

# The Fenton Arts Trust

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Annual News  
 2016/2017

Succurrere Artibus

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## Fenton News

### 30 Years Old – Already?

2016 marked the 30th anniversary of Founder Shu-Yao Fenton's establishment of the Trust in memory of her husband Colin, a lover of poetry and a collector of paintings and antiques. During its first decade the Trust supported a limited number of initiatives. Trust Chair Stephen Morris writes about its next twenty years:

*It is now twenty years since the work of the Trust really got under way. In October 1997 Shu-Yao held an exhibition in her home by the Thames at Hammmersmith. On display were works by a small group of recent graduates from a number of institutions including the Royal Academy Schools and the Royal College of Art. Mary Fedden, a distinguished painter who had been a neighbour of Colin and Shu-Yao, helped make the choice. I remember the paintings of Rachel Williams, one of which still hangs by my desk, and the ceramic bowls of Chu Liao, which I should have bought but did not. Since then the Trust has expanded its activities to include the widest range of artistic activities. In order to maintain this diversity one of our earliest decisions was to leave the choice of many individual recipients to those best qualified, for example the directors of a music festival. Our 'light touch' is, according to one such professional, our 'unique selling point'. We do, however, try to meet beneficiaries and see their work, if only to make sure that the money of the Trust is being spent in the manner proposed. These visits are very seldom disappointing, almost always a pleasure and often an education. Thank you all!*



▲ Above: Three artworks in Shu-Yao Fenton's exhibition. L-R: bowl by Chu Liao, Little Yellow Hedge by Suzi Fasht and The Empty Space 2 (The Pink Woman) by Cinzia d'Ambrosi

## Continuum

In 2012/2013 the Trust gave a grant to the Continuum Ensemble to support the recording of a CD. Unfortunately we discovered that the group had been unable to go ahead with the project as first envisaged, and there was a couple of years' hiatus. We were delighted to hear in early 2016 that the CD had finally been recorded, and a couple of Trust members attended a launch event in the Autumn of 2016. The co-artistic director Philip Headlam wrote to thank the Trust for their patience and said:

*The composers Richard Causton and Kenneth Hesketh have had notable performances here and abroad but their careers need the important boost of the availability of studio recorded performances of their music. We hope to obtain as much publicity as possible so the CD A Land So Luminous can have a lasting impact on British contemporary artistic achievements.*

## Phoenix Dance Theatre

Phoenix Dance Theatre is grateful to The Fenton Arts Trust for this timely grant that contributed to the creation budget for the new dance choreography, *Calyx*, by one of our own dancers, Sandrine Monin. This award has provided an opportunity for us to mentor and develop a fresh new young female choreographic talent in a sector that where high-profile female choreographers are not equally venerated as their male counterparts. We are proud to see *Calyx* showcased on stage across national venues and *Calyx* will be having its London premiere at Sadler's Wells in April 2018.

Melody Walker, Development Coordinator

*"The creation of Calyx for Phoenix Dance Theatre was an incredible journey for me and I am really grateful for the opportunity the company has given me. As an emerging choreographer, it represented a significant milestone in my career as I have been dancing with Phoenix for the past 5 years. It is now clear that that is the path I would like to pursue on completing my career as a dancer."*

Sandrine Monin

*"Sandrine Monin's Calyx is based on Baudelaire's famous book of poems Les Fleurs du Mals and explores the themes of beauty, desire and decadence ... Monin's choreographic structures are lucid and clearly defined ... The connection between the musical and choreographic texts is intimate and complementary: Monin and Rusconi are real finds!"*

Mike Dixon, Dance Europe, March 2017

▼ Below: Sandrine Monin's *Calyx*



Photo: Brian Slater

# Beneficiaries 2016 - 2017

## Helios Collective



Photos: Nick Rutter

▲ Above: Scene from *For The Love Of Thorstein Shiver* by Alex Paxton. Formations 2016.

