

ORCHESTRAS *Live*



Our Impact: **Highlights from 2022**

Our work and its impact

We are a national producer co-curating projects for communities to access inspiring orchestral experiences.

Our mission is to ensure everyone can enjoy the benefits of live orchestral music, regardless of their background. Our work inspires people's creativity, nurtures their potential, improves individuals' health and wellbeing, as well as supporting ambition and invigorating communities, and building relationships and partnerships across the country.

We work with communities in England, particularly in non-metropolitan, rural and coastal areas. Our projects take place in a range of locations including schools, care homes, community centres, arts venues, museums, outdoors and online.

At the heart of our work is a "with" not "for" approach – we don't helicopter in with the finished project. We act as the creative intermediary between our partners, audiences, participants, and artists; enabling them to make work that is most relevant for them.

Our model of work ensures that new ideas are embraced, and sustainable relationships are built between professional orchestras, audiences, community groups and local partners including local authorities, music education hubs and health and social care providers.

Each of our projects is driven by at least one of the following aims:



Community collaboration

Supporting local people to design orchestral events and experiences that are relevant and inspiring for their communities.



Inspiring children and young people

Providing vital opportunities for children and young people to engage with live orchestral music for the first time and support their musical progression.



Workforce development

Investing in training for music leaders and musicians, and nurturing new talent entering the sector.



Improving health and wellbeing

Creating projects that use the power of live music to support individuals to live well and engage fully in their communities.



Community collaboration: We Have to Move On

We Have to Move On was a living history project inspired by the memoir of Fritz Ball, a Jewish lawyer and musician who fled Nazi Germany with his family and lived with other refugees at what is now the National Horseracing Museum, in Newmarket, Suffolk.

This composition and performance project brought together several partner organisations, including Suffolk Archives and Britten Sinfonia. It focused on enriching people's understanding of their local history through music, words, and dance, providing creative opportunities to discover and reflect on challenges faced by refugees past and present.



Photo by Simon Lee

Partner perspective



This has been very much a partnership project. I had seen two previous projects of Orchestras Live's and was so impressed with them. I thought if I ever get an opportunity to do a project that could have a musical element, I'd love to see if Orchestras Live would work on it. This was just the perfect opportunity, because of Fritz being a cellist; he writes so much in his memoir about how important music is to him.

The main thing that I've learnt is the impact that creative opportunities can have, particularly on young people. I remember the first day we had together where we filmed Fritz's memoir extracts to camera and had the first live performance with Britten Sinfonia musicians. Seeing the opportunity we'd been able to give them [the students from Newmarket Academy] and to really see their confidence grow throughout the day, which was reported back by their teachers. They were glowing by the end of it.

The creative activity brought the story all to life; they were doing something active not just having a story told to them. They were an active part of the telling of that story. I hope that means more people will have engaged with the story as a result.

The project would have looked totally different if we hadn't worked with Orchestras Live. It was a very ambitious idea, and we wouldn't have had the first clue where to start. It is nerve-racking to produce something like this when there's a lot of people involved and it's complicated and it's live; to know that we had a really experienced partner who does this sort of thing all the time, gave me confidence to know we could achieve it.

