



The Fenton Arts Trust

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Shu-Yao Fenton

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Annual News 2018

Succurrere Artibus

Registered Charity No. 294629

Number 17

Fenton News

Early in November each year the Trust convenes for a regular meeting and for its AGM. The trustees consider the Annual Report and Accounts for the preceding financial year and receive a presentation from our financial advisers, the charities arm of Cazenove Capital Management Limited, now part of the Schroders Group. The list of beneficiaries included in the accounts provides the basis for this newsletter and appears in an expanded form on the back page. The full accounts are publicly available on the Charity Commission web site. The primary financial objectives of the Trust have always been to preserve the invested capital originally bequeathed so generously by Shu-Yao Fenton, and more recently by Alastair Graham-Bryce, and to distribute the maximum amount of the returns.

The Charity Commission recommends that 25%, at most, of income should be retained for administrative costs and for contingencies. The Trust has consistently hit this target with percentage points to spare.

Stephen Morris, Chair of the Trust, comments:

"As always my thanks go to our Manager, Christine Bisatt, to our Honorary Treasurer, Fiona Thompson, and to Hardeep Virdee at BGM Helmores for working behind the scenes all year to keep our financial affairs in order. We also appreciate the work of Lucinda Napier and her colleagues at Cazenove Charities. The Trust is very fortunate that due to the returns from its investments and thanks to its tax-free status as a charity, it does not have to raise funds and has significant income to distribute. As public funding becomes ever more constrained, we see a trend in our applications as larger organisations, some of which are national institutions, seek assistance from the Trust. Our views have evolved in parallel.

Artists at the beginning of their careers remain our primary concern, but increasingly we find ourselves favouring the smaller organisations able to focus projects very clearly and funding work which is unlikely to happen without the assistance of the Trust. However, we are always grateful for additional support which allows us to increase the grants we are able to make. If you would like to contribute, whether a gift now or a legacy later, please do not hesitate. And don't forget we can claim Gift Aid, an extra 25% from the Treasury!"

English National Opera

In the 16-17 financial year the Trust awarded a grant to English National Opera to help fund a trainee repetiteur. Due to an internal delay, the role was finally filled during the 17-18 season and a recent graduate from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Italian pianist and conductor Valeria Racco was chosen for support.

Deputy Development Director Andrew Given's report illustrated the impact of small, targeted grants like ours can have:

- "The grant of £3,000 from Fenton Arts Trust supported ENO with:*
- Supporting Valeria's professional development in across 6 productions*
 - Enabling Valeria's skill development as Surtitles operator for one production*
 - Offering Valeria the opportunity to perform as part of our ENO Orchestra for one production*
 - The opportunity to coach singers and be principal or second rehearsal pianist for a wide variety of operatic repertoire – ranging from Verdi to Glass, and a World Premiere by Nico Muhly*
 - Achieving our goal of nurturing new talent, on and beyond the stage*

Most of all, we utilised your grant as a catalyst to encourage further support from trusts, foundations, businesses and individual donors."

Animikii Theatre



▲ Above: Scene from *Origins* (Photos: Patrick Dodds)

"Edinburgh gave us a platform on which to announce ourselves, our vision, and our hunger for a specific type of story-telling... It may seem hyperbolic to say how TFAT gave us the chance to go there and that without your help we wouldn't have made it happen, but it is the absolute truth.. We have since secured further touring and workshop packages that is helping our company to build on a strong festival performance. We honestly cannot thank you enough."

Adam Davies, Co-Artistic Director

HOME

"HOME were delighted that The Fenton Arts Trust chose to support two talented emerging theatre makers in its 'Made at HOME' residency programme. Emerging theatre makers frequently struggle to find opportunities to experiment and take creative risk. HOME worked with theatre makers to help them research and develop a new idea or collaboration, away from the pressure of public performance. Thank you to the Trustees for believing in the value of our work."

Roisin Joyce, Deputy Director of Development, HOME

"I wanted to tell a very personal story about Somalia, which has been in my head for a very long time – I could see the story in my mind, but didn't know how to create a piece from it. Without a Made at HOME residency, the story would have just continued to live in my head whilst I studied and tried to earn money to pay my bills. This way, I was able to totally focus on this for a week, and will have a piece to show people at the end."

Elmi Ali, Made at HOME Resident

Beneficiaries 2017 - 2018

Birmingham Opera Company



▲ Above: Scene from *Wake* (Photo: Adam Fradgley)

"It was great to see a group of diverse emerging singers flourish in rehearsals for Birmingham Opera Company's large-scale new commission 'Wake'. I am extremely grateful to The Fenton Arts Trust for helping a young professional take a step beyond the traditional rehearsal environment to share their skills with local volunteers, many of whom had no prior experience of opera. In the coming years, I am hoping to see more outstanding socially and ethnically diverse singers on UK stages who want to make opera speak to the widest possible audience."