"Our contemporary opera development programme, Formations, creates a vital link between young professionals and renowned artists and would not have been possible without the generous support of The Fenton Arts Trust. For 'Formations 2016' we were able to create three new operas, masterclass them with world leading experts including Mark Wigglesworth and David Pountney, and champion over thirty young artists (directors, singers, composers, and instrumentalists) in a final performance at English National Opera's new chamber opera venue, Lilian Baylis House."

Noah Mosley, Musical Director

## Beside the Seaside Productions

This Autumn we received an update from playwright Liz Tait with news of the play we have helped fund:

"I have just completed the first draft of my new two act play, *Spitting Feathers*, which you kindly awarded me £2,500 to write, and last night held a read-through with some local actors. I am hoping to finish the second draft by the end of September. I will then be meeting with Sophia, producer of 'Beside the Seaside Productions' with a view to discussing the feasibility of a Spring 2018 production. We will hold a further read-through at this stage, and I will let you know some possible dates in case you would like to attend. I am pleased with the script so far and it was exciting/nerve-racking hearing it brought to life for the first time last night!"

## Standpoint



▲ Above: Installation from *Fadic Rock*, a performance created by A J Stockwell during her Standpoint Futures residency.

## New Diorama



Photo: David Monteith-Hodge

▲ Above: Kandinsky Theatre's *Still Ill*

The last year at New Diorama has been a whirlwind of activity – showcasing some of the very best emerging theatre companies in the UK – and none of it would have been possible without the support of The Fenton Arts Trust. New Diorama won the main Peter Brook Empty Space Award in late 2016, and then was named Fringe Theatre of the Year 2017 by The Stage. Meanwhile the work on our stage reached new levels of quality and excitement, with more tickets being sold than ever before and a record number of theatre companies touring their work both nationally and internationally.

Particular highlights included NDT Associate Company Rhum and Clay's *Hardboiled: The Fall of Sam Shadow*, a physical theatre noir mash-up which played to full houses and five star reviews. Rhum and Clay said: "*Hardboiled* was a big breakthrough show for us. It wouldn't have been possible without the commitment of New Diorama and The Fenton Arts Trust. The investment we were able to put into the show, the production values and team made all the difference."

Kandinsky Theatre's *Still Ill* was a real hit of the year – being listed in many of the 'Best of Theatre 2016' lists. The show totally sold out and is returning in 2018. Kandinsky director, James Yeatman said: "*The grant given to New Diorama goes a long way to supporting artists. Without this support, the work we do would not be possible. We can't imagine a better, more supportive environment in which to be making work*".

David Byrne, Artistic Director



Photos: Richard Davenport

▲ Above: Rhum & Clay's *Hardboiled: The Fall of Sam Shadow*

## Applications

Applications for grants may come from groups or individuals directly, or via organisations. Applications may also come from any academic or vocational arts institution who wish to support their alumni on completion of their degrees and as they begin their professional practice. For full application criteria and an application form please visit our website at

[www.fentonartstrust.org.uk](http://www.fentonartstrust.org.uk)



## Wysing Arts Centre



▲ Above: *Syllabus II* workshop, with **Marvin Gaye Chetwynd & Studio Voltaire**. Inset: Installation in Sheffield by **Tyler Mallison**

In 2016-17 the Trust supported Wysing Arts Centre's innovative 'Syllabus', which offers an alternative learning programme for 10 early career artists out of formal education.

*"Looking back at the variety, depth and sheer complexity of each retreat, it has been an immensely challenging and illuminating experience. The generosity of all the partners and contributors has been amazing – the level of commitment and care has been deeply inspiring and motivating".*

*"I found Syllabus II an excellent test bed for new ideas and work. The constant support of my fellow participants and the audiences at each retreat meant I was confident in taking risks that I would have otherwise reconsidered. This opportunity to fail is enormously useful when you are trying to figure out how far you can push different aspects of your work."*

Two of the 'Syllabus II' Participants

## Leeds Lieder



▲ Above: Composers & Poets Showcase at the 2016 Festival. **Martyn Noble** and **Sarah Lenney** performing *Green Children of Woolpit*, by **Amy Bryce** and local poet Jimmy Andrex

