

NCO ANNUAL REPORT 2019



SET 1
CLARINET 1

FLUTE 2



NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ORCHESTRAS
OF GREAT BRITAIN

“NCO is a unique organisation; there isn’t really a comparison for children of this age to have access to this level of teaching and this standard of orchestral playing.”

Jess Gillam



WELCOME TO NCO'S 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

WHAT CAN A CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA DO THAT NO OTHER ORCHESTRA COULD? WE'VE BEEN ASKING OURSELVES THAT QUESTION, AND THIS YEAR WE STARTED TO FIND OUT.

NCO's 11 symphony orchestras consisted of 658 of the UK's most remarkable musicians aged between just 7 and 14 years old. No generation before has been bombarded with so much distraction coupled with such immense academic pressure. No other generation is seeing first hand how music is being lost in our schools. So it is more important than ever that we celebrate these extraordinary young people. Individually, they are powerful role models in the modern world. Together, they are an overwhelming force for good. For music, they are its greatest advocates.

We don't hold back. We know what these young musicians are capable of and we know that their biggest musical challenges become their greatest achievements. That is what NCO does. It pushes expectations. In performance, in that moment, our orchestras are a group of young people being the best musicians they can be.

We know that NCO plays an important role in the emotional wellbeing of so many young musicians who grow in confidence, are more sociable and are ultimately happier by being part of what we do. Lifelong friendships, greater independence, being part of a team, achievement and fun, all play their part. Lots of children say that NCO is a comforting place to be because they can spend time with likeminded children, not always the case at school.

Now, we are ready to do so much more.

We want to explore how we can place creativity and youth voice at the centre of our



Catherine Arlidge & Sophie Lewis

orchestras. Children naturally have a sense of fun and are creative, divergent thinkers. So perhaps we should listen to them more and invest in their ideas. We are already trying a few things out which you can read about in this report.

We are going to invest more time and money to ensure that the physical wellbeing of our children is fully supported. A team of leading experts will advise us and we aim to become the very best we can be.

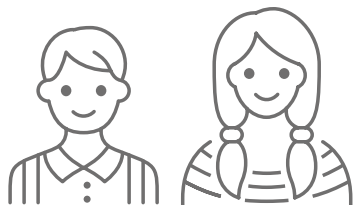
Most importantly, we want to champion the joy of orchestral playing for 7 to 14 year olds in the UK. We are totally committed to providing new, accessible opportunities for many more children. We know that our young musicians will be brilliant role models and mentors and will inspire the next generation as they embark on their first orchestral experiences.

Then, we will be doing what only we can do and NCO can be a place where everyone can truly flourish.

Thank you to all NCO children, families, staff and supporters for your invaluable contribution to our success this year.

Sophie Lewis, **Managing Director**
Catherine Arlidge MBE, **Artistic and Educational Director**

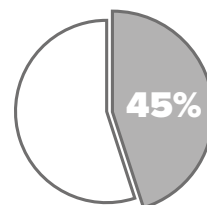
2019 IN NUMBERS



658

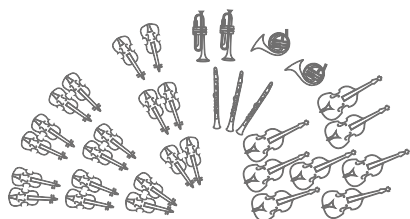


118



298

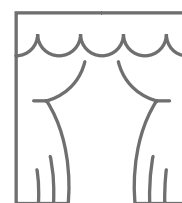
NCO consisted of **658** children aged **7 – 14** years old. **118** children and their families were supported financially through NCO's bursary scheme. **298** children offered places this year were from BAME backgrounds.



5

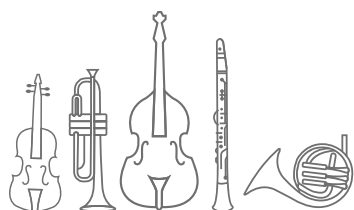


8

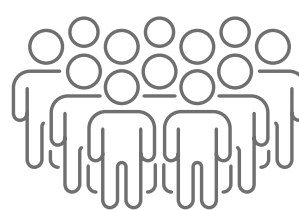


9

NCO's national programme consisted of **5** full symphony orchestras with at least **105** children in each one. They took part in **8** residencies between **6** and **9** days in length and wowed their audiences in **9** fantastic performances (the winter concert is an extra cheeky one!).