Hannah Salisbury, Suffolk Archives





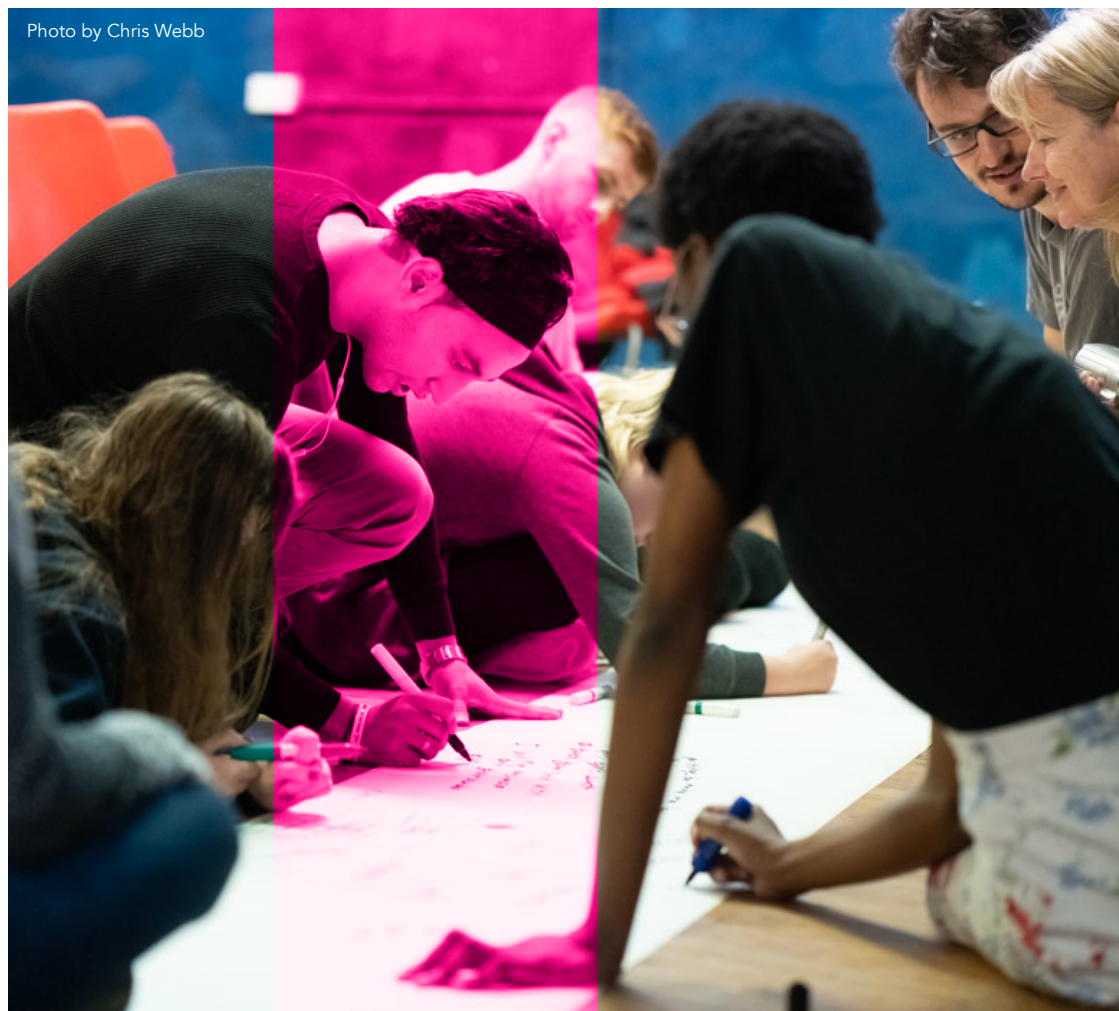
Inspiring children and young people: Destinies

A music theatre and film performance project exploring journeys, Destinies was made with young people with past and current lived experience of the care system, including unaccompanied asylum seekers in Derbyshire. The project enabled participants to thrive socially, emotionally and personally through their artistic journey, supported by musicians from Sinfonia Viva.

Initially a series of workshops, we reimaged the project into an online experience during the pandemic, enabling isolated and vulnerable young people to reconnect with others, to explore their own creativity and to celebrate their personal journeys and stories.

The project was a multi-partner collaboration bringing together a number of different arts and education organisations and involved professional musicians and creative mentors.

Photo by Chris Webb



Partner perspective



Lots of the young people had only recently arrived in the UK and so everyone's spoken English was at different points of development. We didn't have a shared language as such within the group. It was really interesting to see how music can work in that setting.

The theme being something about a journey... we were very aware as a team that could have been very difficult for some of the young people. It was really interesting that people were able to share their own journey or that of others they had met along the way, through creative writing or song writing. It felt like the young people that we worked with could explore and share some of those things in a safe environment in a way where they felt protected to do so.

We had complete consistency of musicians across the project who saw the whole programme through. The connections they made with the young people allowed them to build confidence and trust...it has been extraordinary to see the impact on the young people of seeing the musicians playing together.

We definitely made something that we wouldn't have made if we hadn't been working together in partnership, which for me is the most exciting part of this work. It was really beneficial to the whole programme that we did have different skills and experiences working together.

It feels like there is a shared understanding that what we are trying to do is not just deliver our own ambitions, but work together to deliver something that matters to the community.

