

The Fenton Arts Trust

Succurrere Artibus

Registered Charity No. 294629

Number 21

Fenton News

Welcome to the latest edition of the Fenton Arts Trust newsletter, which gives a taster of some of our and our beneficiaries' activities during the financial year April 2021-March 2022.

It has been heartening to see the public returning to theatres and auditoriums, galleries and museums, giving overwhelming support to 'in person experience', and in keeping with our 'pandemic recovery policy' of flexibility and generosity, you'll note that we gave £179,000 to 48 beneficiaries during this period, increasing our usual amount by 70%. This sum does include some activities that were delayed due to Covid, and we continue to be sensitive to the toll that the arts sector has taken over the last few years.

We are also mindful of some of our past and present beneficiaries who have latterly incurred major funding losses... ENO, the Gate and Hampstead Theatres have consistently merited our support because of their emphases on encouraging emerging talent; for example, over the last 60 years, Hampstead has nurtured emerging playwrights who've included Harold Pinter, Mike Leigh, & Hanif Kureishi, but may now struggle to continue as a new writing venue.

Whilst the general genres 'music' and 'theatre' continue to dominate our expenditure, you'll see that TFAT beneficiaries are quite diverse, including puppetry and hip hop, poetry and photography. We try to ensure there's a balance not only of artistic genre, but of geographical spread, reflecting the applications we receive.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who is reading this newsletter, whether you're a Trustee (past or present), Trust Representative, supporter, benefactor or beneficiary, for your part in perpetuating the vision of our Founder, Shu-Yao Fenton, whose provision, together with that of other generous legacies, has enabled us to distribute more than £2 million over the last 20 years.



In June some of us came together to celebrate that milestone and the enduring commitment to foster emerging professionals in the arts. It was more than fitting that the three directors, Alice Usher, Béatrice de Larragoiti and Charlotte Osborn (pictured above, L-R) of Gothic Opera were kind enough to entertain us with exquisite arias from an unusual repertoire. Their own Halloween production of *La Nonne Sanglante*, inevitably delayed from October 2020, was very well received in October 2021. Sue Davies-Scourfield, Chair

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)
Gregor Logan
Fiona Thompson
Jeremy Whitton Spriggs
John Wieland (Honorary Treasurer)

Annual News 2022



May we introduce you to our new Trustee, **Jeremy Whitton Spriggs**. Jeremy joins us with extensive experience of the theatre, which includes his own acting career, as well as the work he has done for other trusts.

"I am delighted to have joined the Trust and am even prouder of its work and objectives having met some of the practitioners we have helped. Their drive and commitment, their enthusiasm and talent, shines through the applications and invigorates the projects. It

is really exciting to work with my fellow Trustees to identify and then support people at the beginning of their professional careers, especially at a time when economic and social challenges have rarely been greater. I look forward to my future involvement with huge excitement and a determination to learn and help to the best of my experience and ability."

Hampstead Theatre



▲ The INSPIRE writers cohort 21/22. Photo: Hampstead Theatre.

The Trust offered Hampstead a grant to support its year-long writers programme, INSPIRE.

"The grant from The Fenton Arts Trust has allowed us to support a community of emerging writers at the beginning of their writing lives. They have had the opportunity to develop their work with professional mentorship, to hear from a host of established writers and learn from their experiences and insights, and to form a lasting relationship with a leading new writing theatre."

Tessa Walker, Associate Director

Being part of a small community of supremely talented writers has been so nourishing - particularly given the challenges of the theatrical landscape at the moment. We need more programmes like this! Jessie

Beneficiaries 2021 - 2022

NDC Wales



▲ National Dance Company (NDC) Wales Rehearsals. Photo: Will Scott

Trust Representative **Will Scott** visited NDC Wales to watch a final workshop sharing of 'Laboratori', an R&D talent development programme pairing independent choreographers with innovative contemporary dance mentors. He reported back to the Trustees:

"We were met by Head of Development Becky Wright and introduced to the rest of the team and the four young choreographers, Joshua, Faye, Tayla and Billy. We joined them and the dancers in the Dance House studio.