6



500

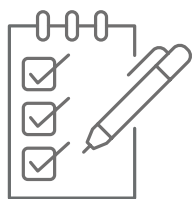
There were **6** large-scale regional symphony orchestras engaging over **500** children in Sunday rehearsals in **Bristol, Cambridge, London, Manchester** and **Horsham**. For their concerts, we ran a competition for the children to design their own programme cover art.



In June, NCO won a Weston College Business **Award** for the best Industry Placement experience. Bella worked with us for 8 months and, among many other things, is

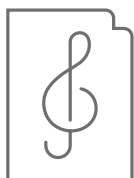
responsible for introducing slime to our junior orchestras. It was their most popular activity this summer!

2019 IN NUMBERS



1100

1,100 children applied for membership in 2020. Our audition tour has taken us from **Edinburgh** to **Bristol**, **Cardiff** to **Birmingham**. We've also piloted video auditions for our younger children and have loved watching them play their hearts out in school and at home (generally in their lounge or kitchen). We've even met some pets, and not all on purpose!



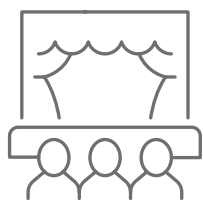
113

113 pieces of music were played by our musicians this year. Highlights range from Mahler 1 to Mary Poppins, Prokofiev to Pixar. **100 Surround Sound ensemble performances** were **devised by our young members**. They dreamt up new music with themes of heroes and villains, dreams and nightmares and Klezmer amongst others!



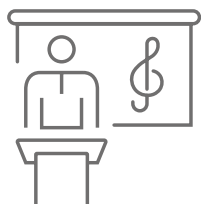
87

87 players in the 2019 National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain are former members of NCO and our alumni can be spotted in professional orchestras around the world.



4000

In total, NCO orchestras performed **15** concerts in 2019, enjoyed by **4,000** audience members from **London** to **Manchester**, **Birmingham** to **Poole** and a few other places in between (Sevenoaks, Cambridge, Bristol, Portsmouth and Basingstoke).



315

Children were supported by **162** expert music tutors and **153** residency staff. Our music tutors are drawn from a pool of the UK's very best instrumental teachers and professional orchestral players. Thank you to them all!



We consulted children by setting up 8 Child Boards. The children also took part in social media takeovers with Main Orchestra's film, 'Play Viola', attracting **161,000** views.

CREATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

SURROUND SOUND



SURROUND SOUND IS A SAFE SPACE WHERE WE MODEL CREATIVITY AND EXPERIMENT. THERE ARE NO HIERARCHIES, JUST IDEAS. AN EXPERT TEAM OF CREATIVE LEADS AND NCO MUSIC TUTORS SUPPORT CHILDREN TO CREATE SOMETHING NEW. WE USE THE THEME OF THE ORCHESTRA'S CONCERT AS THE STARTING POINT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

The Under 12 Orchestra chose to make short films around their concert theme of 'Dreams, Fantasy, Nightmare' and wrote and performed the soundtrack to go with them.

INSPIRATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

JESS GILLAM



THE INSPIRATIONAL YOUNG SAXOPHONIST JESS GILLAM JOINED THE MAIN ORCHESTRA THIS YEAR AS ARTIST IN RESIDENCE.

Jess took part in Surround Sound, ran a saxophone workshop and hosted a Q&A session with our young players. Our favourite question was – what shampoo do you use? She performed alongside Theo Outram (double bass) and NCO alumni Matthew Brett (vibraphone) in a stunning performance of John Williams' *Escapades* at The Bridgewater Hall in Manchester.

“THERE IS A WORLD OUT THERE THAT I CAN BE A PART OF.”

