

Press release

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Andrew Lloyd Webber  
Foundation

## **ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER FOUNDATION GRANTS WORTH £515K FUND EDUCATION, ACCESSIBILITY AND DIVERSITY IN THE ARTS**

- 11 new grants awarded worth over £515K
- 2015 marks the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the active grant giving programme, with total grants made now over £10m

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation today announced it is awarding new grants worth over £515,000 to 11 organisations, facilitating enhancement of arts education, improving access to the arts for all, and increasing diversity across the arts, heritage and culture sector.

The Foundation's active grant giving programme, founded in 2010, has now awarded grants of over £10m to more than 200 recipients, all for projects which make a visible positive impact on the quality of life of both individuals and local communities.

Amongst the new grants announced are projects enhancing arts education and participation, including a £150,000 grant to the National Theatre NT Connections festival of new plays, with participants in 200 schools and youth theatres across the UK.

Others will offer creative opportunities for young people with limited access to the arts, such as National Orchestra for All, receiving £45,000 towards their Summer Courses, which encourages participants from challenging backgrounds across the UK.

There will also be funding for professional development to those on the brink of their careers in the performing arts industry, through opportunities such as apprenticeships, training programmes and mentoring at world class arts organisations including the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Scottish Opera and The BRIT School.

Andrew Lloyd Webber said:

‘At the very core of my Foundation is the belief that in order to retain vibrancy in the arts, it is crucial for talented young people of all backgrounds and abilities to be nurtured and encouraged. I am thrilled that with these grants we can improve access to the arts and support those taking their first steps towards a successful career in the industry.’

The 11 organisations to receive funding are:

- **£150,000 over 3 years to National Theatre NT Connections festival** of new plays, involving over 200 youth theatres and schools across the UK to produce new work and experience professional theatre in conjunction with NT practitioners and partner theatres. This funding will allow the NT to double their inclusion fund supporting groups demonstrating a financial or geographical barrier to participate and prioritising those who have a lack of access to creative opportunities, high levels of deprivation or significant NEET members.

- **£129,450 over 2 years to The BRIT School, Croydon** to fund “The Bridge Company” a company of post sixth form students, selected and trained to run every aspect of their own theatre company, receiving master classes, workshops and mentoring from BRIT School tutors, industry professionals and practitioners. This follows a successful first year of funding provided by the Foundation in 2014.
- **£45,000 over 3 years to Wilton’s Music Hall** towards their Arts Learning and Participation programme for local schools and the Wapping/Tower Hamlets community, which will include developing their Youth Theatre, special performances and workshops for schools, and partnerships with other artistic organisations.
- **£45,000 over 3 years to National Orchestra for All (NOFA)** towards intensive residential Summer Courses. NOFA is an orchestra of young musicians nominated by teachers and partner music charities for their hard work and commitment rather than pure advanced technique. The orchestra gives opportunities for professional experience and aims to raise aspirations and give access to a range of life skills, targeting participants from challenging backgrounds across the UK.
- **£45,000 over 3 years to the Watermill Theatre** to fund year-long trainee posts for Production/Stage Management Assistants. The recipients will be post A-level students who have not had the opportunity to go to University; the well managed project will equip them with specific hands on experience and practical skills to confidently apply for full time work in the industry.
- **£30,000 over 3 years to Clean Break** towards their Education Programme providing Performance Courses for women offenders. The courses build confidence, self-esteem and develop written and communication skills by using theatre and performance techniques within a supportive environment. The courses have proven progression routes into further education and work placements.
- **£30,000 to Kids Company** towards a Playwriting and Performance Programme to encourage young vulnerable people to write their first play and see it performed in a professional theatre. 25 participants will work towards an Arts Award in Bronze, Silver or Gold; project is proven to develop life skills in a nurturing environment for young people who have little or no other support.
- **£15,750 over 3 years to Birmingham Repertory Theatre** towards the Foundry Project supporting 6 new writers, 6 directors and 6 theatre makers each year, giving hands-on experience of creating a professional large scale piece of work via high quality workshops and expert mentoring.
- **£10,000 to Scottish Opera** to fund a year-long training programme for a professional Repetiteur. The recipient will be a talented music graduate or early career musician and will receive wide range of opportunities and experience with this respected touring opera company. The established training programme is able to demonstrate effective career development.
- **£10,000 over 2 years to Children’s Hospice South West** to roll out music therapy sessions with a qualified music therapist in their centres in Devon, Cornwall and Bristol.
- **£5,000 to Birmingham Contemporary Music Group** to fund an Apprentice Composer in Residence for an emerging artist, who will be given access to rehearsals, workshops and concerts, and tasked to produce two new pieces of music for performance.

### **About the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation**

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation was set up by Andrew in 1992 to promote the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit; since inception Andrew has been the principle provider of funding for all its charitable activities.

In 2010, the Foundation embarked on an active grant giving programme and has now awarded grants of over £10m to support high quality training and personal development as well as other projects that make a real difference to enrich the quality of life both for individuals and within local communities. Significant grants include £3.5m to Arts Educational Schools, London to create a state of the art professional theatre, £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, £1m to The Music in Secondary Schools Trust and over £350,000 annually to fund 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need. The Foundation owns two important paintings, a Canaletto “Old Horse Guards from St James’s Park”, currently on exhibition at Compton Verney and a Stanley Spencer “The Garage” on exhibition at The Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham, Berkshire.

In 2014, the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation awarded 36 new grants to organisations, a third more than 2013, made 15 grants to projects in their second and third year of funding and provided 30 musical theatre scholarships to young performers on the brink of their careers.

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