



Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation 2024 Review of Grant Activity



Brennan Alleyne, 1st Yr MMu Voice Scholar at Royal Northern College of Music

13 new grants awards were made during 2024 and a further 12 organisations received ongoing annual grant instalments towards their core and project activity. In the current academic year, 36 current students are receiving full or part ALWF scholarships in 17 schools and colleges across the UK. The Foundation contributed to a report published by Paul Hamlyn Foundation on Trusts and Foundation arts and culture funding 2019 -2023 which shows the rise in demand for funding across the sector has not abated after the pandemic.

News From Our Funded Projects

There are now **32 schools** running the **Music in Secondary Schools Trust (Latest grant 2023, £1.05m over 3 yrs)** Andrew Lloyd Webber Programme of Music Education (ALWP) with 3 new schools starting in September: The Charter School, Bermondsey, Burnage Academy for Boys, Manchester and Astrea Woodfields Academy in Doncaster. The Bay Leadership Academy in Morecambe will join in September 2025 with funding from Patrizia Foundation.

MiSST's Gresham School residential weekend for students in receipt of free school meals was funded by the Swire Foundation this year. **228 Students from 22 MiSST Schools** were selected based on aptitude and interest shown whilst studying the ALWP. The positive impact of this intensive music-making weekend on engagement and confidence was clearly demonstrated.

"I feel like I can do things I didn't think I could do."

"By helping me learn new skills, the course made me feel good and proud of myself."

MiSST Gresham Residential students

Activity in the final quarter of the year included MiSST's annual teacher conference and instrumental tutor conference, aiming to deepen tutor's understanding and application of the ALWP.

ALWF support for **Bloomin' Arts** (2022, £16k over 2 yrs) was used to fund a **specialist inclusive drama tutor** for 12 learning and physically disabled adults; 80 weeks of professional training were delivered, 2 public performances to 265 audience members took place including 1 hour long fast-paced comedy show and 1 outreach workshop.

*'By facilitating access to quality drama education, ALWF played a pivotal role in promoting inclusion and equality for learning-disabled adults and **empowered learning-disabled adults to develop skills, pursue meaningful work and contribute to a more inclusive society.***

Jodie, Bloomin' Arts practitioner

'I enjoyed being part of something bigger than ourselves' – Jordan, Participant

Hall for Cornwall (HfC) (2022, £30k over 2 yrs) Youth Companies and New Artist Network **engaged over 10,000 young people and artists** during 2023/24 through a combination of school partnerships (34 partner schools), youth companies (250 participants across Youth Theatre, Youth Dance and All Boys Dance programmes), freelance professional artists and over 100 emerging artists.



HfC work in schools in lower economic status areas, introducing dance and drama at an early age, performing professional productions as well as helping the schools produce and perform their own shows. Through HfC's partnership with the RSC, additional schools are offered a focused programme on the study and performing of Shakespeare.

This year they have been particularly proud to support some youth company members to pursue further education in the performing arts.

Get Into Theatre (2024, £65k over 3 yrs) has been nominated for **Outstanding Drama Education Resource** at the Music and Drama Education Awards being held in January 2025, for their Teacher's Toolkit created in partnership with ATG with funding from Arts Council England. The teacher resource space is now available to teachers nationwide on www.getintothetheatre.org .



Get Into Theatre's 2023/24 Work In Theatre project engaged more than 275,000 young people, teachers, and freelance artists across the UK both in person at regional theatre open days for schools and through digital workshops. A second iteration of the scheme is currently in the planning stages.

At **BRIT School** (2024, £99k over 3 yrs) all 485 graduating Year 13 students gained their UAL Extended Diploma this summer. 77% achieved a Distinction (equivalent to 3 A*'s), up from 74% last year, and significantly higher than with the national average of around 25%. An incredible **71% of Production Arts students achieved a Distinction grade**, up from 54% last year!

We are thrilled to see the results at this state funded arts specialist school, especially for the following groups:

- 72% of students with Additional Educational Needs gained a Distinction in their UAL Qualification, and the gap between AEN and non-AEN students is now less than 6% at Distinction level, compared to 9% in 2023.
- 68% of disadvantaged students gained a Distinction, and the gap between disadvantaged students and non-disadvantaged students at Distinction level has more than halved (2023: 25% / 2024: 10%)
- 75% of low Achieving Pupils (LAP) who started with BRIT in year 10 and went on to complete year 13 gained a Distinction in their UAL.



Stuart Mason has recently been appointed as Chair at **Music Masters** (2024, £5k). Music Masters' Flagship Schools Programme brings music to over 1,000 children in schools across the UK as part of their 'Music Masters Philosophy' to provide **consistency, quality and ambition in musical learning** across the UK. We loved their Christmas Concert where the evening's impressive repertoire was curated by Music Masters graduates of the programme. The excellence that the programme brings to young people's lives is clear.

