

- **FIONA HYSLOP MSP, CABINET SECRETARY FOR CULTURE, TOURISM AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, TO ADDRESS ABO SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY RECEPTION**
- **ABO TO LAUNCH SCOTLAND'S MUSIC MATTERS REPORT**

On **Tuesday 11 December** the ABO will hold a Scottish Parliamentary Reception hosted by **Tom Arthur MSP**, Convenor of the Cross Party Group on Music and sponsored by **Classic FM**. There will be an address from **Fiona Hyslop MSP**, speeches from **Gavin Reid**, Chair, ABO and Chief Executive, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and **Kirsty Leith**, Head of Public Affairs, Global, and a performance by **Live Music Now** Scotland artists **Sirocco Winds**, a professional wind ensemble comprising current Masters students or graduates of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and alumni of the National Youth Orchestras of Scotland. The event is a celebration of the thriving sector as the Association of British Orchestras celebrates its [70th anniversary year](#).

SCOTLAND'S MUSIC MATTERS

The ABO Scottish Members have produced a report, *Scotland's Music Matters*, which will be published shortly before the event on 11 December. It is a celebration of the diversity, quality and distinctiveness of Scotland's unique music sector, connectivity and international reach. Copies will be available digitally from 5pm on 11 December on the ABO website: www.abo.org.uk

"The Association of British Orchestras' Scottish members make an invaluable contribution to Scotland's classical music sector through traditional and innovative concerts, and community projects. Many of Scotland's orchestras are not only recognised internationally, but also considered classical music world leaders and I am delighted to celebrate their achievements this evening. The creative industries are key to our prosperity and we are very fortunate to have such a thriving classical music sector, with continuing international reach."

Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary, for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

"I am delighted to host this event in the Scottish Parliament and showcase the work of the Association of British Orchestras' Scottish members. Scotland has a rich musical heritage and I am pleased to have this opportunity to celebrate this and champion the contribution of Scottish musicians to our rich, vibrant cultural sector both here and around the world. This is a great opportunity to thank the ABO for the invaluable work that they do and the important role that they have in promoting Scotland's classical music sector."

Tom Arthur MSP, Convenor of the Cross Party Group on Music

"Every week, 5.2 million people across the UK – including 450k people in Scotland alone – tune in to Classic FM. We're very proud to champion Scotland's outstanding music-making to our diverse audience, not least through our longstanding and very successful partnership with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and to partner with the ABO on the Scottish Parliamentary Reception."

Kirsty Leith, Head of Public Affairs, Global

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“As Scottish members of the Association of British Orchestras, we are immensely proud of the contribution we make to our nation and the people who live here. We are also extremely grateful to the Scottish Government, Creative Scotland, local authorities and the many organisations and individuals who support our work. However, our achievements as individual organisations do not happen in isolation. We thrive precisely because we are part of a wider Scottish classical music sector within a rich and thriving cultural environment. We know that funding for classical music in Scotland delivers greatest public value where it recognises this bigger picture by supporting the full diversity of the rich ecology that ultimately sustains us all”.

Gavin Reid, Chair ABO and Chief Executive, Scottish Chamber Orchestra

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABO SCOTTISH MEMBERS

The ABO Scottish Members group meets regularly to share information and discuss issues relating to Scotland’s cultural policy and funding at national and local level, music education, Scotland’s talent pipeline, and ABO members’ relationship with key agencies and stakeholders. Its members include:

- BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra
- Drake Music Scotland
- Dunedin Consort
- The Glasgow Barons
- Live Music Now Scotland
- National Youth Orchestras of Scotland
- Red Note Ensemble
- Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
- Royal Scottish National Orchestra
- Scottish Ballet
- Scottish Chamber Orchestra
- Scottish Ensemble
- Scottish Opera

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH ORCHESTRAS

The Association of British Orchestras represents the interests of professional orchestras and youth ensembles across the UK. Its members range from the symphony orchestras to chamber, opera and ballet orchestras, as well as music conservatoires, national and local youth orchestras, venues, festivals, broadcasters, funding agencies, agents and publishers.

Its mission is to enable and support an innovative, collaborative and sustainable orchestral sector by providing advice, support, intelligence and information to the people who make British orchestras a global success.

The ABO board is drawn from orchestras and other organisations across the UK. Its chair is Gavin Reid, Chief Executive, Scottish Chamber Orchestra.

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