Theo, Double Bass

CREATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

MUSIC FOR MOVEMENT

THE UNDER 13 ORCHESTRA GOT MOVING WITH VENEZUELAN CHOREOGRAPHER JUAN CARLOS MAGGIORANI.

Music for Movement provided a way for the children to loosen up, have fun and to express their own individuality and they loved it! They showed off their new moves during the concert, the Latin American programme providing the perfect backing track for them to go for it.



“NCO REALLY DOES PUT MUSIC AND ENJOYMENT AND THE YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF WHAT IT DOES”

Jess Gillam

INSPIRATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

LEARNING FROM THE PROFESSIONALS

IN NOVEMBER, THE UNDER 13 ORCHESTRA JOINED PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS FROM THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (CBSO) AT THE CBSO CENTRE.

Conducted by Ben Gernon, Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, the children were given the opportunity to experience playing alongside professional musicians. They also got to teach the pros their new moves – can you guess how they got on?



“THE SKILLS THAT YOU LEARN STAY WITH YOU FOR LIFE”

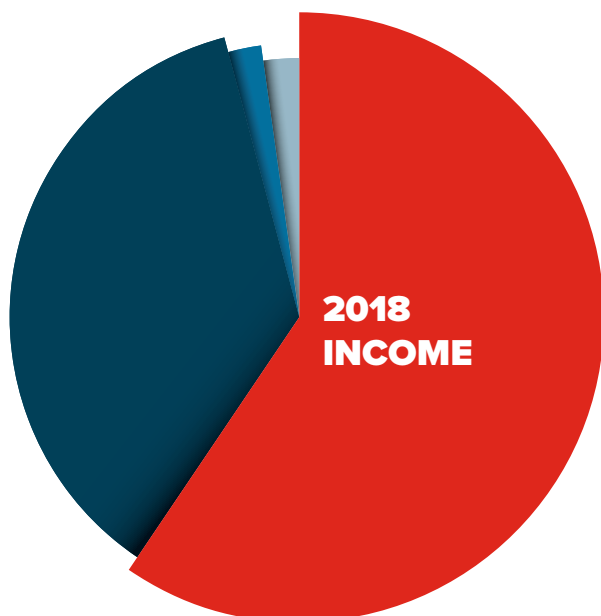
Matthew Brett, BBC Young Musician of the Year Finalist

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Our financial position has improved in recent years, in part due to the introduction of Orchestra Tax Relief (OTR), and we have been able to build to a position of healthy reserves for the charity. We will use this positive position to help underpin our plans, protect our bursary fund and enable our relocation to central Bristol in 2020.

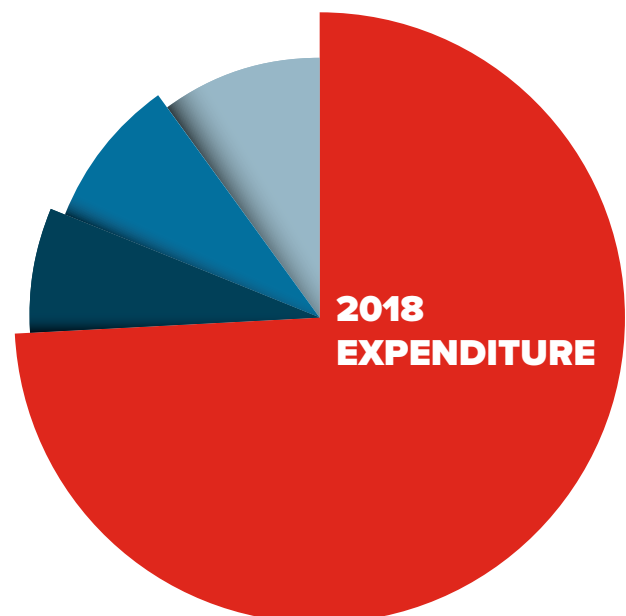
We have increased our investment in a professional fundraising team and this is beginning to have a positive affect on our fundraising each year. The figures presented below are drawn from our 2018 audited accounts. **We anticipate our 2019 figures to reflect a similar position.**

