

Press release: for immediate release

## **ABO welcomes Government's 'Find Your Talent' scheme**

The Association of British Orchestras welcomes the announcement by the Culture Secretary Andy Burnham and Children's Minister Ed Balls of the Government's ambition to give young people in England the chance to experience high quality arts and culture.

Timothy Walker, Chair of the ABO, says:

"We are delighted that the Government has made such a public commitment to a cultural entitlement for England's young people, in particular that all children and young people should have the chance to experience culture of the highest quality. This chimes with the recent commitment by England's publicly funded symphony orchestras to perform live for every child during their time at school, an ambition that is likely to be extended to embrace other publicly funded orchestras in the coming years.

"We are also pleased at the announcement of a £110 million investment in the Creative Partnerships scheme, which allows children and young people in schools to work with creative professionals such as musicians, artists and writers. The orchestral sector looks forward to working with Creative Partnerships to continue and enhance the excellent and groundbreaking work that has developed in recent years between schools and orchestras."

The ABO exists to support, develop and advance the interests and activities of the orchestral profession in the UK. It is the national body representing the collective interests of professional orchestras throughout the UK through four main areas of activity: advocacy, communication, information and learning.

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