

## **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment receives lifeline grant from Government's £1.57bn Culture Recovery Fund**

The OAE has been awarded £75,000 as part of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund (CRF) to help face the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and to ensure they have a sustainable future, the Culture Secretary has announced today.

The OAE is one of 1,385 cultural and creative organisations across the country receiving urgently needed support. £257 million of investment has been announced today as part of the very first round of the Culture Recovery Fund grants programme being administered by Arts Council England. Further rounds of funding in the cultural and heritage sector are due to be announced over the coming weeks.

The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment is one of the world's leading period instrument orchestras and was founded and governed by its players in 1986. Since then it has established major artistic relationships with many of the world's greatest cultural centres. It is Resident at The Southbank Centre and Glyndebourne Opera Festival and Artistic Associate at Kings Place, performing throughout the UK. Alongside its concert performances, the OAE has a well-established programme of educational and community engagement that stretches from County Durham to the South Coast. This funding provides essential support to help the organisation withstand the devastating impact of the loss of box office revenue from closed theatres and disrupted touring both in the UK and overseas. The OAE has been committed to maintaining as much Covid-19 safe alternative activity as possible, making a significant investment in digital engagement with the release of their new digital platform OAE Player on 22 October 2020, and, thanks to this vital grant, is able to continue its artistic mission, and, crucially, provide much needed employment for its player community.

### **Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said:**

"This funding is a vital boost for the theatres, music venues, museums and cultural organisations that form the soul of our nation. It will protect these special places, save jobs and help the culture sector's recovery.

"These places and projects are cultural beacons the length and breadth of the country. This unprecedented investment in the arts is proof this government is here for culture, with further support to come in the days and weeks ahead so that the culture sector can bounce back strongly."

### **Chair, Arts Council England, Sir Nicholas Serota, said:**

"Theatres, museums, galleries, dance companies and music venues bring joy to people and life to our cities, towns and villages. This life-changing funding will save thousands of cultural spaces loved by local communities and international audiences. Further funding is still to be announced and we are working hard to support our sector during these challenging times."

### **OAE Chief Executive, Crispin Woodhead, says:**

“This grant is wonderful and it is a matter of immense pride that such a great effort has been made to support so many other cultural organisations around the country as well. I am, on behalf of the OAE, deeply grateful to the Arts Council and DCMS for what they have done. The OAE has just commenced a landmark long-term residency at Acland Burghley School, a comprehensive in London’s Tufnell Park. Every pound that we have been granted is a pound granted also to the education of the young people in our new community. I am overjoyed.”

### **Notes to Editors**

**Arts Council England** is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in [Let’s Create](#) that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

[www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million **Emergency Response Package**, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of several bodies administering the Government’s **Culture Recovery Fund** and unprecedented support package of £1.57 billion for the culture and heritage sector. Find out more at [www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19)