

# The Fenton Arts Trust

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## Annual News 2021

Succurrere Artibus

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## Fenton News

**W**e had hoped that this 2021 newsletter would be full of brighter news, and a return to 'normality', so TFAT congratulates all the artists, musicians, performers, dancers, composers and creatives, and also the supporters, who continue to persevere in these most challenging of circumstances. I would like to thank my fellow Fenton Trustees for all their hard work and enthusiasm for the arts in all their myriad genres, even when theatres have been dark and galleries unpeopled, and to Trust Manager Christine Bisatt.

One of the joys of being a Trustee is meeting our beneficiaries and seeing the fruit of our funding; we make every effort to attend each event, production or happening, and have an able team of Trust Representatives all over the British Isles who do so on our behalf when we cannot. Each and every experience brings us joy, and gives us invaluable insight into our beneficiaries' work, and they are unfailingly happy to see us. We are delighted to say that we are only very seldom disappointed.



We continue to try and be as diligent and rigorous as ever in assessing applications, while being as flexible as possible as, very understandably, our beneficiaries' timetables have slipped due to numerous unavoidable Covid-related contingencies. Watch this space for reports on Gothic Opera's superb UK premiere of Gounod's *La Nonne Sanglante*, which was finally presented in October 2021, having been scheduled for Halloween 2020, and NYJO's delayed recording of their CD *She Says...*, which they had hoped to release early in 2021.

**Sue Davies-Scourfield (Chair)**

## Tricia Friswell



▲ Tricia visiting beneficiary Ellie Rudd at West Dean College of Arts & Conservation

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our ex-colleague Tricia Friswell for all her hard work over the twelve years she was a Trustee. Tricia brought to TFAT her experience in Thames Television international programme sales, during which she visited many countries' TV and film festivals, and also her interest and insight in theatre, which were invaluable to the Trust.

Tricia says *"I can honestly say that I have thoroughly enjoyed everything I've done during my tenure as a Trustee and consider it a privilege to have been able, in a very small way, to give support to early career artists and to work alongside such a friendly and committed group of people. I've seen new plays, attended masterclasses for emerging performers in dance and music, viewed work by artists in residence, and numerous other interesting and creative events."*

She continues, *"A smaller charity like Fenton is able to be flexible in its approach and to react to changing circumstances when required, which in today's challenging climate is a really valuable asset. Sometimes we have contributed to small items of equipment or instruments, which can be absolutely pivotal in someone's early career."*

Whilst she's no longer on the Board, Tricia continues to visit beneficiaries on our behalf, as well as playing tennis, improving her Bridge, French and Spanish, and taking up art. We are so grateful for everything she has contributed to the work of TFAT, and for her continued friendship.

**Sue Davies-Scourfield**

## Khidr Collective



▲ Cover image from Issue Four: Water by artist Aman Aheer (photo: Khidr Collective)

*"The Khidr Collective Zine, Issue Four: Water has been our fastest-selling zine to date due to the quality we were able to offer thanks to the generous funding of The Fenton Arts Trust. Without it, we wouldn't have been able to pay the contributors a fair rate and show them just how valued their work really is. During this difficult time of the pandemic, in which many sectors have suffered, this project was able to redistribute funds to creatives and provide something tangible, meaningful and reflective for the community. The funding also meant we were able to pay a small independent printer fair market rates."*

**Zainab Rahim, Non-fiction Editor**

# Beneficiaries 2020 - 2021

## Fuel Productions



▲ Two images from Manchester production of Evie Manning's commissioned play *Peaceophobia* (photos: Ian Hodgson)

*"Our Fenton Arts Trust grant enabled us to support director Evie Manning to develop her methodology and practice of co-creation, working with non-professional artists in Bradford to co-direct Peaceophobia, an urgent, unapologetic and powerful response to rising Islamophobia. This grant enabled Evie to spend time with the young women of Speakers Corner and the young men of Bradford Modified Club, co-creating the live show which opened in Autumn 2021 in Bradford and Manchester, and a filmed version which we made available on Fuel Digital (our online streaming platform) to audiences across the UK. The team at Fuel are thankful to The Fenton Arts Trust for enabling us to support visionary artists like Evie Manning to grow and develop their work for the benefit of audiences across the UK."*

**Kate McGrath, Director**

## B:Music



▲ Jazzlines-commissioned artists Piera Onacko and Chris Young in performance with their new bands. (L to R): Orbits QC and Un:procedure (photos: Guri Bosh)

During 2021, B:Music (previously known as Performances Birmingham) was able to resume its Jazzlines Commission project to support two local early-career musicians. Piera Onacko and Chris Young and their Un:procedure and Orbits CQ projects were able to work throughout the year with partner musicians to compose new material, which was then performed at Symphony Hall during a special showcase in October. *"Having the time to hone and develop an idea for a project through the commission was really beneficial*

