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Press Release

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NEW CHARITY RAISES £100,000 TO BOLSTER PERIOD-INSTRUMENT ENSEMBLES

"Our vision for a flourishing UK historical performance sector is one of unity and collaboration, which has never been needed more than now." – Tina Vadaneaux,
Founder of Continuo Foundation

In response to widespread concert cancellations since March 2020, former City director and classical music lover Tina Vadaneaux has founded a new charity, [Continuo Foundation](#) ("Continuo"). Established in October 2020, Continuo Foundation will give grants which create work for freelance musicians and aims to draw upon innovative thinking and technology to help period-instrument ensembles improve long-term sustainability post-Covid-19.

Since its inception, Continuo has attracted the enthusiastic patronage of Dame Emma Kirkby, Sir Roger Norrington and Rachel Podger and recruited a team of professionals from music, business and media, all contributing their time to the organisation pro bono. Continuo has recently reached the first of many fundraising milestones, having raised £100,000 in just three months, and is now open for grant applications from period-instrument ensembles across the UK.

Vadaneaux comments: "This remarkable response reflects the widespread recognition of the urgent need to retain these musicians whose virtuosity and scholarship underpin the sector, and to provide hope of a career in music for the next generation of artists."

Broadcaster and Continuo Trustee Hannah French adds: "Without urgent action, the UK's established tradition of excellence in historical performance, the work of well over 50 years, could be permanently damaged. This would have a devastating impact on the musicians, all freelancers, who depend upon these groups."

Continuo's first round of grants will mobilise projects for freelance musicians who rely upon performances to maintain their skills and morale. Vitaly, the grants also aim to restore confidence after nearly a year of cancelled engagements for most ensembles, and to encourage groups to progress with projects despite uncertainty around audience restrictions and subsequent lost ticket revenues.

Grant-making will be guided by an expert Advisory Panel including:

- David Hill, Conductor and Director of The Bach Choir
- Dr Berta Joncus, Member of Council, Handel Institute
- Lindsay Kemp, Artistic Director of Baroque at the Edge Festival
- Joseph McHardy, Director of Music, HM Chapel Royal, St James's Palace

Future grant rounds will also be geared towards engaging new and more diverse audiences. Vadaneaux explains: "The aim of Continuo is to create a virtuous circle - enabling nationwide touring of programmes to new venues and areas with a lack of provision in this genre of music. This in turn will also improve ensembles' financial sustainability as they rebuild from the devastating impact of the pandemic."

Trustee Nick Morrison, who has managed a variety of ensembles for 25 years, adds: "Continuo has a long-term commitment to sustaining the careers of period musicians, growing audiences and expanding access to their concerts by providing a centralised resource connecting performers, audiences and venues."

Grants from Continuo Foundation are open to professional UK-based period-instrument ensembles. Full details on how to apply are available on the Continuo website: www.continuofoundation.co.uk/grants

Follow Continuo Foundation on social media:



Images and video are available to download [here](#).

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Continuo Foundation

Established in October 2020 by Tina Vadaneaux, Continuo Foundation is an entrepreneurial initiative which aims to raise funds to award grants to UK period-instrument ensembles, mobilising artistic projects which create work for freelance musicians whose careers are at risk due to the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. With the aim of preserving historical performance in the UK, Continuo aims to support a flourishing historical performance sector, sustaining the careers of its virtuosic freelance musicians, creating opportunities for the next generation of artists and widening access to performances for communities across the UK.

1 Continuo Foundation's Patrons:

Dame Emma Kirkby DBE has dedicated her career to Early Music, as both an artist (soprano) and mentor for several generations of musicians. She has made well over a hundred recordings. In 2011, Dame Emma received the Queens Medal for Music and, in 2019, the Gramophone Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sir Roger Norrington CBE is a pioneering conductor and proponent of historical performance, having founded the Schütz Choir (1962), London Baroque Players (1965), and London Classical Players (1978). He has worked as a guest conductor with leading orchestras worldwide and made hundreds of recordings.

Rachel Podger is an acclaimed baroque violinist, sought-after internationally as a soloist, and teacher at the Royal Academy of Music and Julliard (USA). In 2018, Rachel was Gramophone Artist of the Year.

2 Continuo Foundation's Advisory Panel members:

David Hill MBE is Musical Director of The Bach Choir and Leeds Philharmonic Society, and Principal Conductor of Yale Schola Cantorum. He was Chief Conductor of the BBC Singers until September 2017 and Master of Music at Winchester Cathedral and Westminster Cathedral.

Dr Berta Joncus is a Senior Lecturer in Music at Goldsmiths, University of London, currently researching pre-1800 transatlantic black music. She is a member of the Council of the Handel Institute. She is a critic for BBC Music Magazine and regular guest on BBC Radio 3.

Lindsay Kemp is Founder and Artistic Director of the Baroque at the Edge Festival and Artistic Adviser to York

Early Music Festival. He was a BBC Radio 3 producer for 30 years. He has written widely for Gramophone, The Guardian, BBC Music Magazine, Musical Times and Early Music.

Joseph McHardy is Director of Music of HM Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, also serving as Co-ordinator for Diversity and Inclusion. He is an acclaimed harpsichordist and organist, and is currently editing Vicente Lusitano's 1555 collection of motets.

3 Continuo Foundation's Trustees:

Robert Binyon is a non-executive director and adviser on business strategy specialising in facing the challenges of finding financial support for small businesses and nurturing them on the management side.

Dr Hannah French is an author, broadcaster, and public speaker. She presents BBC Radio 3's Record Review Extra, The Early Music Show and live concerts across the station, including the BBC Proms.

Nick Morrison has more than twenty-five years' experience working with period-instrument ensembles including the Gabrieli Consort & Players, The Mozartists and The English Concert.

Stephen Uhlig is an economist and has worked in both the public and private sectors on corporate structuring and restructuring, fund-raising and project finance.

Tina Vadaneaux, Founder, is a former financial adviser with major banks on Wall Street and in the City of London, and has worked pro-bono with various classical music organisations over the last six years.