



**Press release: 28 April**

## **Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation award £100,000 to Young People's Chorus of New York City**



- Over 1,000 young people to receive professional choral singing teaching free of charge in 14 schools across New York City

The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation today announces a new grant of £100,000 (\$142,200) to Young People's Chorus of New York City's Satellite Schools Programme. With the support of the grant, the programme will provide professional choral singing teaching, free of charge, to 1,100 young people in 14 schools across New York City.

The classes are available to young people aged 7-18 from diverse backgrounds who would not otherwise have the opportunity to reap the benefits of musical education and performance. Working closely with school administrators, the organisation is committed to targeting at-risk young people who would most benefit from the programme. The Young People's Chorus has had great success with their Satellite School Programme since it was established in 2003, with 30% of students in the main Young People's Chorus having been selected from the Satellite Schools, 100% of whom go on to higher education when they leave school.

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 £11m to more than 255 recipients across the UK and beyond.

Francisco J. Núñez, Artistic Director and Founder of Young People's Chorus of New York City comments,

'We are enormously grateful to the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation for its remarkable generosity. This support will help YPC continue to bring the world of music into the lives of New York City's public school children. The YPC program not only teaches each child the basics of singing and musical terms, but what it means to be a "young artist," to achieve high goals, the importance of excellence in everything they do, and to realize that every voice matters.'

Lady Lloyd Webber, Trustee at the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation comments,

'The work of the Young People's Chorus confirms our belief in the power of music to transform lives; not only do the participants learn to sing, they learn to collaborate, create and lead. The Foundation is thrilled to help this renowned organisation extend their programme into schools where music is reduced or eliminated in the curriculum and make a difference to every child, no matter what their background.'

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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 £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. The Foundation owns two important paintings which were on public exhibition throughout 2015: a Canaletto "Old Horse Guards from St James's Park" and a Stanley Spencer "The Garage".
- 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 Young People's Chorus of New York City**

The **Young People's Chorus of New York City® (YPC)** is a multicultural youth chorus internationally renowned not only for its superb virtuosity and brilliant showmanship, but as a model for an inclusive society that is being replicated globally. Founded by Artistic Director Francisco J. Núñez, a MacArthur 'genius' Fellow in 1988, this ground-breaking program harnesses the power of music to fulfil the potential of every child and has established the youth chorus as a significant and often untapped instrument for making music.

Over 1,500 children from ages 7 to 18 participate annually through YPC's core after-school program, its satellite program in New York City public schools and two thriving after-school community choruses in Manhattan's Washington Heights area and at Goddard Riverside Community Center.

[www.ypc.org](http://www.ypc.org)