Richard Willacy, Executive Director

Ex Cathedra

Four Scholars were supported with help from TFAT funds in 17-18: Felicity Rogers (soprano), Sacha Fullerton (mezzo-soprano), Sidharth Prabhu-Naik (tenor) and Andrew Randall (bass):

"The Ex Cathedra Scholarship is supporting me both artistically and financially as I continue to establish a freelance career since graduating from music college. The Scholarship is fantastic for building confidence and offers a wide range of different performance opportunities." Felicity

"I believe that my time as a scholar will have a big impact on my career, as it has helped me to understand the standard that you have to attain and maintain as a young ensemble singer, and it has given me the confidence to approach and audition for other groups as a young professional rather than as a student." Sacha

"Singing with Ex Cathedra has given me a springboard for my singing career, through meeting other singers and gaining experience performing in a highly professional setting. I have found when auditioning that the scholarship is highly respected by directors of music and a great way to display the necessary skills and experience which they are looking for." Sidharth

"I don't think there is any other scheme currently that offers so much involvement to its Scholars. We are constantly tested, and given chances to showcase our singing and our professionalism at the highest level, and under pressure. It is this kind of intensive preparation that will allow us to transition from graduate singers into professionals." Andrew

Ballet Cymru



▲ Above: Ann Wall as *Lady Capulet* (Photo: Sian Trenberth)

"My apprenticeship enabled me to embark on my career as a professional ballet dancer. I was extremely fortunate in my time with Ballet Cymru to perform the role of Lady Capulet (Romeo & Juliet) and Helena (A Midsummer Night's Dream). Learning how to dance with live accompaniment provided invaluable experience so early in my career. Now in my 3rd year as a professional ballet dancer, I look back on my apprenticeship with the very best memories and would like to thank The Fenton Arts Trust for their support in launching my career."

Ann Wall, TFAT beneficiary

Anton Hunter



▲ Above: The collaborative touring project by Anton Hunter's group Article XI with Favourite Animals was supported by TFAT (Photo: Cara Courage)

Catalyst Arts



▲ Above: Emily MacFarland, William Scott & Helouise O'Reilly

"I met Emily McFarland (Co-Director) and Helouise, the selected graduate artist. I was very impressed with the set up at the gallery. It is a cooperative run by artists for artists. The artists who run it for a period of two years are made Directors of the gallery and are volunteers while they promote the other artists' work. They are a very lean organisation with all the money given to them going to the artists they promote. The premises are a reused shirt factory in the middle of Belfast and very adaptable for all sorts of events. They were setting up a new exhibition that week. They get funding from the Arts Council which seems to cover the rent on the gallery, so the funding from the Trust is very welcome, necessary and appreciated."

"Helouise is a Belfast girl, a graduate from Glasgow who is a documentary film maker. Her chosen topic was a surprise one, about probably the last Bingo Hall in the city. She is looking at all the aspects of how the game is played and the social aspects of the inner city clients/participants. Helouise herself is a single mother, with a seven year old who was waiting for us, so she was clearly juggling with work and home issues. Again she was very appreciative of the assistance that TFAT was able to give her, to enable her work to progress. Helouise came across as very talented, focused and determined young person. If the Bingo Hall closes, as everything goes digital these days, her project will be all the more important as a record of the social history of an unusual and hidden aspect of inner city life. I hope this is sufficient to give you confidence that in this project and in particular support for Catalyst Arts, TFAT money is being well invested."

Trust Representative William Scott

Film London



▲ Above: Still from FLAMIN project beneficiary Kristina Pulejkova's work-in-progress *Where We All Meet*, 2018 (photo: KP)

"We are delighted at the outcomes of this pilot round of the FLAMIN Fellowship and thoroughly enjoyed working with the six artists taking part. They all moved ahead significantly with their specific projects and we are looking forward to following their careers from success to success."

The FLAMIN Team

"This first pilot scheme of the FLAMIN Fellowship for early career artist filmmakers has been hugely successful. It has achieved its original aims and ensured all individual learning outcomes have been positive. All six of the artists that took part in the scheme identify that they are more knowledgeable and better equipped to navigate the different film and visual art sectors, whilst retaining the integrity of their projects. Not only have they increased their understanding and industry contacts but also enjoyed the process and gained a great deal personally as well as professionally."

Fellowship Evaluation Talking Point

Turner Handel Traditional Toys (Clare Pattinson)



▲ Above: (from top, L-R): Clare Pattinson; Peg automaton; 'Jackson & Pollock'; 'Majors & Minors' (Photos: Polly High; CP)

"Thanks to The Fenton Arts Trust, I now have the most amazing mobile workshop. I've been working in it for the past few weeks. A workbench and tools are in place. It's a quiet, calm, creative space. I have several automata events lined up for the next couple of months, and a place now to concentrate and develop my ideas in. I plan to get solar panels installed and will begin a welding course shortly whereby I'll make a small wood burning stove for the winter months. I'm presently developing a programme of workshops to deliver outside of Kent, and am making contact with relevant establishments, schools, etc. Thank you all for your support. I can't express how grateful I am, and what a difference your help has made. Clare".

Ledbury Poetry Festival



▲ Above: 2017 Festival beneficiary poets (Photos: Ledbury Poetry Festival)
The Trust funded Ledbury's 'New & Emerging Writers Programme', part of the 2017 Festival.

