



The Mozartists receive lifeline grant from Government's £1.57bn Culture Recovery Fund

The Mozartists (formerly Classical Opera) has been awarded **£99,452** 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 Mozartists 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.

This funding is a vital lifeline for The Mozartists, who have faced mass performance cancellations and a painful financial blow as a result of Covid-19. This funding will play an important part in enabling the company to return to the concert platform with a programme of live and streamed performances from January 2021, enabling the company to continue its ground-breaking 27-year MOZART 250 project, which explores the works of Mozart and his contemporaries chronologically, exactly 250 years after they were composed.

CEO Debbie Coates says:

"These have been uniquely difficult times for our industry, and the knock-on effects both to our organisation and our talented freelance artists have been horrendous. This grant provides some light at the end of the tunnel, offering us a lifeline so that we can resume the presentation of world-class performances and generate vital work for our artists. We are immensely grateful for this show of support and confidence in our work."

Artistic director Ian Page says:

"We are deeply grateful for this grant, which provides a vital step in securing our survival and enabling us to return to live performances. We are particularly thankful that it will enable us to provide important work opportunities for our hugely talented singers and players, who have suffered so badly over the past seven months, and to welcome back our audiences and supporters, whom we have missed very much. This grant will make a huge difference to The Mozartists, and we will work indefatigably to make the most of the crucial springboard that it provides."

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."

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Notes to Editors

Arts Council England

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

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 for the culture and heritage sector. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19

The Mozartists

The Mozartists, under the dynamic leadership of conductor and artistic director **Ian Page**, are leading exponents of the music of Mozart and his contemporaries. Originally called **Classical Opera**, the company was founded in 1997, and has received widespread international acclaim for its stylish and virtuosic period-instrument orchestra, its imaginative and innovative programming, and its ability to nurture and develop world-class young artists.

The Mozartists have a prolific recording profile, and perform regularly at the UK's leading venues, including Wigmore Hall, the Barbican, Southbank Centre and Birmingham Town Hall; they have also toured to Germany, Austria, Italy, France, Greece and the Czech Republic. Renowned for their fresh and insightful interpretations of well-known masterpieces as well as for their ability to bring rare works to light, they have mounted staged productions of many of Mozart's operas, and have also given numerous UK premières, including Gluck's *La clemenza di Tito*, Telemann's *Orpheus*, Jommelli's *Il Vologeso*, Haydn's *Applausus* and Hasse's *Piramo e Tisbe*.

In 2015 the company launched MOZART 250, a ground-breaking 27-year project exploring the chronological trajectory of Mozart's life, works and influences. Described by *The Observer* as "among the most audacious classical music scheduling ever", this flagship project presents 250th anniversary performances of most of Mozart's important works, placing them in context alongside other significant works by Mozart's contemporaries.

Page and his ensemble are also celebrated for their studio recordings. Their first two recordings – 'The A-Z of Mozart Opera' and 'Blessed Spirit – a Gluck retrospective' – were both selected for Gramophone's annual Critics' Choice, and the first seven releases in their ongoing recording cycle of the complete Mozart operas have attracted superlative reviews. Further recordings include the acclaimed 2-CD set 'Mozart in London' and recital discs featuring tenor Allan Clayton ('Where'er You Walk') and soprano Sophie Bevan ('Perfido!'), both of which were both shortlisted for the International Opera Awards. They recently released the first two volumes in a new 'Sturm und Drang' series.

<https://www.classicalopera.co.uk/>