

**PRESS RELEASE – 11 NOVEMBER 2015**

**SARAH DERBYSHIRE APPOINTED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF ORCHESTRAS LIVE**

Sarah Derbyshire MBE has today been announced as the new Chief Executive of national music charity Orchestras Live. She joins the organisation in January 2016, following the departure of Henry Little to Opera Rara in December 2015.

In a wide-ranging career in the arts and voluntary sector, Sarah has played a key role in working to ensure that high quality live performance is made accessible to all sections of society, and especially those facing restrictions due to disability, illness, economic or social isolation; and in supporting the education and career development of young musicians.

In September 2015, Sarah launched a report into the current status of music education: *Musical Routes: A New Landscape for Music Education*, in partnership with the Royal Philharmonic Society. She is currently acting as consultant to CapeUK (the Bridge organisation for Yorkshire and the Humber), developing a Local Cultural Education Partnership for Kirklees.

Sarah had a long association with Live Music Now, which she led for ten years as the UK Executive Director, followed by a period as the Managing Director of the National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain. She is Chair of NYMAZ (the young people's music development charity for North Yorkshire) and a Board member of Jazz North. She is also a trustee of the Mayfield Valley Arts Trust and has recently joined the Board of the University of York Music Press.

Sarah Derbyshire said: *"I am delighted to be joining Orchestras Live. The organisation plays a vital role in ensuring that the thrill of live orchestral performance is widely accessible. Its record in reaching and fostering new audiences, as well as inspiring and encouraging children and young people on their musical path, is unsurpassed. It will be a privilege to work with such a fantastic team of Board, staff and partners to safeguard and develop this work."*

Speaking about the appointment, Orchestras Live's Chairman, Mark Bromley, added: *"I'm pleased to announce, in our 50th anniversary year, that Sarah is joining Orchestras Live as its new Chief Executive. Her broad experience is going to be invaluable in finding new and innovative ways to inspire, motivate and empower the widest range of people through excellent live orchestral music. The Board, the staff team and myself are looking forward to working with her immensely."*

**- ENDS -**

Notes to Editors:

1. For more information, contact Matt Carwardine-Palmer, Communications Consultant on 07791 465524 or email [matt@orchestraslive.org.uk](mailto:matt@orchestraslive.org.uk)
2. Orchestras Live is a national music charity, and is unique within the orchestral sector. Its partnerships with British orchestras, local authorities, music education hubs and other promoters ensure that people from all backgrounds have the opportunity to participate in and enjoy the highest quality orchestral provision, regardless of their age or geographical location. This year, it celebrates 50 years of delivering unique and high quality live orchestral music experiences to a vast range of communities across England.