"For the past week, the choreographers had been working on a theme of their own. This morning was the final sharing of all their work. We were very impressed by the high standard of the creative output and we were left with a great feeling of optimism for the future of these young choreographers. We are sure the Trust money was well spent and has greatly helped these young people to progress their craft, especially with the access to and work with a top choreographer."

Magma Poetry



The Trust contributed 62% of the costs to commission and produce Magma Poetry's 82nd issue.

"Magma Poetry is immensely grateful for the support of The Fenton Arts Trust in helping to make Magma 82: Obsidian. It is thanks to this funding that we were able to produce this issue, in collaboration with the Obsidian Foundation, which highlights Black poetry in the UK and internationally.

We were able to commission work from the likes of Roger Robinson, Caleb Femi and Lorna Goodison. As well as this, we were able to host two launches and give valuable paid publishing experience to an Obsidian intern. In a time where funding for the arts is harder to come by, The Fenton Arts Trust continues to offer much needed support, giving artists the freedom to do what they do best: create."
Gboyega Odubanjo, Co-editor

ZooNation



▲ Creative Assistants (L-R): Xsia, Portia, Georgie & William. Photo: Frankie Stansfield

Fenton funds supported ZooNation to deliver its inaugural Creative Dance Assistants scheme, which offered paid experience, employment and mentoring to four young creatives.

"Participating in this programme has allowed me to build my confidence and discover a newfound appreciation of the hard work and dedication from creatives that goes on behind the scenes. This programme hasn't only provided me with creative opportunities, it has also widened my scope and allowed me to network with other professionals and create personal future partnerships. I am excited to see what the future holds for me within the programme and how I can further represent ZooNation and grow into a well-rounded professional within the industry with the amazing support I already have in place." **Xsia**

Cample Line



▲ Still from the film *A Lesson in Frivolity* by Saoirse Amira Anis

The Trust funded a commission to support emerging artist Saoirse Anis to develop new film and performance work exploring her Scottish-Moroccan heritage.

Hull Urban Opera



▲ Production shot from *Whistle & I'll come to You*. Photo: Ashley Cantwell

The Trust gave funds for early-career opera singers to interact with film in Louis Mander's opera *Whistle & I'll Come to You*, part of an innovative site-specific new music theatre triple bill, *More Bumps in the Night*:

"We're so grateful that The Fenton Arts Trust awarded HUO £3,000 towards the fees of Poppy Shotts and Monica Toll (pictured above), two young opera singers on the cusp of exciting careers. At a time when operatic performance exists in more incarnations than ever before, the grant allowed us to offer these singers valuable experience in direct, immersive work which will serve them well for the future." **Russell Plows, Artistic Director**

Trac Cymru



▲ Trac Cymru in performance. Photo: John Plimmer

The Trust contributed to a two-year early career development programme for Avanc, the stage-name of the current Youth Folk Ensemble of Wales. The 11 young musicians aged 18-25 were invited into a programme of mentoring and coaching at the start of their musical careers. The Ensemble has a range of traditional features including the iconic Triple Harp, and percussive dance, also known as clogging or stepping.

"We were delighted to have The Fenton Arts Trust on board as a funder of this exciting project" said Blanche Rowen of Trac Cymru, Wales's folk development charity. "Our young musicians have exceeded our expectations, and we hope they'll go on to appear at festivals across the UK. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank The Fenton Arts Trust for their help in making it possible."

Gate Theatre

The Gate Theatre received funds to run a new online professional development programme for 12 early-career designers from backgrounds under-represented in the theatre profession. Despite delays caused by a change of artistic leadership and of venue, the programme finally ran in Autumn 2022:

"The Prayer Design Workshops have given me the unique opportunity to learn about other practitioners' creative processes, and pushed me to think outside the box on my own practice." **Male**

"Through research of other people's work and experimenting with our own we have been able to push our ideas further. Sessions like this feel very different - more nurturing and individual - than the current traditional process of speaking about scenography." **Cara**

Southbank Sinfonia



▲ SbS alumna Catherine in school workshop. Photo: Spitalfields Music

Fenton supported Southbank Sinfonia flautist Catherine Hare on Spitalfields Music's Trainee Music Leader Programme:

"During my month traineeship I have had the opportunity to consolidate my workshop leading skills and fill a lot of holes in my experience/skill set that I previously felt were holding me back. My progression from the first project to the last was almost unrecognisable." **Catherine**

