

GENERAL ELECTION 2017

MANIFESTO BRIEFING: ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ORCHESTRAS

The following document summarises key statements and policy proposals contained in the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, SNP and Plaid Cymru manifestos for the Association of British Orchestras (ABO).

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CONSERVATIVE MANIFESTO

ARTS FUNDING

- *“We will continue our strong support for the arts, and ensure more of that support is based outside London”*
- Promote cultural institutions
- A new Shared Prosperity Fund for growth, designed in consultation with devolved administrations, local authorities, businesses and public bodies
- A new cultural development fund to specifically target cultural investment and *“turn around communities”*
- Support the development of Edinburgh Concert Hall
- Move arts and cultural organisation out of London and South East region

EDUCATION

- A new curriculum fund for cultural and scientific institutions to develop school resources

BREXIT

- The Conservatives maintain that *“No deal is better than a bad deal for the UK”*
- Enact a Great Repeal Bill converting EU law into UK law – *“Once EU law has been converted into domestic law, parliament will be able to pass legislation to amend, repeal or improve any piece of EU law it chooses, as will the devolved legislature”*
- A Brexit deal excludes membership of the customs union or single market
- Secure the rights of EU nationals in the UK
- Maintain Common Travel Area with Ireland

EMPLOYMENT

- *“A Conservative Government would act to ensure that the interests of the self-employed and those working in the ‘gig’ economy are protected”*
- Consider the findings of the Taylor Review

The full manifesto can be found [here](#).

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LABOUR MANIFESTO

ARTS FUNDING

- £1bn Cultural Capital Fund to “upgrade existing cultural and creative infrastructure” administered by the Arts Council over 5 years. It will fund digital upgrades and “cultural clusters” across the country
- End local authority budget cuts
- £160mn annual fund per year for cultural projects through an arts pupil premium to primary schools in England
- Review extending the £1,000 pub relief business scheme to small music venues

EDUCATION

- Abolish university tuition fees
- “Put creativity back at the heart of the curriculum”
- Creative careers advice in schools to strengthen “pipeline of creative talent”
- £160mn annual fund per year for cultural projects through an arts pupil premium to primary schools in England
- Restore Education Maintenance Allowance for 16-18 year olds from lower and middle income background
- Free, lifelong Further Education

BREXIT

- Scrap Great Repeal Bill and replace with EU Rights and Protections Bill which would specifically address workers’ rights and environmental protections
- Emphasise remaining inside the Single Market and Customs Unions
- Guarantee rights of EU nationals
- Avoid a drop in EU Structural Funding until end of 2019/20 funding round

EMPLOYMENT

- Work with trade unions and employers for sector-specific guidelines on pay and employment standards: “Labour also identifies no pay as a barrier to entering careers in the performing arts”
- Create a new Ministry of Labour to enforce all aspects of workers’ rights
- Create a dedicated commission to modernise the law around employment status, set up with new statutory definitions of employment status

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LIBERAL DEMOCRAT MANIFESTO

ARTS FUNDING

- Protect arts funding via the National Lottery
- Create “*creative enterprise zones*” across the UK
- Examine funding and planning rules for live music venues and the grassroots music sector, and protect against music venue closures
- Reduce central government interference in local government and deliver greater financial devolution to English local authorities

EDUCATION

- Invest £7bn in education
- Protect arts and creative subjects in the curriculum and “*act to remove barriers to pupils studying these subjects*”

BREXIT

- Any deal with the EU will be put to a referendum, with the option of remaining in the EU also on the ballot paper
- Keep membership of the Free Market and Customs Union
- Guarantee rights of EU nationals

EMPLOYMENT

- Build on the forthcoming Taylor Review to modernise employment rights in light of the ‘gig’ economy
- Create a formal right to request a fixed contract and consult on introducing a right to make regular patterns of work contractual after a period of time

The full manifesto can be found [here](#).

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SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY MANIFESTO

ARTS FUNDING

- Seek clarification on what research funding will replace the current Horizon 2020 provision as well as exchange programmes such as ERASMUS+ and other arrangements such as the AURORA universities group

EDUCATION

- Guarantee the continuation of free university education Scotland
- Call for the full reinstatement of the Post-Study Work Visa scheme

BREXIT

- Work to keep Scotland in the Single Market
- Seek devolved powers to guarantee the rights of EU nationals if the UK government does not
- Seek a second independence referendum *“at the end of the Brexit process”*

EMPLOYMENT

- Press for full devolution of employment and employability policy
- Ban zero-hours contracts
- Back a transition to a real Living Wage
- Propose doubling Employment Allowance
- Support the immediate repeal of the Trade Union act

The full manifesto can be found [here](#).

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PLAID CYMRU MANIFESTO

EDUCATION

- Create an incentive for students to remain in or return to Wales after graduating
- Demand appropriate funding for Welsh universities and representation at UK level
- Guarantee employment, education or training for under-25s

BREXIT

- Ensure that all EU funding is replaced by the UK government
- Require the government to seek endorsements from each UK country before signing trade deals
- Guarantee the rights of EU nationals in the Wales
- Seek to continue trading with the EU without trade barriers

The full manifesto can be found [here](#).