*"We remain indebted to The Fenton Arts Trust for their continued support of our masterclass programmes and the highly original Composers and Poets Forum. Our Fenton-supported Masterclass programme drew together some of finest young singers and pianists to study with internationally-acclaimed pianist Roger Vignoles. The training they received from him as well as the performance platforms they enjoyed before a warm and discerning audience will have proved red-letter days for them all. We look forward to following their successes over the coming years acknowledging that your support of our work has been instrumental in their development. Thank you Fenton!"*

Joseph Middleton, Director

## Psappha



▲ Above: **Tim Williams** performs 'Composing For Percussion'

*"We are enormously grateful to The Fenton Arts Trust for supporting Psappha's 'Composing For' Percussion, Flute, and Trombone schemes through which we have provided one-to-one support for 12 talented emerging composers over a period of six months. The project culminated in three filming days where we made multi-camera HD films of the 12 new works created through the scheme. We have selected three works – one from each scheme – to be performed as part of Psappha's Manchester season on 15 February 2018."*

Tim Williams, Artistic Director.

Lucy Armstrong, who took part in the Composing for Percussion scheme, said: *"Having the opportunity to develop and workshop the piece over a long timeframe allowed me to take risks and try new things. Having attended Psappha concerts over the last 4 years, it was wonderful to have the opportunity work with them. Members of the ensemble were extremely supportive and sympathetic to my music. I am thrilled with the performance and recording of my piece. The performance, sound and video recording are all excellent quality, thank you!"*

## Swaledale Festival

*"The Swaledale Festival 2017 was a great success this year and audiences were at a record level. The 'Young Artists Platform' concert series had stellar performances. It is a great joy to residents and lovers of the Dales and an important opening to musical performance for younger people in the area to hear young players of such high calibre in local venues. The Festival thanks The Fenton Arts Trust for their considerable contribution."*

Marion Knowles, Member of the Board of Trustees

## Seonaid Goody



▲ Above: Collaborators **Esme Appleton** and **Mark Esaias** working on **Seonaid Goody's** Beckett puppetry devising project *Play On Your Own*

# Financial Support 2016 - 2017

The Fenton Arts Trust awarded 32 individuals and organisations a total of £106,958 in support of the arts in the UK during the financial year 2016-2017.

Beneficiary	Award	Amount
Beside the Seaside Productions	Funds to support the writing, rehearsal and performance of a new play by Liz Tait	2,500
Concert Theatre	Support for a new music/theatre hybrid tour based on Anne Brontë's <i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</i>	2,089
Cowbridge Music Festival	Support for Young Artists' Recital in 2016 Festival	2,000
East Neuk Festival	Funding for ENF Retreat 2016 ursaries: Abigail Hayward & Hung-Tzu Chu	3,000
English National Opera	Support towards costs of two trainee répétiteurs	3,000
Glasgow Sculpture Studios	MFA Graduate Fellowship 2016: Catalina Barroso-Luque	4,000
Greenwich Dance Agency	Support for 'Scratch-Support-Show', a support programme for Hip Hop dance artists	4,400
Hampstead Theatre	Support for Hampstead Downstairs new writers: Hannah Patterson	5,000
Helios Collective	Funds for project to rehearse, masterclass and perform three new operas	4,000
HighTime Opera	Emerging Artists Programme to offer training to 7 emerging opera singers in production of Rossini's <i>La Cenerentola</i>	5,000
Iris Theatre	Set designer fees for open air promenade production	3,000
Keshia Watson	Funds to support Pale Imitations, a play with live jazz music	1,389
Ledbury Poetry Festival	Voice coaching sessions for emerging poets in the 2016 Festival	4,000
Leeds Lieder	Performance and training opportunities for early-career composers and singers during 2016 Festival	2,500
London Sinfonietta	Support for digital music programme and conference	5,600
New Diorama Theatre	Funds for a series of projects to support emerging UK-wide theatre groups	5,000
New English Ballet Theatre	Funds for new ballet project and tour for emerging choreographer Kristen McNally	5,000
Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment	Support for OAE Experience scheme	3,000
Papatango Theatre Company	Resident Playwright Scheme 2016: Sam Grabiner	2,500
Phoenix Dance Theatre	Commission for emerging choreographer Sandrine Monin's first professional dance work <i>Calyx</i>	5,000
Poetry London Ltd	Poet mentoring scheme	4,980
Psappha Contemporary Music Ensemble	Support for graduate composers on the <i>Composing for...</i> scheme	4,000
Roman River Music	Support for new performers to play at chamber music festival: Savriti Grier & Timothy Ridout	2,000
Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama	Grant to support commission of plays for NEW: 2016	3,000
Seonaid Goody	Funds to cover puppet making costs for new adult puppet show exploring Samuel Beckett's work	1,000
Shakespeare Globe Trust	Funds for 'Shakespeare's Music' a course for early modern musicians to widen the pool of suitable stage musicians	2,000
Sound Festival	Funds for new music collaboration between emerging composer/sound artist and two performers for 2016 Festival	2,000
Standpoint	Standpoint Futures residency for regional visual arts practitioner: A J Stockwell	5,000
Swaledale Festival	Two concerts in Swaledale Festival's Young Artists Platform, Behn Quartet & Friends and Arch Sinfonia	2,000
UP Projects	Support for floating cinema artist's residency	5,000
Wiltshire Music Centre	Wiltshire Music Centre's Young Artist Programme and Residency - opportunities for emerging young performers	3,000
Wysing Arts Centre	Support for alternative learning programme for 10 early career artists out of formal education	1,000
		<b>Total</b>
		106,958

