



OUR NATIONAL PORTFOLIO, 2018-22

# Music Narrative



The 2015-18 music portfolio comprises 94 organisations and an investment of £91.2 million per annum (25 per cent of the total portfolio spend), and the proposed 2018-22 portfolio is 102 organisations and an investment of £92 million (22 per cent of the total spend). This increase of eight organisations represents an 8.5 per cent increase to the music portfolio. This artform now makes up 12 per cent of the overall portfolio, compared to 13 per cent in the 2015-18 portfolio.

England's musical landscape is immensely, gloriously wide. Across a broad range of genres, styles and situations, there are a wealth of opportunities for people of all backgrounds to enjoy, perform and make music. The country has a worldwide reputation for musical quality and innovation, from top selling popular artists to our internationally renowned orchestras and opera companies.

Arts Council England's investment in music seeks to support and develop this reputation across a wealth of genres. While the Arts Council's investment is relatively small compared to the total value of the music sector in England, we seek to make appropriate and meaningful investments that support innovation, diversity and access. We want to see our investment reach a wide range of people and exploit music's ability to transcend social and cultural backgrounds.

Working alongside our network of Music Education Hubs, funded by the Department for Education, our National Portfolio Organisations make a strong contribution to developing musicians of the future, supporting the delivery of high quality music education for children and young people, and offering a broad range of talent development pathways.

The 2018-22 portfolio continues our approach to funding a wide variety of genres and organisations of different scale. In classical music, we have maintained investment in internationally regarded orchestras and large scale opera. We are readmitting English National Opera to the portfolio after three years of concerted work by the board to develop a more robust business model. As well as a focus on maintaining quality, there is some evidence of an attitudinal shift in addressing the Creative Case for Diversity from classical organisations, particularly through education and outreach programmes. We expect over the next four years to see that shift start to be reflected across the entire programme of these National Portfolio Organisations.

Diversity has been a key driver in awarding uplifts and deciding on new entrants to the portfolio. In the South West, new entrants Paraorchestra and Friends and OpenUp Music will enhance our support for inclusive music making, particularly in the use of new technology. In London, Black and minority ethnic led broadcaster NTS Live joins with a talent development programme that will make full use of its international audience reach and radical programming across a range of contemporary genres. Readipop in Reading and Plymouth Music Zone take a place based approach to talent development, ensuring opportunities are open to a wide variety of people.

Other new entrants show our commitment to supporting a wide range of genres and artform practice. These include contemporary music promoter Capsule in Birmingham and SoundCity in Liverpool. Leicester's Indian classical arts organisation, Darbar, will receive additional funding to increase their artistic and digital output as well as to broaden audience reach. We have increased our

investment in both Manchester Jazz Festival and Jazz re:freshed to support the diversification of jazz artists and audiences.

There is a strong children and young people offer across the portfolio, with good examples of involvement at a strategic level with Music Education Hubs and the Cultural Education Challenge. There are also excellent participatory opportunities created by high profile organisations and smaller, locally based organisations working in contemporary genres.

MORE INFORMATION:  
[artscouncil.org.uk/npo](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/npo)

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