FINANCIAL YEAR	2018
Total Income	1,464,518
Total Expenditure	1,431,961
Surplus (deficit)	32,557
Total reserves (to include restricted funds)	945,000



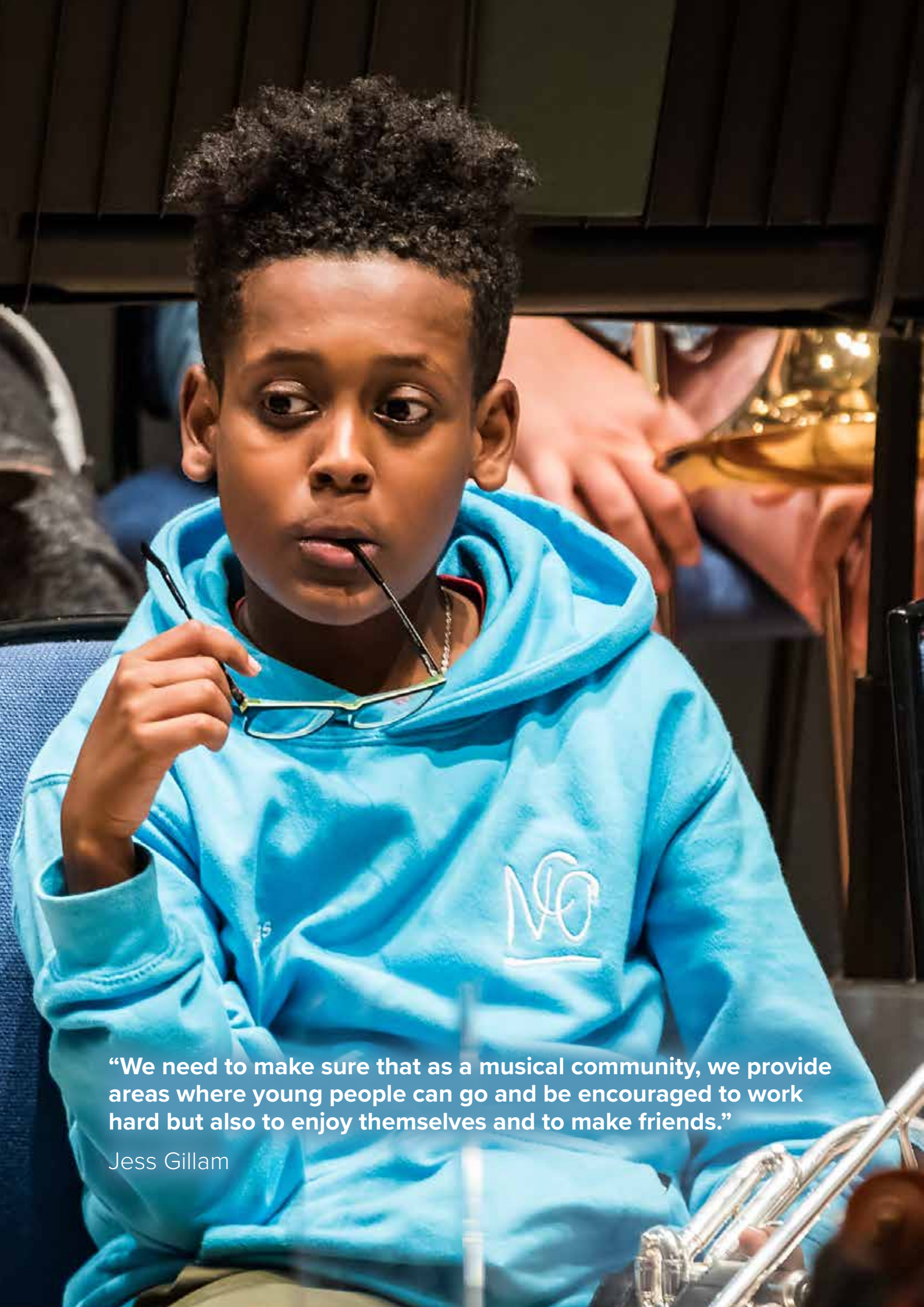
Earned Income	871,730
Fundraising	532,384
Commercial Activities	30,879
Investments, Interest & OTR	29,525

TOTAL **1,464,518**



Charitable activities:	
National membership	1,063,000
Regional membership	101,000
Bursaries & Scholarships	125,000
Expenditure on commercial activities and fundraising	142,961

TOTAL **1,431,961**



“We need to make sure that as a musical community, we provide areas where young people can go and be encouraged to work hard but also to enjoy themselves and to make friends.”