Little Angel Theatre



▲ Interns Jess Shead (L) and Ruby Saide (R). Photos: Isaac Madge

The Trust offered to support paid internships to two young puppet makers, Jess Shead and Ruby Saide, to diversify this niche art form. In their report, both interns wrote enthusiastically of their time:



Still from *Trailing Tom* by Ruby Saide

"The puppetry internship with Little Angel Theatre has had a huge impact on me not only for the reasons of giving me full time employment within a niche creative industry, but also for my own personal development, making skills and artistic practice. I have learnt so much about myself; like how I collaborate with others, what I favour making and how I structure my schedule."



Still from *Truffle's in Trouble* by Jess Shead

"The year-long internship has enabled me to further other skills aside from making such as facilitation of both children and adult workshops (in person and online). Overall the internship has given me insight into the world of working in theatre, design, facilitation and freelance work. It has challenged me to improve my making skills and think specifically about what I enjoy working on and contributing towards. It has given me more confidence in approaching tight deadlines and working to a busy schedule."

Claire Victoria Roberts

The Trust supported the production of Claire's new EP, *Inconsistent*

"The grant enabled me to work on a project that was on a larger scale than anything I had done before, so I not only learned to manage the logistics of a large-scale EP, but I also made far more creative and professional connections with different musicians. The EP has also led to further performing opportunities which is vital for my career as a musician, and I am so grateful that I have recordings which showcase the work we put in and can be used as part of my portfolio to push my performing work in a new and exciting direction."

Financial Support 2021-2022

The Fenton Arts Trust awarded 48 individuals and organisations a total of £178,741 in support of the arts in the UK during the financial year 2021-2022.

