

**** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, MONDAY 14 FEB ****

SURVEY SHOWS THOUSANDS BENEFIT FROM ORCHESTRAS IN JUST ONE WEEK

**Darren Henley and Phillip Blond head line-up as orchestras
descend on Derby to tackle funding landscape and big society
challenge**

In just one week, UK orchestras are delivering hundreds of concerts, education and community projects in prisons, schools, hospitals and concert halls across the country - according to a new snapshot survey by the Association of British Orchestras (ABO) released today.

It reveals that in just 7 days, orchestras' activities range from digital workshops, singing clubs and a Young Composer's day to special needs sessions, hospital performances and workshops at a young offender's institute – in addition to world-class concerts featuring the likes of Sir Mark Elder, Daniel Harding, Christoph von Dohnányi, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Andris Nelsons and Kirill Karabits.

The survey launches at the start of ABO Conference week, where orchestras are set to debate the challenges facing the sector following one of the most radical shake-ups in the arts funding system in England – with the threat of reduced public funding and renewed emphasis on private giving.

Speakers **Darren Henley, Phillip Blond, Ed Vaizey MP** and Arts Council Chief **Alan Davey** head the line-up of the 3 day conference as the sector debates 'surviving the new funding landscape' with specific sessions on philanthropy, creative collaborations and protecting talent.

Mark Pemberton, Director of the ABO, said:

"It's a tough time for the sector, with future funding uncertain and some local authorities already reducing or scrapping their investment in orchestras, music services and concert halls as the cuts begin to hit.

“But what’s clear is that orchestras are delivering not only great music on the concert platform but also a huge amount of education and community work to millions of people and hundreds and thousands of schoolchildren – often in close partnership with local councils, colleges, schools, and businesses. The impact they are having on people’s lives and young people’s aspirations and education attainment is plain to see.

“But these kinds of projects are only possible through a mix of public, private and self-generated income; where each strand is as vital as the other.”

Classic FM Managing Director **Darren Henley** will address the conference just a week after the publication of his much-awaited Review of Music Education. He is expected to highlight the importance of music education and partnerships between local music services, schools and orchestras both in school and out-of-hours.

And ‘Big Society’ architect **Phillip Blond** will deliver the keynote speech, looking at the role of orchestras in the ‘Big Society’ and how they can deliver at a local level to boost community involvement and empowerment.

This week the ABO is also launching 6 new short films showcasing orchestras’ reach and excellence; looking at how they use public investment on the platform and in education and community settings, and attract private support.

Mark Pemberton said:

“Not only is our sector about world-class music, it’s also about communicating and sharing the power of music with others; using it to bring people together, galvanise communities, boost attainment and improve social wellbeing.

“That’s why it’s crucial that we fully get to grips with the concept of the Big Society and use it to our advantage to ensure orchestras continue to deliver great music to all our audiences. And in order to do so, we need to continue to embrace effective partnership working and the philanthropy agenda – to make sure what we do is sustainable.”

Ends.

For more information, details of the activities of orchestras or for interviews, please contact:
Melissa Milner 020 7793 4035 / 07976 636 228

ABO Films

6 films showcasing the work of orchestras will be released during this week (14-19th February). Films can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/ABOrchestras>

ABO Conference

The Association of British Orchestras' Annual Conference takes place from 16-18 February at the Derby Assembly Rooms, hosted by Sinfonia ViVA. The theme of the conference is: 'Protect and Survive.'