## Concert Theatre



▲ Above: **Emily May Smith** in adaptation of Anne Brontë's classic at Kings Weston House, Bristol

The Trust was delighted to support An-Ting Chang and her company with their pioneering music and theatre hybrid of Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, which toured to galleries in Bristol, London, Chepstow, Bury St Edmunds, Salisbury and Bath. After seeing the production at the Bury St Edmunds Festival, Trustee Sue Davies-Scourfield wrote:

*"The Tenant is a 90-minute, exceptionally innovative, and highly enjoyable oeuvre in which the symbiosis of music and drama is utterly gripping and beautifully expressive. Two actors and a pianist convey not only the narrative, but the emotion, of this great 19th century novel. This isn't just a play set to music, or a dramatic concert, it is a perfect amalgam of music and drama."*

Support during the current financial year (2017-2018) includes the following beneficiaries around the UK

Animikii Theatre	Liverpool & Merseyside Theatres Trust (e&P)
Anton Hunter	Mid Wales Opera
Ballet Cymru	National Centre for Circus Arts
Birmingham Opera Company	New Diorama
Box of Tricks Theatre Company	Old Vic Theatre Trust
British Youth Opera	Orange Tree Theatre
Candoco Dance Company	Pentabus Theatre Company
Cardiff Met University	Philharmonia Orchestra
Catalyst Arts	Piccadilly Symphony Orchestra
Cove Park	Project One Theatre Company
East Neuk Festival	Rambert
Ex Cathedra Ltd	RWCMD
Film London	Tenebrae Choir
HOME (Greater Manchester Arts Centre)	Turner Handel Traditional Toys
Jazz North	Wysing Arts Centre
Ledbury Poetry Festival	zerOclassikal
Leeds Lieder	

## Supporting TFAT

We aim to help individuals and artistic institutions by awarding grants and funds in keeping with founder Shu-Yao Fenton's wishes. We would welcome any donations in pursuit of this, which can attract further Gift Aid. Please make cheques payable to *The Fenton Arts Trust*, or by bank transfer: *Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-00-08, Account no. 00979513*.

If you would like to support the Trust with a legacy amount, please add the following details along with your gift figure to your will:

*The Fenton Arts Trust (Registered Charity no. 294629)  
PO Box 268825, London SE23 9DG*

If you do decide to do this, we would be delighted to hear from you.

**The Fenton Arts Trust, P.O. Box 68825, London SE23 9DG | [www.fentonartstrust.org.uk](http://www.fentonartstrust.org.uk)**

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