Jess Gillam

THANK YOU

NCO TRUSTEES

Janet Baker (Chair)

Charles Bligh

George Caird

Miranda Francis

Fiona Harvey

Jonathan Mayes

Andrew Kemble

Clare Thompson

William Norris

Brian Weir

Howard Williams

NCO OFFICE STAFF

Sophie Lewis, Managing Director

Catherine Arlidge MBE, Artistic and Educational Director

Katie Axelsen, Music Librarian

Kate Chaffey, Communications & Marketing Manager

Vicky Eltringham, Head of Development

Sarah Freeman, Development Manager

Ellie Geller, General Manager

Philippa Hirst, Regionals and Outreach Manager

Susan Leighton, Finance Manager

Cathy Morris, Senior Orchestras Manager

Emily Pieczko, Auditions and Junior Orchestras Manager

Owen Stavenuiter, Orchestra Assistant

NCO would like to thank all the 162 music tutors, 15 conductors and 153 residency and regional staff who work so hard to deliver a fantastic experience for NCO children. We would also like to thank our expert Creative Leads (Tom Redmond, Sarah Freestone and Jonathan James) and Wellbeing Leads (Sarah Upjohn and Tom Taffinder) for their specialist support.

We also want to acknowledge and thank our wonderful supporters, listed below. Your generous grants, donations and sponsorships enable what we do. We couldn't do it without you.

MAJOR SUPPORTERS

ABRSM

The Cecil King Memorial Foundation

The Enid Linder Foundation

Foyle Foundation

Leverhulme Trust

Universal Music UK Sound Foundation

GRANT MAKERS & SPONSORS

Anonymous

The Aspinwall Educational Trust

Baron Davenport's Charity

D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust

The Geoffrey Watling Charity

The Golsoncott Foundation

Kirby Laing Foundation

Margaret Guido Charitable Trust

Mary Robertson Trust

Misses Barrie Charitable Trust

Mrs Pat Ripley Charitable Trust

The Patrick Trust

PF Charitable Trust

The Rainbow Dickinson Trust

The Rowley Trust

Vacherin

Veronica Awdry Charitable Trust

PARENTS

The generosity we have seen from parents this year has been truly outstanding and we would like to thank each and every one of you for your invaluable support.

FRIENDS AND PATRONS OF NCO

Conductor's Circle Patrons

Howard and Celia Gough

Players Patrons

Frank and Keiko Kuhnke, supporting
NCO bassoon players

NCO Patrons

Anthony & Stella Capo-Bianco
Joyce Fretwell
Andrew & Gillian Kemble

Forte Friends

John Bradley
George & Jane Caird
Chris Lamb
John Leeming & Fiona Cairney
Jean Marsh
Robert Mitchell

Crescendo Friends

Janet Baker
Michael Ferraro
Melanie Haydon
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Jonathan Mayes
Alison & Paul Richards
David Stride
Clare Thompson

Pianissimo Friends

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Mary Cordall
Virginia & Richard Cornish
Vicky Eltringham
Kate Green
Helen Howitt
John & Diana Lampen
William Norris
Annabel Noton
William O'Farrell
Peter Stark
Peter & Lynne Steward
Harry & Nicky Yoxall

LEGACY

We would like to acknowledge the generous legacy NCO received in 2018 from the estate of Keith Lovet Watson, in memory of his mother, for which we are most grateful.

IN KIND SUPPORTERS

NCO would like to thank the following organisations for in kind support in 2019: Yamaha Music Studios, Taunton School, Howarth's of London. We would also like to thank the following organisations for their partnership support: City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Royal Northern College of Music, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Change Creation (ACE).



NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRAS OF GREAT BRITAIN

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