



Press Release: Monday 4 July 2016

## Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation heralds £2.8million investment for Music in Secondary Schools Trust

Andrew Lloyd Webber says “Never has a musical education been more important. The Arts, and music in particular, are proven to empower young people with the life skills needed for a successful future. I’m delighted my Foundation’s grant means nearly four thousand children will receive free instruments and music tuition. I only wish government would join in to make it four million.”



Challenge & Change MiSST photography series, CREDIT: Leonora Saunders

- £1.4million commitment from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation matches £1.4million from the Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust to secure the future of the programme for the next four years
- Nearly 4,000 children will receive free instruments and tuition from September 2016
- The three founding funders, Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust and Dame Alice Owen Foundation, commit to further funding to give music opportunities to London school pupils
- Government called upon to recognise importance of the arts in education

Today, Tuesday 5 July, the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation announces a new grant of £1.4million to be awarded to the Music in Secondary Schools Trust Andrew Lloyd Webber Programme. To be

paid over four years, this grant secures the future of the programme in 8 London Schools and offers far reaching music opportunities to London school pupils.

The programme which began in 2013 in one school will this September be providing free classical music instruments and tuition to 3,700 young people across eight London state schools. Their mission continues to be to promote the music education of young people, targeting those who may not otherwise have the opportunity to engage with classical music.

The work of MiSST addresses the reduced resources and increased pressure on arts projects across schools in London. The music education programme has been found by participating schools to promote social behaviour, integration across school grades and ethnicities, and an appreciation and love for music amongst students.

Success stories from MiSST include 18 year old Deronne White, who first picked up an instrument at Highbury Grove School, has now secured a place on the National Youth Orchestra and will begin his studies in September at the Royal College of Music.

Deronne and 450 MiSST students also had the opportunity to perform alongside Nicola Benedetti at The Barbican in 2015 and to perform *Photograph* as part of National Youth Orchestra residency to its composer, Snow Patrol's Johnny McDaid.

In a celebration of the achievements of the Music in Secondary Schools Trust since it was launched in 2013 and looking towards its future, the trust has partnered with photographer Leonora Saunders to create a series of striking portraits, *Challenge & Change*. The portraits capture twelve young musicians from the Music in Secondary Schools Trust Andrew Lloyd Webber programme and look to challenge preconceptions surrounding classical music.

This funding has also enabled MiSST to commission a 10-year research project from the Institute of Education and University College London to assess the impact of the programme on students' overall educational achievements and life skills. The research hopes to demonstrate the empowerment of music to other funders and government.

Truda White, CEO of MiSST said:

"This is fantastic news for the young people who are on the Andrew Lloyd Webber Programme in MiSST partner schools. Arts and music provision are being seriously eroded and the take up of these subjects at GCSE is falling year on year. MiSST schools are reversing this trend and ensuring young people have a strong arts and music foundation as part of their curriculum. The outcomes from our research programme are extremely positive. The support MiSST receives from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust and the Dame Alice Owen Foundation is invaluable."

**ENDS**

### **Notes to editors**

- For images or further information on the Music in Secondary Schools Trust and the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation please contact Truda Spruyt and Chloe Davies at Four Colman Getty:  
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- Leonora Saunders, Truda White (CEO, MiSST) and Pierce Brown (Director of Music, MiSST) are available for interview

### **About The Music in Secondary Schools Trust**

- In April 2013, the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation pledged £1m to establish the Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST) in conjunction with the Charles Wolfson Trust. The 'Andrew Lloyd Webber Programme' of music education is based on music programme which was developed at Highbury Grove School, promising every child an entitlement to study a classic musical instrument on entry, as well as tuition and the opportunity to play and perform as part of ensemble or orchestral groups on a regular basis.
- In September 2013, Lister Community School, Newham, became the first partner school and then in September 2014 were joined by Mount Carmel Roman Catholic School for Girls, Islington; Frederick Bremer School, Waltham Forest; Sedgehill School, Lewisham and Islington Arts and Media School, Islington. St Mary Magdalene Academy, Islington and New North Academy, Islington joined the scheme in September 2015. New North Academy is the first primary school to be part of the programme.
- The number of participating students has risen from 1650 in 2014 to 2700 in September 2015.
- Subject to the continued success of the MiSST programme the Dame Alice Owen Foundation plans to spend up to £3.8 million over 10 years to provide all secondary school students in Islington the opportunity to learn a musical instrument.

### **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 principal 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 more than £11m 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.
- In 2015, the Foundation awarded over £1.5million in 46 new grants to organisations, made 17 grants totalling £860k to projects in their second and third year of funding and provided 30 musical theatre scholarships worth over £300k to young performers on the brink of their careers. The grants focus on the enhancement of arts education and participation, improving access to the arts for all, and increasing diversity across the arts, culture and heritage sector.

[www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com](http://www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com)

### **About the Dame Alice Owen Foundation**

- The Dame Alice Owen Foundation has been supporting education in Islington for over 400 years.
- The principal objects of the Foundation are to support Dame Alice Owen's School (now in Potters Bar) and to improve educational outcomes in Islington.
- In addition to funding school programmes, the Foundation also supports drama and musical initiatives in the borough. Since 2014 Dame Alice Owen's Foundation has been funding the roll

out of the MiSST programme to secondary schools in Islington, initially Mount Carmel School and Islington Arts and Media School, and now to St Mary Magdalene Academy.

- Dame Alice Owen's Foundation is now funding the pilot of the MiSST Andrew Lloyd Webber Programme to an Islington primary school, New North Academy.
- Under the management and administration of its Trustee, the Worshipful Company of Brewers, Dame Alice Owen's Foundation provided grants totalling over £2.5 million to support its beneficiaries in 2014.
- Subject to the continued success of the MiSST programme the Foundation plans to spend up to £3.8 million over 10 years to provide all secondary school students in Islington the opportunity to learn a musical instrument.

#### **About the Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust**

- The Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust supported Highbury Grove from 2006 – 2013
- Since 2013 the CWCT has supported MiSST who in turn support the above schools
- The CWCT also funds other educational establishments and medical research