Stats from **Readipop** (2019, £15k over 3 yrs deferred) are hugely impressive. Between March 2022 - 2023, Readipop's youth music programme Access All Areas (AAA) **engaged 987 young people** (including 128 core participants) in a variety of referral, development and outreach sessions, across 331 1:1 sessions and 149 group sessions. **22 schools and partners including The Prince's Trust Get Started with Music** programme have referred participants for music-based mentoring and talent development programmes. There were 12 performances at Reading Festival, 8 holiday workshops and 14 primary school Arts Award sessions. Progression beyond AAA includes 1 young person releasing music via Readipop's own label, 5 young people joining their youth board and 2 trainee music leaders supported into full time PAYE roles with responsibility for varied project delivery. 1 participant was supported to become a paid young advisor to a grant giving trust. It is thrilling to see the impact of this dynamic, driven young organisation.

On 13 June 2024, the **Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre** (2024, £3k) launched its Manifesto for Performing Arts Education at the Churchill Room, House of Commons. This important manifesto **encourages the development of creativity** through dedicated time for children and young people to experience the power of the performing arts. It is an ongoing mission.



21 participants of 2023/4 **Old Vic Theatre Makers** (2022, £50k over 2 yrs) from disadvantaged backgrounds across the UK took part in **masterclass workshops** in range of theatre disciplines from industry professionals and with OV Theatre Makers Director Joseph Hancock. The programme culminated in performance Scratch Night at Theatre Peckham. A network support scheme with OV Creative Associates, as well as staff in production, marketing, finance, front of house, education and executive team departments, gives participants **insight into the range of skills and roles required in a theatre building** as well as a sense of belonging. Travel and accommodation support was provided where necessary.

“I can’t express how much this course has done for me. Not only have I grown creatively but personally I am so much happier and way more optimistic about my career.”
OV Theatre Maker Participant

In 2023/24, **RSC Next Generation** (2022, £50k over 2 years) worked with **55 young people through 3 dedicated talent development strands**: Backstage, Act and Direct. Their final devised production of *Two Gentlemen of Verona* in the Garden Theatre in Stratford-on-Avon dodged the rain clouds and brought high quality RSC production values and a refreshing dimension to some very old-fashioned themes in a tricky play. The leads were tremendous and the ensemble made the very most of each second on stage. Next Generation participants were the actors, the actor-musicians and the director; they devised the set, ran the technical stage management and even knitted the baddies’ false beards!



2023/4 RSC Next Generation Direct cohort at their February 2024 residential

Next Generation was developed to directly respond to the lack of diversity across the creative sector and to support and nurture young people impacted by structural disadvantage to explore a career in the arts.

A few Next Gen alumni spoke to the audience after the performance, one of whom spoke warmly of his subsequent training on an ALWF scholarship at ArtsEd! **A thread of encouragement, professional training and support had clearly made a huge difference** for this remarkable young actor.

12 members of 2023/4 **Bristol Old Vic** (2022, £30k over 2 yrs) Young Six Six company attended **regular weekly workshops with industry directors and creatives**, including Netflix screen acting and That's a Rap composer's workshops. 7 new members were recruited from taster sessions in targeted schools, via referrals and word of mouth. 4 productions took place in the BOV studio during the year.



The impact of this **urban theatre initiative** is demonstrated in pathways taken by current and existing participants including drama school training at Mountview, Guildhall, Rose Bruford, LAMDA and in apprenticeships and theatre productions.



During 2023/24, **NT Connections** (2022, £50k over 2 yrs) (above) continued to engage large numbers of young people aged 13-19 in professionally led theatre training and production. **6,000 young people in 262 young companies** from schools, colleges and youth groups took part in staging one of 10 new plays, with over 700 individuals taking on backstage roles. **300 youth theatre directors** took part in the Director's Weekend professional training workshops at the National Theatre in October. Companies rehearsed for a total of **10,664 hours** and gave **327 performances** in their local areas. **10 selected companies** performed one play each in the Dorfman Theatre during the Connections Festival June. ALWF funding provided bursaries for NT Connections participating companies, distributed as shown in the table attached to this report.

ALWF unrestricted support for **The Watermill** (2022, £25k – used by the theatre in 2023/24) has contributed to a successful first year of becoming independent from Arts Council Funding and meant youth theatre and new practitioner training can continue at this unique venue.

