

BBC PERFORMING ARTS FUND AWARDS OVER £200,000 TO CHOIRS AROUND THE UK

The BBC Performing Arts Fund, in association with Making Music, has awarded over £200,000 to choirs and singing groups from around the UK through its Choral Ambition scheme.

From the 350 applications that were received, 98 choirs – with a total of almost 6,000 choir members between them – will receive funding. This funding will go towards 14 commissions of new music and 84 projects including training for choirs and choir leaders; workshops open to the public to attract new members; support to tackle ambitious new repertoires and support to put on large scale events.

Roger Wright, Controller, BBC Radio 3, Director of the BBC Proms and Trustee of the Fund said: "The recent increased interest in singing and choral activity is exciting and this new initiative from the Performing Arts Fund is therefore particularly timely. These grants will help choirs develop and expand their range of work and increase their engagement with their local communities."

Robin Osterley, Chief Executive, Making Music said: "Making Music was delighted to be able to help the BBC Performing Arts Fund with Choral Ambition and of course it is marvellous that the programme has been so brilliantly successful. Many congratulations to the PAF and to the winners, many of them Making Music members, who have come up with such a diverse and interesting range of projects. As a result of this programme we expect to see the world of choral singing expanding even further, with hundreds of new singers, better trained choirs, and a range of new musical opportunities."

Aled Jones, presenter of The Choir, BBC Radio 3 said: "Funding for training and development as well as commissioning of new music can sometimes be out of the grasp of amateur choirs. With the help of the BBC Performing Arts Fund, this scheme means that choirs across the country will be able to learn new skills, attract new members, revitalise their existing membership and help even more people enjoy the benefits of singing."

Francesca Lasman from Vox Rocks, a choir based in St Neots in Cambridgeshire said: "We are thrilled to have the grant from the BBC, which will give us the opportunity to really engage boys in singing in harmony, not with traditional choral music but with specially arranged rock numbers which are on their wavelength, and, having hooked them, then moving on to other styles. We have already booked the ACM gospel choir for a workshop in February half term!"

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NOTE TO EDITORS

The BBC Performing Arts Fund helps aspiring music-makers and performers looking for a way to get ahead.

The BBC Performing Arts Fund is a registered charity, number 1101276. The charity (formerly Fame Academy Bursary Trust) was set up in 2003 within the BBC.

The Fund receives revenue from the voting lines of BBC One entertainment programmes that seek to find new performing talent (including Fame Academy, How Do you Solve a Problem Like Maria? and I'd Do Anything).

To date the fund has allocated £2.4m to fund young musicians, from a range of genres, to help them pursue their careers in music.

Our mission is to seek out and support excellent aspiring performers and those directly supporting performing artists, who for reasons of lack of existing opportunity, personal background or circumstance, would not have been able to achieve their most ambitious goals, or their talent's greatest potential without the Fund's support or intervention.

Making Music, the National Federation of Music Societies, is one of the largest arts umbrella organisations in the UK, representing and supporting over 2,800 voluntary music groups. Its members include choirs, orchestras, music promoters, jazz and wind bands, community festivals, samba groups, sitar ensembles, barbershop choruses and brass bands. It provides a comprehensive range of financial, artistic and administrative services, as well as development and training opportunities to member groups. Making Music also lobbies on behalf of its members to national and local government and other agencies. Collectively, Making Music's 200,000 musicians and music lovers present around 10,000 concerts each year to an audience of 1.6 million people.

www.makingmusic.org.uk

Wales

Choir	Area	Amount	Project
Côr Merched Canna	Cardiff	£2,655	Commission Gareth Glyn to create 8 minute modular work for female choir with piano based on selected text from Under Milk Wood translated into Welsh
Cantemus Chamber Choir	Cardiff	£1,965	Weekend of workshops introducing choir to Cuban music
Côr ABC	Aberystwyth	£1,460	Vocal workshops with external coach, some open to the public
Cowbridge Choral Society	Cowbridge	£550	Open event which is part workshop and part 'Come & Sing' to encourage new potential members to have a go
Ebbw Vale Male Choir	Ebbw Vale	£2,500	Support to work with professional soloists and an orchestra to put on event to mark 160 th anniversary of choir featuring musical journey through history of male voice choir music.
Nidus Children's Choir	Cwmbran	£2,820	Choral Excellence workshops for the children With professional conductors