## HighTide

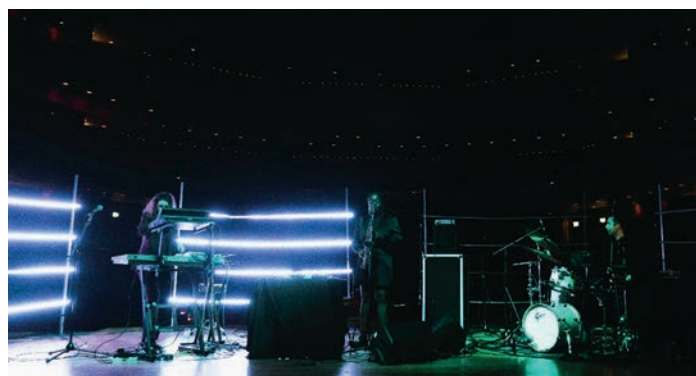


▲ Supported writer Sonia Jalaly and team in rehearsal; inset: screenshot from Jalaly's online monologue for Jonny Woo (photos: Holly White/HighTide Theatre)

*"It's been a delight to watch Sonia Jalaly's development as a playwright and artist through the commission of Oh We Do Like To Be and the support of The Fenton Arts Trust. Having never received a full-length commission before, Sonia has been supported to thoroughly research and develop her craft through this process. Continuing to write during a pandemic, Sonia has been able to significantly consider the characters of this new play, through writing monologues for digital release starring acclaimed performance artist Jonny Woo, as well as collaborating with musicians and actors to bring the story to life."*

*The culmination of this workshop was a sharing at the Turbine Theatre where it was warmly received. From this Sonia has been able to redraft the script to create a confident piece of new work that we hope will receive a future production in the near future. Even with the challenging circumstances of this last year, we're pleased with Sonia's progress and her successful transition from writing commissions for young people to writing new plays for wider audiences. We're really excited for what the future holds for Sonia and this new work."*

**Holly White, Producer**



*to me as a working musician. Collaborating with Cassie was a huge pleasure and, through the funding and support from B:Music, we were able to move forward more efficiently."* **Piera Onacko**

*The 2021 B:Music Jazzlines Commission was a great success and gave all the participants the opportunity to build their musical abilities and to develop their careers as professional musicians. B:Music is very grateful for the support that you have given to this initiative."* **Guy Oddy, Development Manager**

## Photographers' Gallery



▲ Ex-Chair/Trust Representative Stephen Morris with a Folio Friday participant (photo: The Photographers' Gallery)

*Folio Friday is a programme of free portfolio reviews for emerging photographers and artists run by The Photographers' Gallery. Twelve artists present their work in the Gallery's studio for feedback from two professional reviewers as well as the Gallery's visitors. The Fenton Arts Trust offered essential support for the programme which was to begin in June 2020. As the Gallery's building was closed at this time, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, we looked for ways to support practitioners through online sessions. To this end, we organised a series of bi-weekly, online one-to-one reviews for photographers – half led by colleagues working at photography venues around the country, the other half led by established freelance photographers whose own work had been curtailed by lockdown. We have now brought Folio Fridays back into the building where The Photographers' Gallery's visitors can once again meet and speak with emerging practitioners.*

*Support from The Fenton Arts Trust has gone beyond financial. It has given us faith in the importance of our professional development programmes for photographers and included a sensitive and generous understanding that our programmes needed to change and shift during the Pandemic."*

**Janice McLaren, Head of Education & Projects**

## Art in Perpetuity Trust



▲ Art in Perpetuity Trust building, Deptford, London

*"We at APT are delighted to have been awarded funding from The Fenton Arts Trust to continue our mentoring programme for the next two years. We're particularly pleased as the current two mentees are having such a productive and rewarding time in their studios here, and we in turn are benefiting from their presence. It is such a positive award for emerging artists, during what must be a very challenging time for so many."*

**Mali Morris, APT Artist**

## James Rogers



▲ James in his studio and some of his sculptures (photos: James Rogers)

The Trust funded James to invest in a 3D printing machine, which enabled him to experiment using it to create 3D printed porcelain sculptures. He was then able to exhibit some of these during the 2021 London Design Festival, as part of Preston Fitzgerald's '3D Printing in Clay' exhibition.

James said: *"The support of The Fenton Arts Trust grant was critical in allowing me to make the progress I've made in the last year. At the start of 2021, I was nearing completion of my self-built 1.5m<sup>3</sup> 3D printer, and was in the process of scaling my sculptural works and etchings. Through the support of the grant, I was able to devote more of my brain space and resources to an intensive period of process led research that ultimately led to me developing and welding together my own custom extrusion unit able to extrude entire blocks of porcelain into sculptural forms. It was at this point that I was able to continue with my research, and have since solved some of the process and material problems I've been dealing with for years. I can now work to almost any scale, and into any material - which is critical in me being able to professionalise my practice further within these emerging processes."*

## Edward Nesbit



▲ Ed & The Choir of King's College London in the recording studio (photo: foxbrushfilms.com)

*"After a delay of a year, the recording of a CD of my choral music for Delphian Records with Ruby Hughes, Joe Fort and The Choir of King's College London went ahead in June 2021. We are very grateful to The Fenton Arts Trust, and the generous grant which we received from them was invaluable in making this project possible."*

**Edward Nesbit**

# Financial Support 2020-2021

The Fenton Arts Trust awarded 18 individuals and organisations a total of £66,560 in support of the arts in the UK during the financial year 2020-2021.

