participants alike. Chaired by **Vanessa Reed**, Chief Executive, PRS Foundation, with **Carol Main MBE**, Director, Live Music Now Scotland and musicians **Jennifer Walker** and **Rhiannon Pritchard** of Live Music Now, **Kully Thiarai**, Artistic Director, National Theatre of Wales and **Rhiannon White**, Director, *We're Still Here*.



THE BBC SESSIONS: THE COLLABORATIVE RADIO ORCHESTRA

PRESELI

It is all too easy for our industry to see ourselves as competitors rather than collaborators. It's time to take stock of the landscape today, the value that radio orchestras bring to the orchestral and broadcast ecology, what 'distinctiveness' really means, and what role collaboration will play in their future relationship with colleagues in the independent sector. Chaired by BBC Radio 3 presenter **Katie Derham**, with **Alan Davey CBE**, Controller, BBC Radio 3, **Jonathan Kanagasooriam**, Senior Audience Planner, Radio, Music, Arts, BBC, **Géza Kovács**, Director General, Hungarian Radio Symphonic Orchestra, and **Helen Sprott**, Managing Director, Philharmonia Orchestra.

DIVERSITY IN ACTION: ONE YEAR ON

SELIGMAN

Continuing our in-depth look at progress made on the diversity agenda, we look at steps taken to achieve change on ethnicity and gender. Following our Learning from the USA session at last year's conference, we'll hear from **Walter Bitner**, Director of Education and Community Engagement, Nashville Symphony Orchestra about their Accelerando programme, designed to prepare gifted young students of diverse ethnic backgrounds to pursue music at collegiate level and beyond. Meanwhile the provocation on gender inequality given by **James Murphy**, Managing Director, Southbank Sinfonia at last year's conference was reported in The Guardian and has amassed 4000 views and counting on YouTube. James returns to gauge what progress – if any – has been made, and to present fresh statistics and news of what others sector-wide are doing to address the issue, and **Lydia Connolly**, joint Managing Director, Harrison Parrott will share details of a significant new initiative set to celebrate and empower talented female conductors.

COLLABORATION: FIND YOUR WAY

SONY

The world is changing; the arts are under pressure; and according to the Arts Index only 37% of the UK population think that culture is a valid use of tax-payers' money. The ABO Find Your Way Cohort for 2017/18 explore ways that collaboration could help address some of the challenges that we face. Can we work with the commercial sector (Us vs All Of Them)? Can we collaborate with our peers (Us vs The Others)? And can we work better within our own companies where sometimes it seems as if it's a case of Us vs Us!

11:15

NETWORKING BREAK

11:45

THE ART OF COLLABORATION

WESTON STUDIO

What value does collaborating with other artforms bring to our sector? Featuring Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama's participation in the James Richards/Chapter installation at Wales In Venice/Cymru Yn Fenis and Scottish Ensemble's collaboration with Andersson Dance Goldberg Variations – ternary patterns for insomnia, we look at the benefits that collaboration brings to all involved. Chaired by **Claire Whitaker OBE**, Director, Serious, with RWCMD composition students **Kirsten Evans** and **Samuel Williams** and head of composition **John Hardy**, **Hannah Firth**, Curator & Exhibition Director, Wales in Venice 2017 and **Fraser Anderson**, Chief Executive, **Jonathan Morton**, Artistic Director and **Jo Green**, musician, Scottish Ensemble.



THE BBC SESSIONS: THE COLLABORATIVE BROADCASTER

PRESELI

As classical music fights to assert itself in an ever more crowded market for entertainment, what role can our national broadcaster play, across its many platforms, to reach new audiences and argue the case for our cultural value? Chaired by **Rebecca Jones**, BBC Arts Correspondent, with **Owen Hopkin**, Head of Audience Development and Distribution, The Space, **Jessica Isaacs**, Head of Production, Radio 3, **Kim McNally-Luke**, Senior Research Manager, BBC Music and **Jan Younghusband**, Commissioning Editor, BBC Music & Events.

THE COLLABORATIVE ORCHESTRA: CHORUSES

SELIGMAN

With recent research suggesting that well over 2 million people in the UK sing in a choir, how are orchestras collaborating with this resurgence in choral singing? What of the relationship between symphony chorus and orchestra, choral directors and conductors, and chorus members and orchestral musicians? Do we value and nurture these choirs, and the outstanding but unpaid service they provide? How can orchestras best engage and benefit singers of all and any musical backgrounds? Chaired by **Matthew Swann**, City of London Sinfonia, with **Leslie East**, Chair, Association of British Choral Directors, **Neil Ferris**, Chorus Director, BBC Symphony Chorus and **Lucy Galliard**, Director of Learning and Engagement, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

YOUTH ENSEMBLES: COLLABORATING FOR LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY

SONY

This session will follow hot on the heels of the Music Mark 2017 Conference at which delegates will have discussed how to broaden access to youth ensembles. A summary of the discussions and an initial provocation by **David Taylor**, Director of Yorkshire Young Sinfonia will be followed by a discussion facilitated by **Bridget Whyte**, Chief Executive of Music Mark. We aim to gain a consensus on the question 'how can we ensure the long term sustainability of Youth Orchestras/Ensembles at a local/county level?'

13:00

LUNCH

14:00



CLOSING SESSION

BBC HODDINOTT HALL

As we move the conference into the BBC's magnificent Hoddinott Hall, we hear from their Director-General **Tony Hall** on the BBC's plans for classical music and celebrate 40 years of BBC Young Musician as we welcome 2014 winner - pianist **Martin James Bartlett** – and 2016 Finalist and Woodwind Category winner - saxophonist **Jess Gillam**.

We then look ahead to the ABO's 70th anniversary in March 2018 and invite delegates to the 2019 Conference in Belfast, hosted by the Ulster Orchestra.

15:30

CONFERENCE ENDS



© KAUPU KIKKAS

Jess Gillam

© KAUPU KIKKAS

Martin James Bartlett

AD PAGE

Specialist Managers Meetings



SMMs are one of the ABO's key services that are most valued by members. Each group of managers meets twice a year to discuss topical issues and hear from pertinent speakers.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR 2018

Fundraising Managers	Tuesday 17 April	32 Rose Street
Finance Managers	Friday 27 April	32 Rose Street
Education Managers	Tuesday 1 May	32 Rose Street
Digital & Communications Managers	Thursday 3 May	32 Rose Street
Chamber Orchestras	Wednesday 9 May	32 Rose Street
Concert & Orchestras	Friday 11 May	32 Rose Street
Stage & Transport Managers	Wednesday 30 May	32 Rose Street
Chairs and Trustees Event	Thursday 7 June	32 Rose Street
Marketing Summit	Friday 8 June	32 Rose Street

Other meetings to be confirmed. Please check the **ABO** website.

Belfast Waterfront



ABO Conference 2019

23 – 25 January 2019
Belfast

Hosted by

