

# The Fenton Arts Trust

Succurrere Artibus

Registered Charity No. 294629

Number 18

## Fenton News

We would like to begin this newsletter with a heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Chairman, Stephen Morris, and to Fiona Thompson, who is retiring as Treasurer.

The Fenton Arts Trust has been in existence for over 33 years, but it wasn't until our founder Shu-Yao Fenton's death in 2000 that the Trust was endowed with the substantial legacy of the majority of her & her husband Colin's estate. The first chairman was Richard Ward, followed in November 2006 by Stephen Morris, who has this November retired from the Trust after an astonishing 19 years, with 12 of those years at the helm.



▲ Chair Stephen Morris at Sound Festival 2018 (Photo: SHMU)

We asked Stephen what he most enjoyed about being a Trustee, and this is what he had to say:

*"When I became a Trustee I simply wanted to honour the memory of a good friend. After a few years it became clear that the Trust was acquiring a life of its own, and a value far beyond being simply a memorial to Shu-Yao and Colin. Repeated contact with grateful beneficiaries, in particular all the individual artists whom we were helping, was a real pleasure. It also made me want, as Chair, to secure the future of the Trust as an effective organisation. I am most grateful to everyone who has contributed to achieving this: all the past and present Trustees, our first Chair, the current and previous managers, both Treasurers, our financial advisers, our web designer and host and, most of all, those who have added such generous legacies to the Trust's funds. Please keep it up, all of it!"*

During Stephen's Chairmanship of the Trust, the arts funding climate has changed in the UK, as the effects of austerity have kicked in. It is clear that the proliferation of all forms of arts higher education is producing a large number of talented people who might have careers as artists, but also many who, in reality, will not. It is not an easy job to sift through large numbers of very good applications, and many a meeting is lengthened in agonising debate. The Trust has benefitted enormously from Stephen's magnanimous wisdom and guidance, in tandem with the financial acuity of Fiona Thompson, ACA, who is also retiring as Treasurer, but not as Trustee. Over the last 19 years, we have donated £1.5 million to beneficiaries all over the UK. Each year the Trustees meet three times to discuss applications, the number of which has grown exponentially since the inception of the Trust, and try to dispense funding in as propitious and diverse a manner as possible. A major improvement to our operation has been through the introduction and refinement of our online application forms, together with the "headline description of the project" in tweet-sized form! We are most grateful to James Weymouth for his untiring, and unpaid, work designing, building and maintaining our renovated website.

Founder:  
Shu-Yao Fenton

Patron:  
Dame Maggie Smith, CH, DBE

Consultant to the Trustees:  
David Tong

Trust Manager:  
Christine Bisatt

Trustees:  
Shelley Baxter  
Paul Bayley  
Sue Davies-Scourfield (Chair)  
Tricia Friswell  
Gregor Logan  
Stephen Morris (outgoing Chair)  
Fiona Thompson (outgoing Treasurer)  
John Wieland (Honorary Treasurer)

## Annual News 2019



▲ (clockwise from top left) Stephen meeting beneficiaries from Cardiff Metropolitan University, London Sinfonietta, The Poetry Trust & New Dots (with Sue Davies-Scourfield)

Stephen leaves an organisation that has grown in several ways over the 12 years of his leadership. The funds have been boosted by two legacies, from the estate of Alastair Graham-Bryce & more recently that of Patricia Thompson. The Trustees are more knowledgeable, and thus more discerning with regard to the allocation of funding; as Trustees, we monitor the activities of those whom we fund, to ensure that our money is being spent appropriately. We will miss Stephen's genial chairmanship at our meetings, but he will continue to visit our beneficiaries on our behalf.

The Trust owes a debt of gratitude to Fiona Thompson, also, who, as Treasurer since 2005, has cheerfully dealt with an ever-increasing amount of administrative bureaucracy as the activities of charities such as ours have been scrutinised more intensely. We benefit from her professional advice with regard to our investment portfolio, as well as that of Gregor Logan, and now John Wieland, who are also finance professionals. They, together with Shelley Baxter, Paul Bayley, and Tricia Friswell, will continue as Trustees, and Christine Bisatt keeps us all in order as Trust Manager. John Wieland replaces Fiona as Honorary Treasurer, and Sue Davies-Scourfield, Trustee since 2000, is the new Chair of The Fenton Arts Trust.

## Britten Sinfonia



The Trust supported Britten Sinfonia's OPUS18 composing competition.