Northern Ireland

Choir	Area	Amount	Project
Cantiunculae	Belfast	£4,000	Workshops leading to a performance of the Byrd and Vivaldi's 'Gloria' with an orchestra for the first time and featuring past and present choir members

Scotland

Choir	Area	Amount	Project
Helensburgh Dorian Choir	Helensburgh	£2,375	Commission of new work by young composer (tbc) to celebrate Diamond Jubilee of the choir
Granite City Chorus (Aberdeen Barbershop Harmony Club)	Aberdeen	£860	Learn to Sing course to attract new members with a public performance at the end.
Phoenix Singers	Edinburgh	£619	Workshops with professional singers to prepare for performance in June

North East England

Choir	Area	Amount	Project
Antiphon	Northumberland	£3,500	Commission based on prayers and stories of Northumbria by various local composers and in collaboration with choir through improvisation
Chester le Street Civic Choir	Chester le Street, Co Durham	£1,200	Training for new and existing choir members by expert vocal trainer which will lead to improved vocal technique and confidence
North Yorkshire Chorus	North Yorkshire	£1,645	Come and Sing day to attract new members in run up to performance of The Armed Man
Ripon Youth Chorus	Ripon	£500	Workshops and marketing in order to recruit more primary aged children
Sheffield Chorale	Sheffield	£3,825	Come and Sing Day with 2 expert Vocal Coaches leading to performances with orchestra and soloists of Haydn's Nelson Mass and Handel's

			Coronation Anthems
Sheffield Young Singers	Sheffield	£4,000	Record and publish the Sheffield Songbook to make available to wider audience; Leading to 6-8 choirs across Sheffield taking part in workshops and a performance
Voicemale Men's Choir	North Tyneside	£1,000	Workshops with external vocal coach to develop skills and presentation
The White Rosettes (Leeds Ladies Barbershop Harmony Club)	Leeds	£2,300	Coaching sessions with US Coach and open masterclass in harmony singing

North West England

Choir	Area	Amount	Project
Amabile Girls' Choir	Lancaster	£3,260	Commission of song cycle for treble choir (composer – Melody Rowe)
Chester Bach Singers	Chester	£2,550	Performance project bringing together youth choir, community group, student string quartet and previous choir members to perform new work in June 2010 at the Ribchester Festival
Metropolitan Cathedral Cantata Choir	Liverpool	£1,980	Sightreading and vocal technique workshops for community groups; ABCD training for conductor; community singing workshops with other local groups.
A Handbag of Harmonies	Chester	£2,500	workshops to develop vocal skills leading to 10th anniversary concert
Hope and Harmony	Liverpool	£2,090	Training and workshops for MD and choir in new genres and improvisation leading to linked community

			performance and workshops in Toxteth
Isle of Man Choral Society	Isle of Man	£4,000	Hold a 'Choral Week' open to all choirs, other amateur singers and the wider community with visiting choral experts, conductors and animatuers leading to a large community event
Mersey Harmony	Liverpool	£2,300	Training for Choir with Sense of Sound workshops; training for MD; leading to free performance in city centre with other choirs.
Ormskirk Music Society	Ormskirk, Lancs	£1,050	Workshops for improving the vocal technique of the choir with other local choir members invited
Stockport Libery Belles	Stockport	£1,500	Training for MD; Workshops with American Sweet Adelines Expert
Tongue Tribe	Barrow in Furness/ Kendal	£3,820	Body percussion and vocal workshops; training for MDs and 5 performances across venues in Cumbria
Wigan Community Choir	Wigan	£1,730	Workshop led by Sense of Sound targeting diverse range of members of public followed by concert for friends and family

Midlands

Choir	Area	Amount	Project
Phoenix Singers	Leek, Staffs	£4,520	Commission Barry Russell to compose new work for adult, children's and community choir to work together, to be premiered in July 2010
Derwent Singers	Derby	£1,100	Come and Sing event in April 2010 at local

			school leading to a performance aimed at recruiting new members
Ensemble 1685	Coventry	£2,200	Workshops to expand choir's repertoire of Renaissance music leading to a performance
Fiori Musicali	Northamptonshire	£2,975	Get South Northants Singing workshops leading to a concert
Hampton Singers	Solihull	£1,995	Joint workshops with local community choir and chamber choir leading to performance of Karl Jenkins' Armed Man
Kaleidoscope Community Choir	Derby	£2,581	6 linked workshops in order to put on their first solo concert
Kettering Camerata	Kettering	£1,750	Singing course of 5 workshops for choir and members of public with Jo McNally leading to informal concert aimed at new audiences
Stream of Sound	Stourbridge	£1,000	Train up young choir members to become choir leaders; Singing Day and workshop with external vocal coach; Final concert
The Telfordaires (Telford Barbershop Harmony Club)	Telford	£3,450	6 learning and developmental workshops plus a free concert open to the community
Wombourne and District Choral Society	South Staffs	£1,500	One day workshop open to all - leading to a free performance