Financial Support 2017 - 2018

The Fenton Arts Trust awarded 33 individuals and organisations a total of £124,350 in support of the arts in the UK during the financial year 2017-2018.

Beneficiary	Award	Amount
Animikii Theatre	Support for physical theatre company's first production <i>Origins</i>	£4,000
Anton Hunter	A collaborative touring project showcasing two large ensembles of improvising musicians	£1,500
Ballet Cymru	Apprentice dancer programme	£2,000
Birmingham Opera Company	Financially support for the development of 12 diverse emerging singers	£3,500
Box of Tricks Theatre Company	Support for two emerging playwright programmes: PlayBox and New Tricks	£2,500
British Youth Opera	Emerging conductor support in BYO's Summer Season 2017	£2,500
Candoco Dance Company	Funds for emerging choreographer programme	£4,000
Cardiff Met University	New exhibition launchpad for recent graduate artists using the support, facilities and resources of CSAD	£5,000
Catalyst Arts	Exhibition for Ulster University Fine Art graduate Heloise O'Reilly	£1,800
Cove Park	Early Career Artists Residencies: a programme for emerging and UK-based painters/sculptors, designers/architects and writers	£5,000
East Neuk Festival	Support for one early career musician (Balint Kruppa, violin) on the Festival's 3rd 'Retreat'	£1,500
Ex Cathedra	Support with scholarships for four graduate singers offering work experience and training in the competences necessary for a freelance professional career	£4,000
Film London	Development programme supporting six early career moving image artists to strengthen careers and facilitate production of new work	£5,000
HOME (Greater Manchester Arts Centre)	Support to deliver two 'Made at HOME' residencies	£5,000
Jazz North	Support for 'Jazz North Introduces': a programme of career guidance, mentoring and high-profile performance opportunities	£4,800
Ledbury Poetry Festival	New & Emerging Writers Programme	£6,500
Leeds Lieder	Performance and training opportunities in the 2017 Festival for early-career singers, pianists and composers	£2,500
Liverpool & Merseyside Theatres Trust (e&P)	Talent development sessions for writers on e&P's Playwrights Programme	£5,000
Mid Wales Opera	Support for early career singers on <i>Eugene Onegin</i> Tour Spring 2018	£3,000
National Centre for Circus Arts	Circus Development Support In-kind to launch the careers of the next generation of circus artists	£2,500
New Diorama	Funds for the Artist Development Programme, which supports London performances from emerging theatre makers from across the UK	£5,000
Old Vic Theatre Trust	Development workshops as part of the larger UNITE alumni programme	£5,000
Orange Tree Theatre	Funds to employ an emerging professional designer to work with each MA: Theatre Directing student on their final show	£2,000
Pentabus Theatre Company	Programme to nurture four emerging playwrights by offering bespoke research and development opportunities	£4,000
Philharmonia Orchestra	Support for two-year Instrumental Fellowship Programme	£5,000
Piccadilly Symphony Orchestra	Support towards orchestral coaching project for early career musicians	£3,500
Project One Theatre Company	Funds for showcase production by emerging company at the Finborough Theatre	£750
Rambert	Support for two-year professional Dancer Apprenticeship	£4,000
Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama	NEW: 2018: the showcasing of work by four emerging playwrights, commissioned for RWCMD's final year repertory company	£4,000
Tenebrae Choir	Associate Artist scheme for four young choral singers	£5,000
Turner Handel Traditional Toys	Support to purchase and set up a mobile workshop	£5,000
Wysing Arts Centre	Funding support for Syllabus III - an alternative learning programme for visual artists to challenge and push their practice	£5,000
zerOclassikal	Funds to commission three new works by emerging British South Asian classical musicians	£4,500
TOTAL		£124,350

Orange Tree Theatre



▲ Above: Scene from *Even Stillness Breathes Softly Against A Brick Wall* (Photo: Robert Day)

The Trust helped the Orange Tree to fund an emerging professional designer to work with each student on its MA: Theatre Directing course.

"Working with a professional designer [Max Dorey] on Even Stillness... was a crucial part of my training at the Orange Tree. Being able to develop my initial vision for the piece with Max, was a vital part of the process and helped to accomplish the professional environment the Orange Tree wanted to create for the directors. It was this collaboration which instilled in me the importance of artistic relationships in theatre and something I can take with me as I continue to develop my theatrical career."

Hannah de Ville, Student Director

Support during the current financial year (2018-2019) includes the following beneficiaries around the UK

remix	Leeds Lieder
Alexandra Porter-Smith	Listenpony
Alice Barber	London Ear Festival
Apples & Snakes	London Festival of Contemporary Church Music
Birmingham Opera Company	Multi-Story Music
Brighton Early Music Festival	NTC Touring Theatre Company
British Youth Opera	Orange Tree Theatre
Britten Sinfonia	Poetry London Ltd
Carrie Skinner	SI Artspace
Catalyst Arts	Scene Gym
Cath Roberts	Sherman Theatre
Cove Park	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop	Sound Festival
Ex Cathedra	Swaledale Festival
Gloria Lowe	West Dean College of Arts & Conservation
Jason Mabana	Wilton's Music Hall
Jocelyn McGregor	

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

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