*"The OPUS programme was a great basis on which to develop new and experimental music. The process of workshopping was a great way to see how the ideas on paper translated to the instruments. Because my piece relied on unusual playing techniques, it was really nice to hear the suggestions the musicians had and then incorporate them in to my score."*

▲ Robert receiving his award from Sir James MacMillan (Photo: Milly March)

*To have a piece performed takes a lot of resources; the support to make this happen is rare for composers at the beginning of their career, but is what we rely upon to move forward. A high-profile performance tour presented in the best possible manner helped me gain exposure, experience and ethos as a composer, all of which was a great privilege."*

Robert Singer, OPUS18 winner



# Beneficiaries 2018 - 2019

## Carrie Skinner



▲ Carrie & her 'on the waves of the air...' live stream performance team

"The effect of the project on my practice is significant. I have been invited by the Centre for Contemporary Art, Glasgow to produce a solo project this summer. I believe directly as a result of the impression made by 'on the waves of the air, there is dancing out there'. Not only did it increase the visibility of my practice to an international audience, but it has also affected the way in which I work... In the simplest terms, the positive effect of The Fenton Arts Trust funding was evident in the scale and ambition of the project, my largest to date. Please do extend my thanks once more to the committee for their imagination and support."

## remix



▲ Jo Thomas's synthesiser workshop & performance (Photo: Tim Boddy)

"The Fenton Arts Trust's generous support allowed us to offer workshops for early-career, female identifying electronic musicians alongside our Synth Remix UK tour. The young artists we worked with gained first-hand experience with a range of rare instruments, including the only recreation of Daphne Oram's experimental 'Mini-Oramics' synthesiser in existence. It was wonderful to share Jo Thomas's research and creative practice with the young artists, offering invaluable and inspiring insight!"

Benjamin Tassie, Director

## Alex Porter-Smith



"Three people gained work from the short film production because of the portfolio development it gave them, and myself and the writer/ director have recently been selected for a talent development programme because of our work on the short film (the programme is designed to put people on track to entering the industry and making their first feature film). So thanks to you and the Trustees for your wonderful support – it has made a massive difference to so many people's careers."

## Gloria Lowe



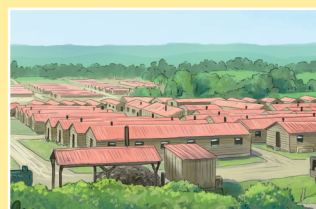
▲ ▼ Scenes from *Letters from the Front* & inset of Dominic, Elena & Ben (Photos: Gloria Lowe/Kathryn Edwards Photography)

The Trust supported Gloria to involve three recent animation graduates from Coventry University in her multi-disciplinary theatre production:

"As a recent graduate this has been a great opportunity for me to improve my skills and gain experience. I have been introduced to useful software, learnt a lot about the processes behind theatre and animation production and had a great experience working with a team on a really interesting project. It would not have been possible without the generous funding from The Fenton Arts Trust and I am very grateful." Dominic Leatham

"This production for me, as an emerging animator, has been a wonderful opportunity to put my skills to use. The outcome from this has been terrific, with lovely and encouraging responses from viewers. Without your support, I wouldn't have been able to work with an amazing production team and be able to perform engaging tasks that have benefited my professional practice." Ben Wooding

"Working as a storyboard and background artist on *Letters from the Front* was a very important opportunity for me. The financial sponsorship and the exposure it offered me were essential to my career and at the same time it gave me a chance to develop my portfolio with works that really define my area of interest: history." Elena Ciolacu





## Apples & Snakes



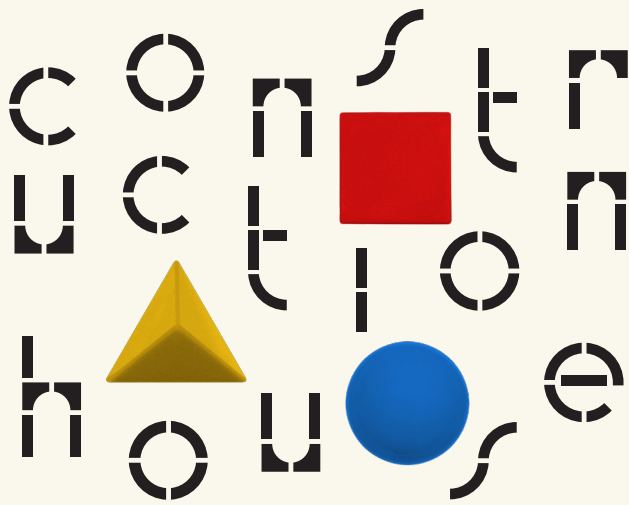
▲ Rallying Cry spoken word participants at immersive workshops at Battersea Arts Centre (Photo: Suzi Corker)

