

Making classical music open to everyone

What we think of our report



Easy read booklet

About this booklet



We are **Arts Council England**. We support arts and culture in the UK.



We believe classical music is important.



We made a report to say why we think things need to change in classical music.



This booklet tells you what we think of our report.

What we want for classical music



We have some really good orchestras and conductors. These are the people who make classical music happen.



Our orchestras perform all over the world.



Orchestras also

- give jobs to a lot of musicians.
- reach a lot of people in concert halls and theatres.
- reach young people in schools and colleges.



Classical music makes a lot of people happy but we want to bring classical music to even more people.

How to bring classical music to more people



We want classical music to get more money from **public funds**. This is money that comes from taxes and the National Lottery.



We want everyone to get the chance to experience and enjoy classical music. This includes people who might be from a different

- background or culture
- area of the UK.



We want classical music to be for

- disabled people.
- people from different genders.



We know that learning to play an instrument might not be possible for a lot of people. We want to make it easier for more people to take part and learn to play.

What is in our report



We will use the learning in our report to find ways to change who takes part in classical music.



We are working together with other groups to make this happen. For example, we are working with

- Association of British Orchestras
- Musician's Union
- Conservatoires UK – this is where young people study music
- BBC
- Paraorchestra – this is an orchestra for disabled musicians
- Chineke! Orchestra – this is an orchestra for people of colour
- Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.



We want to thank everyone who helped us to find out more.

What we found out



We worked with a data company to look at the numbers of people who take part in classical music and where they come from.



This learning and data tells us a lot about

- children who start to play music.
- adults who go on to play classical music as a job.



We found out that lots of people don't have access to learn classical music. This can be because they don't

- grow up with this kind of music.
- have the money for music lessons.

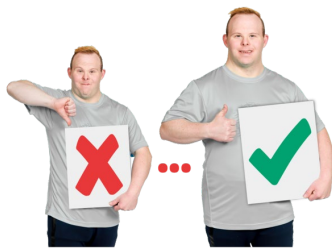


Learning to play an instrument is not an option for a lot of people from different backgrounds and places.

More about what we found out



We found out that girls play classical music but then don't always go on to get a job in classical music.



A lot of what we found out is not a surprise. But it does mean that things have to change.

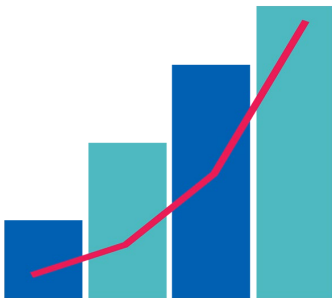


We have tried to change things in the past. For example we have

- worked in education and with National Youth Orchestras.
- worked with the Paraorchestra to get more disabled people involved in classical music.
- supported Black Lives in Music.
- worked with other classical music groups to put more money into bringing classical music to more people.



What we need to do



1. Support more young people to take part in classical music.
2. Look at how people experience classical music at home.
3. Work with classical music organisations, including ballet and opera.
4. Work with music education hubs so more children can take part at school.
5. Get more data and information on what is happening in classical music and in society.
6. Support more people from different backgrounds who don't usually take part.
7. Increase support for individuals and freelancers.
8. Build a strong working group of people who care about classical music.
9. Share our report with as many groups and organisations as we can.

URAF-1 17, 8 September 2021
**CREATING A FAIRER AND MORE INCLUSIVE
CLASSICAL MUSIC SECTOR FOR ENGLAND**

Arts Council England believes strongly in the value and importance of classical music. Our outstanding orchestras and ensembles – and the thousands of instrumentalists, conductors, composers, and other professionals who bring this music to life – are a vital, vibrant, and versatile part of the creative sector of the country. This music is a significant part of the soundtrack to our lives. From our favourite festival performances and radio games to the ensembles supporting the West End, BBC Proms, and the thousands of classical music concerts that take place across this country every year.

England's orchestras and ensembles perform all over the world and are a major contributor to our global reputation for cultural innovation and excellence. They are also major employers that contribute to the economic prosperity of towns and cities across this country. Their work reaches and engages millions of people in concert halls and theatres, communities and schools, and digitally.

As with all the arts, classical music opens doors to a world of inspiration, creativity, enjoyment, and employment. It delights and moves us, and helps us make sense of the world. These are the reasons that, from our foundation, the Arts Council has invested significantly in classical music and the orchestras, ensembles and opera and ballet companies that create and perform it. And, going forward, we plan to continue to invest significantly.

Classical music brings pleasure and inspiration to millions of people in this country. We do not subscribe to the view that there are limitations to the appeal of classical music. We believe it can and should reach even more people. We think it is especially important that all cultural organisations seeking public funding should focus on inspiring interest and work to be as open and as accessible to the youngest and least players who ultimately provide them with the support they need to continue their work. In other words, we want public bodies, cultural organisations in this country to make more to more people. That includes giving everyone the opportunity to be part of the world of classical music.

We believe an important first step in making that happen is that those who work in the classical music sector should become more representative of England today – in terms of geography, disability, ethnicity, gender, and socio-economic background. We recognise that the skills needed to perform in – or create music for – orchestras and other ensembles are not acquired overnight. The choice to learn an instrument

Thank you to A2i for the words
www.a2i.co.uk (reference 34129)

The full version of this document is called
“Response to Fairer Inclusive Classical
Music Report”