Beneficiary	Award	Amount
Alex Hitchcock	Funding to record a contemporary jazz album.	2,950
Alice Bucknell	Support to complete an emerging artist's new film and presentation in her first solo exhibition.	1,800
Animikii Theatre	The Kaspar Hauser Experiment will collaborate with access/sensory theatre creatives for a new touring play.	6,000
Birmingham Opera Company	To support emerging artist Ross Ramgobin with an extensive programme of training to perform in 'Rheingold'.	3,500
BOOK Music & Lyrics	Funding for the facilitation of 30 Advanced level Composer and Lyricist workshops for Musical Theatre.	6,000
Box of Tricks Theatre Company	Funding to support three early-career North West playwrights to write a new play.	3,000
Brighton Early Music Festival (BREMf)	Support with training and performance opportunities.	3,000
British Youth Opera	Support for two weekend masterclasses.	2,500
Cample Line	Commission to support emerging artist Saoirse Anis to develop new film and performance work.	2,380
Centre for the Moving Image	Professional creative development programme for 24 UK emerging filmmakers working towards first feature films.	5,000
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra	An early career development programme for conductors, tailored to their individual skills and experiences.	4,000
Claire Victoria Roberts	Funding for a new EP for early-career composer/vocalist.	2,000
Corinne Mynatt	Creation of soundscape for a documentary telling untold stories of an under-represented architect's life and work.	4,000
Cowbridge Music Festival	CMF Young Artists' Recital 2021: pianist Luke Jones and composer Sarah L. Lewis.	2,000
Drake Music	An accessible, tailored programme of commissioning, mentoring & training for three early career Disabled musicians.	3,600
East Neuk Festival	Support for BAND IN A VAN (BIAV) – travelling classical, jazz and folk musicians raising morale during the pandemic.	3,000
Fuel Productions	Final year of a 3-year programme of support for diverse, early-stage theatre makers.	2,000
Gate Theatre	A new online professional development programme for 12 early-career designers from backgrounds under-represented in the theatre profession.	3,000
Gothic Opera	Orchestral ensemble fees for Gothic Opera's UK premiere production of 'La Nonne Sanglante' by Gounod.	6,860
Hampstead Theatre	An opportunity for young playwrights to develop their craft under the mentorship of an award-winning playwright.	5,000
HighTide Theatre	Financial support, mentorship, professional & artistic development for writers on Playwrights Cohort programme.	5,000
Hull Urban Opera	Support for three early-career opera singers interacting with film in Louis Mander's 'Whistle & I'll Come to You'.	3,000
James Wilson	Funds to produce a short silent film on gratitude for five creatives, with a soundtrack by an early career flautist.	3,433
Little Angel Theatre	Supporting two Puppetry Internships for a 6-month extension, to diversify this niche art form.	5,000
Magma Poetry	Publication of the 82nd issue of Magma Poetry to highlight and showcase Black poets.	5,450
Marie Bashiru	Assistance with purchase of audio interface for recording of studio album.	625
Marienella Phillips	Recording sessions for experimental electronic opera 'Lucrezia: History Rewritten'.	2,190
Modern Art Oxford	Platform Graduate Award - Professional development for emerging artists.	2,000
The Mozartists	Support for the development of early career singers in performance of Mozart's 'La Betulia liberata'.	3,500
Multi-Story Music	Funding to train 21 early career musicians to devise 'Living Programme Notes' performance of Eastman's 'Stay On It'.	5,000
National Dance Company Wales	Funds to support 'Laboratori' contemporary dance choreography programme.	5,000
National Youth Jazz Collective	Support for NYJC's Ambassadors Scheme for emerging jazz graduates.	5,740
New English Ballet Theatre	Full-time fixed-term professional development opportunity for an emerging dancer in the early stages of their career.	5,000
The Opera Makers	Funds to support new opera 'Hopes & Fears'.	5,293
Oxford Lieder	Support for the Oxford Lieder Mastercourse.	3,000
Project One	Support for 15-minute short film 'Reasons'.	500
Psappha	Support for 24 emerging composers as part of Psappha's 30th Anniversary year.	5,000
Red Note Ensemble	The Engaged Composer programme will train 10 early career composers to run inspiring community projects.	4,000
The Roundhouse	The Resident Artist Programme facilitates the development of outstanding emerging artists.	3,000
Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO)	COMPOSERS' HUB: An opportunity for 5 emerging UK-based composers to develop their orchestral writing skills.	2,500
Scherzo Ensemble	Funding to cover the principal role fees in new production of 'Il turco in Italia' at Longhope Opera July 2021.	6,000
Sheffield Creative Guild Ltd	A mentoring programme for 10 emerging creatives in a post Covid-19 world.	3,000
Southbank Sinfonia	Funds to support Spitalfields Music's Trainee Music Leader Programme for a Southbank Sinfonia musician.	2,000
SPAB	Support for the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings scholarship programme.	7,000
Trac Cymru	Support for 'Avanc' – an early career development programme for young Welsh professional folk musicians.	2,000
Transform	'Next Wave' - commissioning fees and professional development for early career Northern artists.	3,400
Wysing Arts Centre	Funding support for two residencies specifically targeting early career artists at Wysing Arts Centre.	5,000
ZooNation (The Kate Prince Company)	Support for the Creative Dance Assistant scheme which offers young artists paid experience, employment and mentoring.	4,520
TOTAL		178,741

Support for the current financial year (2022-2023) includes the following beneficiaries from around the UK:

The Albany	Merry Opera Company
Alex Marlow	Mid Wales Opera
Art in Perpetuity Trust	National Dance Company Wales
Behn Quartet	Niamh Downes
Belarus Free Theatre	Old Vic Theatre Trust
Ben Weir	The Opera Makers
Brighton Early Music Festival (BREMf)	Orange Tree Theatre
Buxton International Festival	Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (OAE)
Catalyst Arts	Oxford Bach Soloists
Citymoves Dance Agency	Papatango Theatre Company
Clean Break Theatre Company	Phoebe Mallinson
Ella Jones	Re:Verse Theatre
English National Opera	Royal Scottish National Orchestra
Foundation for Art & Creative Technology	Sherman Theatre
Farnham Sinfonia	Smorgaschord
Gothic Opera	Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
J. Eva Collins Alonso	Tara Arts Group (Tara Theatre)
Jermyn Street Theatre	Waterperry Opera Festival
Jonny Mansfield	Wise Children
Little Angel Theatre	ZooNation: The Kate Prince Company
Liverpool Philharmonic	

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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Issue 22: In order to make this newsletter reflective of more recent beneficiary activity we intend to bring out the next edition this coming summer.