

ABO

ASSOCIATION OF **BRITISH ORCHESTRAS**
REVIEW OF THE YEAR
2004/5

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PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF **BRITISH ORCHESTRAS** | JANUARY 2006

INTRODUCTION

It has been another successful year for the Association with a record membership and a further successful financial year-end outcome. The year was marked by staff changes as both Becky West and Adam Powell left and were replaced by Alison Ottaway and Joanna Morrison Mayo. The ABO continued to serve members on all fronts delivering its Advocacy, Communication, Information and Learning agendas. At the end of 2004 Simon Crookall, Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra stood down as Chairman having served for three years to take up the post of President of the Indianapolis Symphony in the United States. Simon made an invaluable contribution to the ABO not least during the period of recovery in 2002/3. He was succeeded by Michael Henson, Managing Director of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. The ABO also bade farewell to Sir Clive Gillinson who retired from the London Symphony Orchestra to become President and Artistic Director of Carnegie Hall, New York. Clive was a dynamic former chairman of the ABO and was knighted for his services to Music in HM The Queen's Birthday Honours. The period ended in the saddest possible way with the news of the death of former Director Libby MacNamara just before Christmas. Her time at the ABO was one of growth and innovation and her support for British orchestras and the wider classical music sector was much appreciated. She will be very greatly missed.

ABO AWARD 2004

The ABO Award is presented to an individual or organisation considered by the members of the Association of British Orchestras to have made an outstanding contribution to orchestral life in the UK. In 2004 the Award was made to the composer Oliver Knussen. The Award was presented by Nicholas Kenyon, Controller BBC Proms, during a live BBC Symphony Orchestra concert broadcast from the Barbican Hall, London.

ABO CONFERENCE/CLASSIC FM

The Conference, sponsored for the third time by Classic FM, was hosted by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Royal Ballet Sinfonia and Birmingham Contemporary Music Group from 11-13 February 2005. Some 340 delegates attended. The Conference commenced with speeches from Arts Minister Estelle Morris MP and Shadow Arts Spokesman Hugo Swire MP. Highlights included two dynamic sessions given by US subscriptions guru Douglas W Kinzey; a demonstration of the Concert Companion by creator Roland Valliere; a series of workshops on concert presentation led by Lou Stein and a thought provoking session on customer loyalty schemes with Professor Merlin Stone. For the first time two concerts took place at Symphony Hall given by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia and the CBSO and BCMG. Delegates funded an ABO Conference Commission from composer Julian Anderson, under the auspices of the Sound Investors scheme. BCMG players Timothy Lines (clarinet), Mark Phillips (horn) and Ulrich Heinen (cello) gave the world premier of Incantation at a civic dinner hosted by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham at the Council House. One of the surprise highlights was the bus and walking tour of the City's regeneration sites led by Dorothy Wilson, from *mac* / Arts Council England. The Conference concluded with a lively session led by Sir John Tusa and Clive Gillinson on the prospects for the UK orchestral industry in the years ahead. The panel comprised Baroness Genista Mackintosh, Raymond Gubbay, Professor Merlin Stone and Sakari Oramo and the issues raised hit the national newspapers the following day. Sincere thanks to Darren Henley at Classic FM, ABO members in Birmingham, Birmingham City Council and all the speakers for making it a very successful conference.

ABO LEARNING

At the ABO Conference, Royal Opera House Chief Executive and Chairman of the Sectors Skills Council for the Arts, Tony Hall, launched ABO Learning. ABO Learning is the umbrella brand for all the Association's training and continuing professional development work. This activity comprises: Where Do I Start?, Brass Tacks, Specialist Manager Meetings, Skills Exchange and middle and senior management training to be incorporated in the ABO's Management Academy.

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

The ABO continues to be a regularly funded client of Arts Council England and acknowledges the support of ACE and is grateful in particular to Hilary Boulding, Music Director and Dominic Fyffe, Senior Music Officer for their interest and involvement in the activities of the Association.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

In addition to the changes mentioned above, very many thanks are due to Andrew Connolly, Manager, BBC Concert Orchestra, who stepped down from the Board at the AGM in November 2005. Andrew had made a positive contribution to the work of the Association particularly in his chairmanship of the Education Specialist Manager Group.

In November 2005 Patrick Frederick, Co-Founder and Chief Executive of Friends in the City was co-opted to the Board as the ABO's second External Director.