When you work with someone for a long time, they understand your work and they push you to be better and more innovative and to keep seeking the next exciting thing, which we get from our partnership with Orchestras Live.

Marianne Barraclough, Sinfonia Viva





Workforce development: Trainee Music Leader Programme

The Trainee Music Leader Programme provides a year's paid, practical experience for a creative and skilled musician based in the North of England, giving opportunities for creative music making in community settings.

Delivered in partnership with Spitalfields Music, each year, the programme aims to nurture, support, and mentor emerging music leaders, widen the pool of talent, and retain skills at a local level. It is accompanied by a Skills Lab Academy, a professional training course for musicians to develop their creative practice with leading professionals.



Photo by Becky West

Participant perspective



The trainee position has been a unique opportunity for me to observe and support different music leaders and be supported in the early stages of my own journey as a music leader.

I've been able to have many conversations about what it means to have the role of music leader, the responsibilities involved, reflections on my personal values and more. And it's been so valuable for me to connect with Alice [the previous Orchestras Live Trainee]. As two freelance musicians and music leaders both based in Manchester, having her support and advice has shaped my own experience massively.

I hadn't previously worked much with Special Educational Needs or Disability groups, but everyone was incredibly welcoming, and I was able to get stuck in and see how James [a professional music leader] tailored the activities to suit all participants' needs and abilities. The sessions felt friendly and informal, and there was a beautiful moment when James gave everyone the chance to solo on the big drum as he accompanied on the piano. The students loved this activity! One student, who was mostly non-verbal and had been less engaged during the session suddenly noticed that James was matching her rhythms on the piano, then burst into joyful laughter and started testing him out with different rhythms and speeds on the drum. It was a brilliant moment of musical connection to witness.

My confidence, knowledge and skills, and identity as a music leader have developed beyond recognition thanks to the wealth of experiences and support that I've had over the traineeship.

Raye Harvey, Trainee Music Leader 2022





Improving health and wellbeing: Creative Journeys

Creative Journeys celebrated the creative contribution of older people in society. The intergenerational project brought together young carers from Kool Carers and adults diagnosed with early-onset dementia as well as older people from Peaceful Place in Basildon, to support their wellbeing through musical creativity and exploration workshops.

The two groups came together in workshops to create a new song for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which was performed on an outdoor stage during the Jubilee celebration weekend in June 2022.

This was a collaborative project, led by the participants, together with a team of Sinfonia Viva musicians and local musicians.



Participant perspective



What a beautiful and memorable afternoon, which clearly touched so many people's hearts. Our Kool Carers loved the fact that your Peaceful people were at the front of the stage watching and encouraging their performances with smiles and waving. One of my young carers approached me and asked whether we would be coming back to Peaceful Place again. I said I sincerely hoped so and she responded with, "So do I. It has changed my life and I have lots of new friends."

A participant from Peaceful Place was so moved by the group improvisations she jumped up and started dancing. It was observed by her support worker that her involuntary shaking (a symptom from a long-term illness) subsided when she was dancing and moving to the music. This experience gave a strong case for her to be put forward for music therapy which was an incredible breakthrough and outcome of the project.

This has been a truly magical project, the sharing and nurturing of talents, which enabled every young carer and Peaceful Place member to really shine today, a result of the dedication and kindness shown by you all.

Rachel Turngate, Kool Carers



Future plans

As we enter 2023, we set a new path for the organisation, developing and implementing regional strategies to deepen impact, engage with new people and explore new ways of creating, performing, and presenting orchestral experiences.

Our Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation uplift will enable us to deliver a three-year strategy, which tests and develops new ideas and ways of working, as well as extending our influence and leadership within the orchestral sector.

Innovation:

- Investing in three Community Impact Coordinator roles to deepen our work in new communities, forging partnerships in places where cultural investment has been low, but where civic ambition is high.
- Researching and developing the use of live made-for-film screenings and event cinema through a Virtual Touring Network.
- Continuing to give equal value to performance and engagement work, both in terms of organisational and artistic priorities.

Leadership:

- Advocating for the role of music in improving the population's health and wellbeing and championing community co-creation.
- Providing bespoke consultancy services for a range of external stakeholders.
- Driving positive change in the orchestral sector through our Regenerate series of debates and events.

