

****Association of British Orchestras statement on Spending Review****

Mark Pemberton, ABO Director, said:

“We recognise that in a climate of huge spending reductions across all public services the government has listened to our arguments, with cuts in funding for organisations such as orchestras being limited to 15%. However, even this level of reduction will pose a significant challenge for orchestras across the UK. Orchestras make a massive contribution not only to Britain’s cultural life, providing high quality music performances to audiences in all parts of the country, but to music education in schools, nurturing young talent, social wellbeing and local communities. The many local authorities who recognise this contribution and fund orchestras and concert halls in their local areas will also have significantly fewer resources, so this will only add to the challenge.

“It is therefore extremely important that the detailed decisions which now need to be made about how the reduced funding will be distributed take into account the particular challenges for orchestras, whose major costs are the direct employment of musicians. We will be working closely with Arts Council England to try and ensure the best possible outcome for orchestral music. At the same time, orchestras will continue to maximise income from other sources, and in this respect, the announcement that there will be increased incentives for philanthropy and reform of the National Lottery is welcome.”

Ends.

NOTES TO EDITORS

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- The ABO exists to support, promote and advance the interests and activities of professional orchestras in the UK. For more information see: www.abo.org.uk