During the year the year the ABO, alongside a number of London members, was an enthusiastic participant in the Arts Council London/Arts & Business GAIN initiative. This sought to maximise best practice in recruiting Board members from ethnic minority communities.

BRASS TACKS

For the first time in 2005 the ABO ran two sets of these one-day training courses. In total 7 courses were run with an average of 7 attendees on each course. Courses included *Finance for Non-Finance Managers*, *Press and Public Relations*, *Introduction to Marketing* and *All that you ever wanted to know about Fundraising but were afraid to ask!* Feedback from the courses was overwhelmingly positive with 100% of the candidates at the Autumn 2005 courses rating the day overall as either good or very good.

CHARLES RUSSELL

The Association is very grateful to Senior Partner Laurie Watt for all his support as the Association's Honorary Solicitor, particularly for the use of meeting space and for chairing the ABO Trust and Chairmen Specialist Manager Meeting. The ABO is also very grateful to his colleagues Sarah Jane Turcan and David Green who have provided invaluable advice during the year.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Two ABO Education Managers meetings were held at the Kindersley Centre near to Newbury, Berkshire, and the Royal Opera House, London in May and September 2005 respectively. Guest speaker at the May meeting was Derek Kitt, then Chair of the National Association of Music Educators, and County Music Advisor, Cornwall. It is with great sadness that we recorded the sudden death of Derek in November 2005 and he will be sorely missed by all his family and colleagues. This meeting also included attendance at a concert given by Paul Robertson for mothers, babies and young children. The September meeting welcomed Music Manifesto Champion, Marc Jaffrey, and Alan Tongue of the Elgar Society. Education Managers spent half the meeting discussing the subject of Evaluation. The ABO continues to

work with Youth Music on its Endangered Species Instrument Development Days, involving 6 orchestras in partnership with 6 music services in England in working with instrumental teachers and children. In 2005, the ABO embarked on a new partnership with the Association of European Conservatoires for a project called Polifonia, which is studying various issues related to professional music training at the European level, and is supported by the ERASMUS Thematic Networks programme of the European Union.

1ST BRIEFS

Thanks to the encouragement and support of *haysmacintyre*, the ABO was able to present four briefing sessions to members and colleagues from the National Campaign for the Arts. The sessions were well attended and covered Rights, Drug and Alcohol issues, Disability Discrimination Act and Health and Safety. The ABO is delighted that *haysmacintyre* has agreed to support a further series of 1st Briefs in 2006. Particular thanks to VAT Partner Graham Elliott for chairing the sessions and for providing the ABO Tax Helpline.

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

It was a busy period of international work as the Association played its full part in Pearle* (Performing Arts Employers League Europe) and IAOA (International Alliance of Orchestral Associations).

At the Association of Finnish Orchestras Conference in Lahti in March, Russell Jones became President of IAOA, and in this capacity spoke at the European Orchestras Forum at the European Parliament in Strasbourg in June, organised by the Association of French Orchestras, and at the Association of Japanese Orchestras Conference in Tokyo in October.

In December the ABO hosted the six-monthly meeting of Pearle* members in Glasgow. Enormous thanks are due to Scottish Arts Council, Glasgow Cultural Enterprises, the City of Glasgow and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

LISTEN UP!

As last year's Review was being produced Listen Up! 2004 was in full swing. Hundreds of additional orchestral events took place thanks to the collaboration with BBC Radio 3 and Making Music. Additional concerts were featured on Radio 3 and several orchestras were broadcast for the first time. Perhaps the highlight was *Musicians on Call* which saw over 100 housebound individuals receive a live music visit from players from ABO orchestras. Listen Up! was nominated for a Sony Award and was shortlisted for a RPS Award. The next Listen Up! will take place in October 2006. The ABO is grateful to Roger Wright, John Evans and all the team at Radio 3 for their support of Listen Up!