East of England

Choir	Area	Amount	Project
Ipswich Choral	Ipswich	£5,000	Commission a new

Society			piece for choir, orchestra and community voices based on local theme. Composer (tbc)
Cadenza	Cambridge	£2,324	Create network of a cappella choirs to support and help existing and new choirs through workshops, outreach with schools and shared concerts
Eye Bach Choir	Eye, Suffolk	£2,500	Summer school for local adults and young people to attract new members, raise profile of choir and address challenges of rural isolation.
Market Rasen and District Choral Society	Market Rasen, Lincolnshire	£3,500	Day school with local schools and public leading to performance of A Sea Symphony with orchestra and soloists
Norwich Philharmonic Society	Norwich	£2,874	Workshops for young singers to take part in Verdi's Requiem; training for young conductor with guest Chorus Master
Vox Rocks	St Neots	£2,700	Recruitment drive to attract younger male singers through workshops with local schools and football club using rock repertoire
The Voice Project	Norwich	£2,500	Vocal Incentive weekend open to public including workshops on improvisation, composition, beatboxing and vocal techniques

London

Choir	Area	Amount	Project
Canticum	London	£3,500	Commission Simon Speare

			to create new piece for choir, soloists, children's choir and audience
London Bulgarian Choir	London	£4,900	Commission Kiril Todorov to create 6 songs including ones for children; with instruments and specifically for mixed folk choir for performance in Bulgaria and in London in September 2010
Orlando Chamber Choir	London	£500	Commission James Weeks to create first part of 20min a cappella vocal work as pilot for performance in June 2010
Second Chance Choir	Blackheath, London	£2,850	Commission John Webb to create a new 8-min piece for choir and piano with active collaboration from choir for performance in non-traditional venues
Voce Chamber Choir	London	£5,000	Commission new piece targeted at and marketed to younger audience for performance in Summer 2010. Composer tbc.
Capital Connection (West London Ladies Barbershop Harmony Club)	West London	£1,000	3 day training course in music skills at 'Harmony College' in Nottingham for 5 members.
City Chamber Choir	London	£570	Support to recruit new members in order to perform large and ambitious new repertoire in Summer 2010 in Southwark Cathedral.
Colliers Wood Chorus	Colliers Wood, London	£800	Training course for conductor and accompanist; 2 x vocal workshops for the choir.
Eclectic Voices	London	£2,000	Extra training in order to perform new commission with OPUS 20
English Chamber Choir	London	£4,000	Specialist workshops, 'study day' with composer Ivan Moody and a performance of new commission of companion

			piece to Te Teum (Antonio Teixeira)
Festival Chorus	London	£3,500	Workshops and training for choir in order to perform St Matthew's Passion for 1st time with another local choir and orchestra
Islington Choral Society	London	£500	Sightreading and vocal technique course for choir and for wider community
London Lucumi Choir	London	£4,000	Working with Brazilian dancers to showcase traditional Afro-Cuban songs in new settings with live performances
London Transport Choir	London	£2,150	Two open singing workshops with guest conductor/animatuer; training courses for conductor
Pegasus Opera Community Chorus	Brixton	£4,000	6 developmental workshops in preparation for performance of Treemonisha by Scott Joplin with professional company
Renaissance Singers	London	£3,595	Education project to select some renaissance polyphony not readily available and to make it accessible to other choirs
South London Singers	Beckenham, Kent	£550	Engage choral trainer to run three workshops one of which will be open to potential new members
Vasari Singers	London	£750	Community workshop in St Luke's Battersea to perform the choruses from Bach's B Minor Mass in advance of major concert in St Martin in the Fields
West Barnes Singers	London	£1,600	Two workshops with guest conductors to up-skill existing members and to attract new members