*"We were delighted by the success of the Rallying Cry project. Developing the careers of both established and emerging artists is core to the work that Apples and Snakes does... The Rallying Cry performances and young persons' programme was an ambitious and nationally significant project. It would not have been possible were it not for the support of the The Fenton Arts Trust."*

Lisa Mead, Artistic Director

## S1 Artspace

S1 ARTSPACE



6 Oct 2018 – 20 Apr 2019

A series of exhibitions and events inspired by the Bauhaus

Wed – Sat: 12 – 5pm  
FREE ENTRY

Alison J Carr  
James Clarkson  
Joseph Cutts  
Natalie Finemore  
Vicky Hayward  
Ashley Holmes  
Peter Martin & Jon Cannon  
Emily Musgrave  
Lucy Vann  
Roanna Wells

S1 Artspace, Park Hill, Sheffield, S2 5PN [www.s1artspace.org](http://www.s1artspace.org)

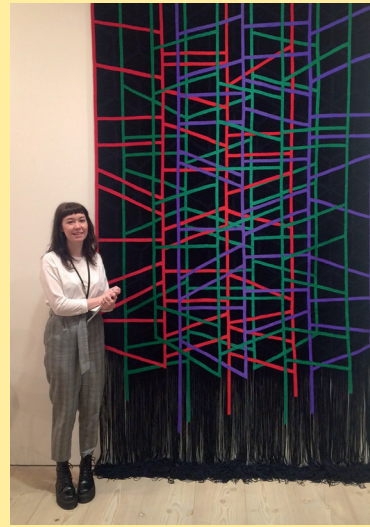


### ▲ Construction House poster

*"The project enabled us to build on the support we already provide to artists based in Sheffield...the programme has allowed our studio holders to expand their practice and enable them to develop new ideas and produce new bodies of work (and) provided them with the financial and curatorial support to make more ambitious work... 'Construction House' was featured in Frieze magazine's city report on Sheffield's rising art scene. 'We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to The Fenton Arts Trust for their support, without which such an ambitious programme would not have been possible.'"*

Laura Clarke, Curator

## West Dean College of Arts & Conservation



▲ Ellie Rudd, weaver (Photo: West Dean)

*"For Ellie this year has been a steep learning curve and her passion and interest for the craft has really shone through into the wonderful weaving she is doing, culminating in her first being acquired by a globally renowned gallery!"*

*"Thank you once again to The Fenton Arts Trust. We have welcomed the opportunity to work in partnership with you again and look forward to hopefully doing so again in the near future."*

Jane Meechan, Development Manager

*"It has been hugely successful for both Ellie and the Tapestry Studio to have this brand new emerging artist post. Thank you for the support of The Fenton Arts Trust for contributing to Ellie's post for the past 12 months."*

*Recent exciting news is that Ellie's first piece 'The Fallowfield' has been acquired by The Tate to become part of its permanent collection. This piece will be on display at Tate Britain as part of its Sixty Years exhibition, a new display dedicated to women artists working in Britain over the past 60 years."*

## Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB)



▲ 2019 Lethaby Scholars Daniel Shemming, Holly Spilsbury, Christian Montez & Bethan Watson (Photo: SPAB)

*"Taking stock of what we have learnt and experienced over the last 6 months is no mean feat - such has been the huge variety of amazing places we have visited, exceptional people we have met, and breadth of material we have covered. I feel overwhelmed by the generosity shown us throughout this unique programme; our funders, hosts and the skilled craftspeople who have shared their knowledge have made this a truly extraordinary experience."* Bethan x

## British Youth Opera

The Trust funded emerging conductor Stephanie Childress who worked on the 2018 BYO production of *The Enchanted Island*, a 'Baroque caprice' created by Jeremy Sams from two Shakespeare plays and featuring music by Handel, Rameau, Vivaldi and others.

*"Thank you so much for supporting my time at BYO! I've had such an incredible time conducting, coaching the cover cast, and learning from all those around me - especially Nicholas Kraemer, our conductor. Thank you for this incredible opportunity. With warmest wishes, Stephanie Childress"*

# Financial Support 2018 - 2019

The Fenton Arts Trust awarded 33 individuals and organisations a total of £106,618 in support of the arts in the UK during the financial year 2018-2019.