MEMBERS

During the year we welcomed into membership the following groups:

Full members – Orchestra of English National Opera, English Concert Orchestra and Ensemble Cymru

Associate members – Britten-Pears Young Artists Programme, RTE National Symphony Orchestra, National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain, Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

Corporate members – Co:create, Spitalfields Festival and Yamaha-Kemble Music (UK) Ltd

NOISE TRAINING

The ABO's research into noise damage to orchestral musicians was once again in the broadsheet media as a series of two-day training workshops run for orchestral musicians and managements, in partnership with the Musicians' Benevolent Fund, got underway. The training took place under Alison Wright Reid's expert guidance and reinforces how the ABO remains committed to continuing the work initiated by its publication *A Sound Ear*. MBF funding enabled Noise Team and player training to take place with the Bournemouth Symphony, City of Birmingham Symphony, the Hallé, London Philharmonic, London Symphony, Northern Sinfonia, Orchestra of Opera North, Philharmonia, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Royal Scottish National and Ulster Orchestras. So successful was the partnership with the MBF and the training undertaken by Alison Wright Reid that the ABO won a Good Practice Award from the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work. The Award was presented at a ceremony in the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao in December. The ABO is very grateful to Christopher Yates, Rosanna Preston and Michael White from the MBF for their enthusiastic support of the Association's Noise work.

SHAFTESBURY PLC

At the start of the period the ABO office moved to new and larger rent-free accommodation in Rupert Street, London W1. The Association is deeply indebted to Jonathan Lane, Chief Executive and all his colleagues at Shaftesbury plc for this very generous support.

SPECIALIST MANAGER MEETINGS

Over 370 people attended the 2004/5 season of Specialist Manager Meetings as they continue to be popular meetings that form the backbone of ABO's event programme. Meetings for Artistic Planners, Chair's, Chamber Orchestras, Concert and Orchestra, Education, Development and Sponsorship, Finance, and Marketing Managers provide opportunities for colleagues from different organisations to meet and discuss subjects of mutual interest and benefit from the latest business developments through talks and surgeries given by experts. Meetings for various other membership groups have also been held, including an OPAS new and existing users session which has provided feedback given to Artifax to include in their forthcoming Conference session.

Reports of the meetings are available to download from the ABO website, where each group has it's own page. This has enabled discussions to be more effectively logged and archived. Many thanks to those members who have agreed to chair these meetings.

STAFF

In February 2005 the ABO said farewell to Rebecca West who had been Membership Services Manager since July 2003. Becky left to become Administrator and Concerts Manager at Junior Trinity. During her time with the ABO Becky undertook a review of in-house systems and contributed to the development of the ABO website in addition to providing an efficient and calm first point of contact for members. Becky was succeeded by Alison Ottaway who joined in March from Microsoft.

The ABO also said goodbye to Adam Powell in September 2005 who had served as Projects manager since October 2001.

VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

The ABO relies enormously on its dedicated team of volunteers and interns. Everyone is valued but particular thanks must go to Joe McCann who serves as Honorary Finance Director and comes to the office each week to keep the books and accounts shipshape. Thanks also to Chris Wright who gave many months of pro-bono support and helped with the production of the annual accounts.

The ABO is committed to providing meaningful internships for those seeking work experience at the start of their careers. The Association is grateful for all the commitment and very hard work of Nicola Oliver and Marina Vidor who are serving as ABO Interns.

WHERE DO I START?

For the first time, in 2005 the ABO's career seminar, 'Where do I start?' was held in both London and Glasgow – at the Royal College of Music and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Over 50 delegates, from graduates to careers advisors, attended this two seminars led by Trevor Ford. A range of speakers from across the membership discussed different facets of the industry and gave advice on how to find that first job. Feedback from delegates was yet again overwhelmingly positive and has provided numerous recruits for the ABO's Volunteer Register.

ABO BOARD

2005/6

Michael Henson <i>Chairman</i>	Managing Director	Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
Patrick Frederick Cathy Graham Stephen Maddock	Chief Executive Managing Director Chief Executive	Friends in the City London Sinfonietta City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra
Marshall Marcus Tim Walker AM	Chief Executive Chief Executive and Artistic Director	Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment London Philharmonic Orchestra
Malcolm Warne Holland	Orchestra / Concerts Director	Orchestra of Opera North

ABO STAFF

Russell Jones	Director	russell@abo.org.uk
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Joe McCann	Honorary Finance Director	joe@abo.org.uk
Chris Wright	Financial Consultant	
Nicola Oliver	Intern	nicola@abo.org.uk
Marina Vidor	Intern	marina@abo.org.uk

In addition to all those listed above the Director of the ABO would particularly like to thank the following for their support during the past year:

Ewan Balfour, Brunswick Group
Richard Crossland, ABL Consulting Ltd
Ian Hornby Alpha Human Resources Ltd
Richard Pulford, TMA/SoLT
Sally Taylor
Colin Tweedy, Chief Executive, Arts & Business
Kate Whyman PR