South East England

Choir	Area	Amount	Project
Brockham Choral Society	Brockham, Surrey	£1,250	Commission Guy Turner to create new

			piece 10-12 mins around theme of Around the World in 80 Mins to be workshopped and performed in May 2010
Voices Unlimited	Charlbury, Oxon	£4,500	Commission a piece devised and composed by 5 locally based artists around the theme of the railway to be performed in schools, church choirs, music groups
Wingrave Singers	Aylesbury, Bucks	£2,121	Commission Alexander Campkin to create new piece for a singers workshop in March 2010
Ashton Singers	Winchester, Hants	£1,750	Masterclasses and training for choir and conductor to prepare for series of events to mark the choir's 40 th anniversary
Berkhamsted Choral Society	Berkhamsted, Herts	£1,675	One day workshop open to other local choirs and wider community based on works of Chris Williams and leading to a free performance
Bishop's Stortford Choral Society	Bishop's Stortford, Herts	£500	Open workshops leading to 'scratch' performance
Crowborough Choral Society	Crowborough, Sussex	£1,510	Workshop for 3 local choirs with Scott Stroman and his choir with evening concert open to the public
East Sussex Bach Choir	Hailsham	£2,000	Workshops around the role of the conductor open to other local choirs and young conductors, leading to a performance

The English Arts Chorale	Reigate, Surrey	£1,850	3 singing days for existing choir members with leading experts focussing on sight-reading and vocal technique (final workshop open to members of the public)
Fleet Choral Society	Fleet, Hampshire	£1,850	12 sight-reading and vocal technique workshops to develop choir's skills
Guildford Harmony Ladies Barbershop Choir	Guildford, Surrey	£1,000	8 week learn to sing vocal training course to raise standards and attract new members and culminating in a performance
Harrow Philharmonic Choir	Harrow	£500	Workshops with specialist vocal coach to support challenging new programme for Spring 2010
Hastings Philharmonic Choir	Hastings, Sussex	£945	Choral Workshop and performance with Choir's French counterpart
Lemon Tuesday	Rickmansworth	£990	Workshops to develop choir's singing capabilities and performance techniques including exploring wider repertoire
Lord Williams' Festival Chorus	Aylesbury	£1,500	Collaboration between choir and dance department at local school with orchestra
Milton Glee Club	Portsmouth	£2,260	Community Choir Fundays to attract new members
Milton Keynes Chorale	Milton Keynes	£770	9 workshops with vocal trainer to develop skills of the choir
North Herts Guild	Hitchin, Herts	£1,000	6 week training

of Singers			course followed by performance
Rainbow Chorus	Brighton	£1,190	Intermediate and advance choral conducting courses for the MD
St Alban's Chamber Choir	St Alban's	£1,120	Choir development and technical expertise day long workshop led by external choral trainer and composer
Surrey Festival Choir	Surrey	£960	Vocal Coaching with Brenda Rattray in preparation for annual concert
The Sussex Harmonisers	Brighton	£860	6 'Learn to Sing Barbershop' workshops

South West England

Choir	Area	Amount	Project
Amici	Taunton, Somerset	£1,500	Notation classes and vocal technique training to young people to encourage them to join the choir
Bournemouth Symphony Chorus	Bournemouth, Dorset	£3,520	Family singing, sight-reading and vocal technique workshops open to the public
Exeter Bach Society	Exeter	£1,450	Vocal development day with experts open to the public targeted at hard to reach communities leading to performance
The Farrant Singers	Salisbury, Wiltshire	£800	All day event with intensive vocal coaching from high-profile conductor with the afternoon session open to the public and an evening performance
Great Western Chorus of Bristol	Bristol	£3,500	Intensive workshops for MD and Choir from US barbershop expert

A Handful of Singers	Bath	£4,000	Workshops and outreach with 2 local youth choirs, leading to performance with orchestra
Mendip Male Voice Choir	Bristol and Somerset	£2,000	Workshop with local schools and Bath Spa University to attract young members
Sherborne Festival Chorus	Sherborne, Dorset	£910	Workshops and performance of Elgar's The Kingdom, the most challenging work undertaken by the Choir to date.
Tintagel Orpheus Male Choir	Tintagel, Cornwall	£800	Spreading Our Song roadshow to recruit new members
Tyndale Choral Society	Dursley, Gloucestershire	£700	Run an Absolute Beginners Class to introduce would-be singers to choral music
Voices in Common	Okehampton, Devon	£2,659	Weekend residential course to explore new repertoire leading to performance