Beneficiary	Award	Amount
_remix	Masterclasses for gifted early-stage electronic musicians, exploring a range of historical and contemporary synthesisers.	1260
Alexandra Porter-Smith	The production of a short film employing new film graduates as crew.	5000
Alice Barber	Funds to support work as producer on a regional tour of new play <i>Unsung</i> .	2000
Apples & Snakes	The Rallying Cry Programme for early career spoken word artists.	4000
Birmingham Opera Company	Support for 12 emerging singers on production of <i>Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk</i> .	3500
Brighton Early Music Festival	Support for Early Music Live! scheme.	5000
British Youth Opera	Support for an emerging conductor during in BYO's 2018 Summer Season.	2500
Britten Sinfonia	Support for the OPUS 2018 competition.	3000
Carrie Skinner	Funds to support <i>on the waves of the air; there is dancing out there:</i> a single-night's live stream performance.	1500
Catalyst Arts	Exhibition support for an Ulster University Fine Art graduate.	700
Cath Roberts	A recording residency for improvising ensemble Sloth Racket.	1800
Cove Park	Support for Cove Park Early Career Artists Residencies 2018.	5500
Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop	A research and production award and end of project exhibition for the outstanding graduate from Scottish art schools 2018.	5,000
Ex Cathedra	Support for Ex Cathedra's Choral Scholarship scheme.	4000
Gloria Lowe	Funds to support three early-career animators.	2000
Jason Mabana	Funds to support the creation of a 50-minute piece of choreography involving four dancers, a musician and set designer.	3000
Jocelyn McGregor	Funds for the participation of two emerging visual artists in <i>Doremi 2018</i> , Barrow-in-Furness.	1802
Leeds Lieder	Performance and training opportunities for 54 early-career singers, pianists and composers during the 2018 Festival.	2500
Listenpony	Fees for 10 outstanding young classical musicians performing in Listenpony's 2018/19 season of eclectic concerts.	3450
London Ear Festival	Performance/development opportunities for young professionals at London Ear Festival of Contemporary Music 2018.	3326
London Festival of Contemporary Church Music	Commission for an emerging composer to write a setting of Compline music in response to a specific building.	3500
Multi-Story Music	Funds for Dani Howard's commission for professional orchestra and young performers in the Multi-Story Orchestra's 2018 season.	1000
NTC Touring Theatre Company	Support for two emerging actors during the rehearsals and tours of 2 new commissioned plays, touring nationally to isolated areas.	3000
Orange Tree Theatre	Fees for an emerging professional designer to work on MA Theatre Directing students' degree shows.	2000
Poetry London Ltd	Emerging poet mentoring scheme.	4980
S1 Artspace	A 6-month series of commissions and activities enabling 10 artists to develop and present new work to new audiences.	4000
Scene Gym	Support for Scene Gym's Emerging Artists programme.	4800
Sherman Theatre	Assistant Director position for an emerging director on the Sherman's Christmas 2018 production.	2500
Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings	Support for the 2018 Lethaby Scholarship programme.	6000
sound	Support for five emerging Scottish female composers on a residential development weekend plus performance at the 2018 festival.	2000
Swaledale Festival	Funding three concerts in Swaledale Festival Young Artists Platform 2018.	2000
West Dean College of Arts & Conservation	Support for emerging Tapestry Weaver Ellie Rudd.	5000
Wilton's Music Hall	Funds to support Emerging Artist Strand.	5000
TOTAL		106,618

## London Ear Festival



▲ Above: Anna, Hyungi & Nathanael (Photo: Stephen Morris)

Support for the 2018 Festival's Young Performers strand. Trustees attended the YP' lunchtime concert at St. George's on 15 May 2018 and met the Prizewinners Nathanael Gubler (viola), Anna Astesano (harp) and Hyungi Lee (percussion).

*"London Ear Festival, 2018 was delighted that The Fenton Arts Trust support enabled the discovery of these outstanding young musicians, though the festival's Featured Young Performers project. Spotlit performances within the festival, and their own concert shortly after it, were designed to help them on the road to big careers in the future!"*

Gwyn Pritchard, Artistic Director

Support during the current financial year (2019-2020) includes the following beneficiaries from around the UK:

Adam Gilbert	Lunchbreak Opera
Adam Russell	Mid Wales Opera
Alex Wilson	National Youth Jazz Orchestra (NYJO)
Animikii Theatre	NoFit State Community Circus Ltd
Anna Alvarez	Old Vic Theatre Trust
Chinese Arts Now	Samantha Potter
Cove Park	Sinfonia Cymru
Directors Charitable Foundation	Soft Fiction Projects
English National Opera	Soho Theatre company
Ex Cathedra	Sound Festival
Film London	St Magnus International Festival
Fuel Productions Ltd	Stephen McAllan
Glasgow Sculpture Studios	Swaledale Festival
Highly Sprung Performance Company	The Night With...
Iris Theatre	Transform
Kate Ive	Virtually Opera

## 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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