Beneficiary	Award	Amount
Art in Perpetuity Trust	Mentoring & studio award for two painting graduates to be mentored by APT artists, with exhibiting opportunities to realise their potential.	£5,900
Asia House	Funds to support UK-based and young up-coming artists in the production of twelve events on the history of the human voice.	£5,000
Castlefield Gallery	Support for Bluecoat Castlefield Gallery Fellows – an intensive & bespoke development programme for North-based early career visual artists.	£4,460
Edward Nesbit	A CD of my choral music recorded by the Choir of King's College London and released by Delphian Records - supporting me early in my career.	£3,000
Film London	Supporting 12 early-career moving image artists with comprehensive development programmes to strengthen careers and facilitate production of new works.	£5,200
Fuel Productions	Three seed commissions and a 3-year programme of support for diverse, early-stage theatre makers.	£2,000
Glasgow Sculpture Studio	Funding to support GSS's annual MFA Graduate Fellowship over two years (2019 and 2020).	£2,000
HighTide Theatre	Support the development of a female playwright of colour, to write a full draft of her play for production from 2020 onwards.	£4,000
International Guitar Foundation	Young Artists Platform 2021 for 7 young professional guitarists (24 live and online concert showcases) and training/mentoring for 50+ guitarists.	£4,500
James Rogers	To provide assistance into material innovation and the capacity for their use on a self-built and hacked 1.5m <sup>3</sup> 3D printing machine.	£2,600
Khidr Collective	Creating an e-journal for British Muslim artists to contribute toward featuring poetry, short stories, illustration & photography.	£2,000
London Sinfonietta	A Digital Commissioning Scheme engaging early-career composers with expert technicians to create new works for digital platforms and devices.	£6,000
The Peaceful Defeat	Four Hundred Vlogs is a theatre production; interrogating modern culture through the figure of legendary Youtuber Logan Paul.	£2,400
B:Music	The Jazzlines Commission programme will partner 2 young Birmingham musicians with composers from elsewhere in UK to compose and perform new repertoire.	£3,000
Photographers' Gallery	Folio Fridays: The Photographers' Gallery's monthly portfolio reviews that support emerging photographers to develop their practice.	£5,000
Psappa	Psappa's 2020-21 composer development programme: providing expert support for some of the UK's best emerging professional composers.	£4,000
Rifco Theatre	To support 3 British Asian playwrights, early in their careers, to research and develop a new play and bring it to an online audience.	£3,000
Samuel Little	The visual documentation and dissemination of an overlooked reuse culture disappearing from agricultural building practice.	£2,500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£66,560</b>

## Samuel Little



▲ Sam on location & images of the steel frame buildings he is researching (photos: Arvind Roy/Sam Little)

*“The Fenton Arts Trust grant allowed me to carry out important work for which traditional ‘research’ grants would have not been applicable, an experimental project exploring the reuse and relocation of steel frame buildings in a contemporary agricultural context. The funds enabled me to work with a photographer to document the steel reuse process in disparate parts of the UK, carrying out a series of interviews which explored the experiences of practitioners engaged in this form of work. As a direct result of this work, I have been awarded funding by the Mayor of London via ReLondon to further develop a low-carbon alternative to agricultural and industrial buildings primarily made from reclaimed material. Without the initial grant the project and line of enquiry simply would not have materialised, and I am very grateful to everyone at The Fenton Arts Trust for allowing it to happen in such a challenging year.”*

### Support for the current financial year (2021-2022)

includes the following beneficiaries from around the UK:

Alex Hitchcock	Magma Poetry
Alice Bucknell	Marie Bashiru
Animikii Theatre	Marienella Phillips
Birmingham Opera Company	Modern Art Oxford
BOOK Music & Lyrics	The Mozartists
Box of Tricks Theatre Company	Multi-Story Music
Brighton Early Music Festival	National Dance Company Wales
British Youth Opera	National Youth Jazz Collective
Cample Line	New English Ballet Theatre
Centre for the Moving Image	The Opera Makers
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra	Oxford Lieder
Claire Roberts	Project One
Corinne Mynatt	Psappa
Cowbridge Music Festival	Red Note Ensemble
Drake Music	The Roundhouse Trust
East Neuk Festival	Royal Scottish National Orchestra
Fuel Productions	Scherzo Ensemble
Gate Theatre	Sheffield Creative Guild
Gothic Opera	Southbank Sinfonia
Hampstead Theatre	Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings
HighTide Theatre	Trac Cymru
Hull Urban Opera	Transform
James Wilson	Wysing Arts Centre
Little Angel Theatre	ZooNation

## 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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