2023 sets Orchestras Live on a path of growth – for the organisation, for our audiences and participants, and for the orchestral sector itself.



Who we work with

Strategic Funders

These funders enabled us to achieve our strategic aims:

- Arts Council England
- The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
- Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
- Foyle Foundation
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Scops Arts Trust

Project Funders

These funders enabled individual projects to take place in specific regions or with specific audiences:

- The Association of Jewish Refugees
- The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust
- The B O Davies Charitable Trust
- Chapman Charitable Trust
- Chivers Trust
- Creative Darlington
- Discover Brightwater/National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Fowler Smith and Jones Trust
- Ganzoni Charitable Trust
- The Joseph and Annie Cattle Trust
- The Leche Trust
- The Mayfield Valley Arts Trust
- North Walsham HAZ Cultural Consortium/Historic England
- Peter Sowerby Foundation
- Postcode Community Trust
- The Rotary Club of Redcar
- The Weston Culture Fund
- The Wixamtree Trust

Artistic Partners

These orchestras worked with us to produce and deliver our projects:

- Academy of Ancient Music
- BBC Concert Orchestra
- BBC Philharmonic Orchestra
- Britten Sinfonia
- Chineke! Foundation
- City of London Sinfonia
- English Chamber Orchestra
- The English Concert
- Hallé Concerts Society
- House of Absolute
- La Serenissima
- London Mozart Players
- London Sinfonietta
- Manchester Camerata
- Manchester Collective
- Multi-Story Orchestra
- Music in the Round
- Northern Chamber Orchestra
- Opera North
- Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment
- Orchestra of the Swan
- Philharmonia Orchestra
- River Rea Films
- Royal Northern Sinfonia
- Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
- Sinfonia Verdi
- Sinfonia Viva
- South Asian Arts UK

Consultancy partners:

- Creative Oundle
- Multi-Story Orchestra
- North East Music Hubs
- University of Nottingham - DigiScore / Robotic AI
- Royal Northern Sinfonia

Producer Partners

These partners helped us produce and develop our projects:

- The Apex, Bury St Edmunds
- Ava Hunt Theatre
- Babergh District Council
- BarrowFull
- Bolsover District Council
- Broadland District Council
- Buxton International Festival
- Colchester Arts Centre
- The Courtyard, Hereford
- Cumbria Music Education Hub
- Darlington Hippodrome
- Derbyshire County Council
- Discover Brightwater
- Durham & Darlington Music Education Hub
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council
- Enjoy Great Yarmouth (Cultural Education Partnership)
- Essex County Council
- Essex Music Education Hub
- The Forum, Barrow
- Hippodrome Circus Theatre, Great Yarmouth
- Inspire Culture (Nottinghamshire Music Education Hub)
- Inspire Youth Arts
- John Armitage Memorial Trust (JAM)
- Kool Carers
- Lakeside Arts Centre, Nottingham
- Leicestershire Music
- Lincolnshire Music Service
- Marina Theatre Trust (Lowestoft)
- Mid Suffolk District Council
- The Mix (Luton Music Education Hub)

- National Horseracing Museum
- Norfolk Music Education Hub
- North Norfolk District Council
- Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust
- Nottingham Theatre Royal and Royal Concert Hall
- NYMAZ
- Peaceful Place (Basildon)
- Peterborough Music Hub
- Redcar & Cleveland Council
- Selby District Council
- Selby High Street Action Zone & Towns Fund
- Selby Town Council
- Sheringham Little Theatre
- South Holland District Council
- Spitalfields Music
- Suffolk Archives
- Suffolk Music Education Hub
- Tees Valley Music Service
- Thaxted Festival
- Turner Sims, Southampton
- Wiltshire Music Centre

Co-investing Partners

These partners supported activity in their local area:

- Cambridgeshire Music
- Cumbria County Council
- Ipswich Regent Theatre
- King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council
- Redcar and Cleveland Council
- Uttlesford District Council
- West Suffolk Council

ORCHESTRAS *Live*

Orchestras Live believes orchestras are for everyone. We are a national producer and co-create projects where music and creativity can thrive. We work in and with communities across the country to ensure access to world-class orchestral experiences.

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Photo by Becky West



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