*'Support from The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation in 2023-4 has been invaluable – **enabling us to continue being ambitious and inventive** with our programming, and to continue to make meaningful change within our community. In addition, this has been a year of development, with the Executive and*

Board focusing on business planning for the next three years and evolving the business model to support income growth. Through this work we have established a strategy that enables us to continue to be a leading regional theatre, making a difference on the national and international stage.

Thank you for your generous support of The Watermill which is making a significant and lasting impact on the organisation and our local community.

- Claire Murray, Executive Director

297 young people took part in 6,085 sessions and workshops in 2023 Make Music at **The Glasshouse** (formerly Sage Gateshead) (£20k over 2 yrs, 2022). **41% of participants received a means-tested bursary place.** Highlights included Jazz ensembles, the Young Sinfonia orchestra performing their own composition, Artist in Focus sessions with Jess Gillam & Sheku Kanneh-Mason (below), residential trips and composer days. Two alumni have gained places at Royal Academy of Music this year, one on an Elton John Foundation scholarship.



'We're extremely grateful for the Foundation's support here in the North of England during a time where music provision for young people is key but sadly underfunded.' Tomke Kossen-Veenhuis, Project Manager

Hot news from **Brassneck Youth Theatre, Belfast** (£30k over 2 yrs, 2022)! Recognised as a key organisation for casting agents, **3 young performers have been cast in TV and film productions** this year (one for Disney). The positive vibes from these castings reverberate through the company and community, with many parents saying being a member of Brassneck makes a massive difference to their child's wellbeing and thereby to the life of the whole family.

Over 120 young people took part in **Viva Arts, Soham** (£24k over 2 yrs, 2022) performing arts activities during 2023, including 4 Musical Theatre Holiday Workshops, 30 weeks of performing arts Saturday School, **8 masterclasses with industry professionals.** Positive outcomes include achieving nationally recognised qualifications (eg LAMDA exams), building skills and developing pathways into the profession. The wider impact of increasing access to high quality arts activities is demonstrated by **increased offers of volunteering and community engagement** around the performances.

Scholarships

ALWF Scholarship alumni are making their mark in theatre, film and production. 2024 has been a particularly good year for ArtsEd graduates - Georgina Onuorah as Dorothy in *Wizard of Oz*, Angelica in *Hamilton* and Lois in *Kiss Me Kate* at The Barbican; Kamilla Fernandes in *Guys and Dolls* and the upcoming *Hercules*, Beatrice Penny-Toure as Cosette in *Les Miserables* tour and Stephen Sondheim's *Old Friends* in the West End.

Birkbeck 2nd yr Theatre Director ALWF scholar, Mo Sowole, has been on **placement at Lyric Hammersmith**, assisting director Nicholai La Barrie on *God of Carnage*, and assisting Rachel O'Riordan on her revival of *The Faith Healer*.

Royal Northern College of Music ALWF Masters scholars are having a busy year – Matt Secombe is in rehearsal for Rossini's comedy 'La Scala di Seta', Liam Forrest (right) played the role of Bobil-Bakula in Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Snow Maiden*, and Olivia Hamblyn will be working at the Buxton Opera Festival this summer. Olivia has also been appointed as **Assistant Conductor to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Company, Children's and Youth Choirs**.



Within weeks of completing her ALWF Associate MD Fellowship at **Royal Central School of Speech and Drama**, **Yutong Zhang** was appointed **Musical Director for the UK and International tour of Six**.

Finally

Thank you to all the above partner organisations whose work makes a real difference to the arts training and education landscape. We certainly wouldn't be here without you.

We wish you all a happy and successful 2025.



Readipop – young music maker, 2024



MISST 11th Anniversary Concert – 22 April 2024 Roundhouse, London

National Theatre Connections – bursary places awarded 2023/24 with help of ALWF funding

Partner Theatre

Aberystwyth Arts Centre
 artsdepot
 Beacon Arts Centre,
 Blackpool Grand
 Bristol Old Vic
 Buxton Opera House
 Crewe Lyceum
 Derby Theatre
 Gulbenkian Theatre
 HOME Manchester
 Lighthouse Poole
 Lyric Theatre Belfast
 Lyric Theatre Hammersmith
 Mayflower Studios Southampton
 North Wall Oxford
 Nottingham Playhouse

Partner Theatre

Pitlochry Festival Theatre
 Queen's Theatre Hornchurch
 Royal & Derngate
 Sherman Theatre
 Soho Theatre
 Southwark Playhouse
 The Garage Norwich
 The Lowry Salford
 Theatre Peckham
 Theatre Royal Plymouth
 TramShed
 Trinity Theatre Tunbridge Wells
 Washington Arts Centre
 Worcester Theatres
 York Theatre Royal
 Director's Weekend) bursaries