



Orchestra Tax Relief Consultation  
Enterprise and Property Tax Team  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

4 March 2015

Dear Sirs,

### **Orchestra Tax Relief Consultation**

Arts Council England is not proposing to respond on its own account to the tax relief eligibility questions – definitions, qualifications etc – that the consultation poses. We can draw attention to the broader concerns of the sector, and, in particular, the potential risks associated with confining the relief to a single, specific constituency.

We understand that a number of orchestras will be responding and we are keen to offer HM Treasury our assistance in reviewing these responses and drawing effective solutions that will be to the advantage of Government and to classical music producers and consumers. We have also provided financial support for the ABO to gather evidence to inform its response, and endorse the conclusions the ABO has reached.

We see this consultation as an opportunity for the classical music sector and others to demonstrate the range of definitions and qualifications that might be adopted in response to the consultation's questions. We wish to stress that the tax relief should aim to be as broad as possible: we feel that in order to gain wide support and to ensure that this relief is not seen as an elite measure, the relief should support a wide range of ensembles including those that specialise in contemporary and non-Western repertoire, thereby appealing to a broader range of audiences.

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Additionally there is the interconnected nature of a musician's career; with many musicians playing in classical, contemporary, rock, jazz, fusion and world ensembles. To implement a relief that focuses on a narrow, 'traditional' definition of an orchestra would go against the increasingly diverse, flexible and fluid nature of the sector.

We are prepared to offer you any support or advice you require in further developing the tax relief's definitions and qualifications and would welcome the opportunity to discuss the advantages and disadvantages to the wider music sector of any propositions as they develop.

Yours sincerely,

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