



**Press release: under embargo until 00.01GMT Thursday 21 July**

**£30,000 Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation grant to Finding Rhythms gives music training opportunities to young offenders**



- New funding of £30,000 over three years will support Finding Rhythms' work using music to help young prisoners to develop new patterns of behaviour through courses and mentoring led by some of the UK's top touring artists.

*'I've learnt that going to prison wasn't the greatest point of my life but it is not the end of the world. Finding Rhythms have given me self-belief in still being able to gain a positive direction in my life.'* – David, Finding Rhythms Graduate

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation has today, Thursday 21 July, announced a new grant of £30,000 over three years to support Finding Rhythms music in prisons projects run in three young and adult prisons across the UK. The project engages young prisoners with music to promote new patterns of behaviour and help to create a new generation of prisoners who are less likely to reoffend.

This funding from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation will allow ten people in prison to take part each year in a six-week course run by Finding Rhythms. The intensive course aims to inspire long term behaviour change and allow individuals to transition more easily into a crime-free life upon release.

A temporary studio will be established within the prisons, where participants will create a professionally produced album of new music. To create the album, young prisoners will collaborate with a number of the UK's top touring artists. They will have the opportunity to work within a high intensity, professional environment as part of a team whilst being given the chance to communicate difficult messages to their families and the outside world.

Finding Rhythms work with prisoners to draw out their creative potential and to demonstrate that the skills they use to write, produce and deliver a project such as this are transferrable to many areas of their work and life.

Finding Rhythms was established in 2013 and the impact it has had is evident in feedback from the participants. Over 85% of past participants have said that they gained experience working in a professional environment, that they now feel more confident about what they can achieve and that the course helped them to work better with other people and to think differently about themselves. 96% have also now passed a BTEC certificate in employability skills.

The Foundation's active grant giving programme, founded in 2010, supports projects improving skills, access and diversity across the arts, heritage and culture sector. It has now awarded more than £13.6m to more than 255 recipients across the UK and beyond.

Emily Vermont, Co-Founder and Executive Director at Finding Rhythms, comments,

'In an uncertain funding landscape we are thrilled that the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation have seen the potential in our work and decided to back us so generously over a three year period. This helps bring much needed stability to our income stream, allowing our team to concentrate on supporting a greater number of people serving time in prison, to transform their prospects for the future.'

Madeleine Lloyd Webber, Trustee of the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation comments,

'Finding Rhythms use music to engender creativity, responsibility and commitment. The Foundation is passionate about the power of music and it has never been greater than in this project which can be the cornerstone of a crime free life for the participants.'

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Notes to Editors:

### **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 £13.6m 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, £2.4m to The Music in Secondary Schools Trust £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, \$1.3m to the American Theatre Wing 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 Finding Rhythms**

Finding Rhythms was founded in 2013, with the aim of reducing re-offending through music. Using the latest recording technology set up in a temporary studio, participants and musicians are able to create tracks of music, with recording, editing and assembly occurring on-site in the prison before being post-produced and mastered in a professional studio. A project leader leads each workshop along with a support musician and a sound engineer to guide participants and help them to develop their own ideas. All project leaders are recording artists as well as music teachers, bringing an air of professionalism to the studio.

[www.finding-rhythms.co.uk](http://www.finding-rhythms.co.uk)