For a full conference programme and to book a place, go to: <http://www.abo.org.uk/conference/> or email info@abo.org.uk

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

Examples of orchestras' activities during the week of 13th-20th February

N.b. Please refer to individual orchestras' websites for full details of concerts and events

In education:

- BBC Concert Orchestra is holding a **Young Composers Day in Exeter** for 13-18 year olds
- Manchester Camerata will be touring their half day **Music by Numbers** workshops around primary schools throughout the North West, developing skills in musical addition, subtraction and division
- Secondary schools pupils in Birmingham can attend CBSO's 'Nelsons Conducts Beethoven' for just £4.50 as part of the **Audience for Tomorrow** scheme
- London Symphony Orchestra is running a series of **digital workshops** for schools
- Opera North delivers workshops for **primary and secondary pupils** as part of a community orchestra project
- The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra runs a series of '**First Notes**' and '**Adventures in Music**' workshops for children aged 0 – 7 years
- Sinfonia ViVA run their **cross-arts education project** with Derby College and Derby Schools in partnership with Derby City Council and Orchestras Live
- Welsh National Opera holds its **weekly singing club** for 10-14 year olds
- **BBC Symphony Orchestra starts its 'Red Nose Day Primary Project'** - an ongoing 4 week project with two different primary schools, making short pieces of comic music

theatre and soundtracks, to be performed in a school fundraising concert for Comic Relief)

- **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment is running** training day for teachers with students taking part in their Mozart Music and Maths project during summer term
- **Orchestra of the Swan** is running a four part series of interactive workshops for children at schools within the Town Hall Symphony Hall Birmingham Arts Champions catchment.

In the community:

- BBC Philharmonic Orchestra players are working with **peripatetic teachers** from Salford Music Service, Nottinghamshire County Music Service and Nottingham
- City of London Sinfonia performs at **Great Ormond Street Hospital**
- The Hallé 4Brass project **sees tuition for prisoners at Thorn Cross Young Offenders Institute**
- London Philharmonic Orchestra players run **special needs workshops in Southwark and Lewisham**
- London Symphony Orchestra run a session with **45 babies, toddlers and their parents at LSO St Luke's**
- **BBC Symphony Orchestra starts its 'Red Nose Day Primary Project'** - an ongoing 4 week project with two different primary schools, making short pieces of comic music theatre and soundtracks, to be performed in a school fundraising concert for Comic Relief)

In the concert hall:

- Philharmonia Orchestra performs a programme of Beethoven and Schumann with acclaimed pianist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet in **Basingstoke and London**
- London Symphony Orchestra and violinist Janine Jensen will be at the **Barbican Centre**, conducted by Daniel Harding
- London Philharmonic Orchestra have two concerts at the **Royal Festival Hall**, with leading mezzos Anna Catarina Antonacci and Sarah Connolly
- Northern Sinfonia celebrate Valentine's Day with **A Celebration of Nat King Cole** followed by a Saturday concert at the Sage Gateshead
- BBC Symphony Orchestra perform Tchaikovsky at the **Barbican Centre**
- Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra perform Mozart's Magic Flute – with pre-concert interview with pianist Evelina Puzaitė
- Britten Sinfonia perform in **Norwich, Cambridge, Leeds and London**

- The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's **Boys' Choir** give a performance at the **CBSO centre – in partnership with Barclay's Wealth**, while the orchestra will appear at Birmingham's Symphony Hall under the baton of Andris Nelsons
- The Hallé Orchestra and BBC Philharmonic Orchestra will be performing at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall.
- London Sinfonietta perform **Ades and Reich** in **Glasgow** and **London**
- **Oxford Philomusica** performs with internationally renowned pianist William Fong
- **Scottish Ensemble** are at the **Wigmore Hall** with acclaimed trumpeter Alison Balsam
- World class opera can be seen by **Opera North in Leeds, Scottish Opera in Glasgow, Welsh National Opera in Cardiff** and in **London** at **English National Opera** and the **Royal Opera House**, including the world premiere of Mark-Anthony Turnage's **Anna Nicole**

And abroad...

- The Academy of Ancient Music is performing **in Shanghai and Perth**
- Musicians from the Academy of St Martin in the Fields are **touring America**
- The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra is performing **in Tenerife**

Previous statistics gathered by the ABO show that in 2009/10, orchestras:

- Played to more than 3.4 million people in the UK
- Performed over 3,100 times in the UK
- Played concerts to 305,000 under-18s in schools in England