

PRESS RELEASE – Embargoed until 00.01am, Friday 2 April 2021



Culture Recovery Fund Opens the Door to Arts this Spring

Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival (BDBF) has received vital support from the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund today (Friday 2 April 2021).

The registered arts charity has received two grants to help the organisation recover and reopen over the next few months. Brighton Festival will benefit from **£296,500** to ensure it can bring events back to audiences online, outdoors and safely back on stage with the re-opening of Brighton Dome Concert Hall this May.

The region's largest music education service which teaches thousands of school children and young people, receives **£174,000** for Brighton & Hove Music & Arts and East Sussex Music teachers to resume tuition in person with students.

Andrew Comben, Chief Executive, Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival said:

"We're delighted to receive this invaluable support in the week we announced that Brighton Festival will return safely back to the city in May. Since last year's cancellation and with the continued closure of Brighton Dome, it's been hard to imagine that we'd be able to look forward to this moment. This funding will also allow us to support our music services as students return to lessons and to present a Festival that works with local artists, community organisations and a range of creative professionals who are all committed to and excited about coming back.

We are enormously proud to be in a city that believes in the value of the arts, both economically and socially, and to have such loyal audiences who we know want the arts to thrive and survive beyond the pandemic."

These awards are amongst more than £300 million allocated by Arts Council England to 2,300 cultural organisations announced by the Culture Secretary today.

Sir Nicholas Serota, Chair, Arts Council England said:

"Investing in a thriving cultural sector at the heart of communities is a vital part of helping the whole country to recover from the pandemic. These grants will help to re-open theatres, concert halls, and museums and will give artists and companies the opportunity to begin making new work. We are grateful to the Government for this support and for recognising the paramount importance of culture to our sense of belonging and identity as individuals and as a society."

The funding awarded today is from a £400 million pot which was held back last year to ensure the Culture Recovery Fund could continue to help organisations in need as the public health advice changed. The funding has been awarded by Arts Council England, as well as Historic England and National Lottery Heritage Fund and the British Film Institute.

Culture Secretary, Oliver Dowden, said:

“Our record breaking Culture Recovery Fund has already helped thousands of culture and heritage organisations across the country survive the biggest crisis they've ever faced. Now we're staying by their side as they prepare to welcome the public back through their doors - helping our cultural gems plan for reopening and thrive in the better times ahead.”

Brighton Festival 2021 takes place from **1 May to 31 May** and features 94 events, performances and installations, both as specially commissioned online projects, as livestreams and across multiple outdoor and indoor locations extending from Brighton to Worthing. A third of the events will be free to attend.

ENDS

For more information or interviews please contact:

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Notes to Editors

About Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival

Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival is a registered arts charity which aims to champion the power of the arts, to enrich and change lives, and inspire and enable artists to be their most creative.

Each year Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival presents over 600 events spanning music, theatre, dance, comedy, literature, spoken word, visual arts, film, digital and more as part of its year-round programme as well as producing the internationally acclaimed Brighton Festival in May.

Brighton Dome is the south coast's leading multi-arts venue - a three space, Grade 1 listed building made up of the Concert Hall, Corn Exchange and Studio Theatre at the cultural heart of one of England's most creative cities.

We have embarked on an exciting journey to restore and reunite this historic estate, starting with a major refurbishment of our nationally important Corn Exchange and Studio Theatre. The transformation will restore long-lost heritage features as well as provide new, state-of the art facilities.

www.brightondome.org

www.brightonfestival.org

Brighton & Hove Music & Arts & East Sussex Music

BHMA and ESM are music services managed by Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival.

BHMA provides high quality and inclusive music and arts education and performance opportunities for all children and young people across the city including music lessons, ensembles, projects, workshops, orchestras, summer schools and dance classes. BHMA is the lead partner of the award winning SoundCity, the Music Education Hub for Brighton & Hove. Working alongside partners that include Audio Active, Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival, Glyndebourne, University of Sussex, Royal Pavilion and Museums, representatives from Public Health and the Music Industry.

<https://www.bhma.org.uk>

@BHMusicandArts

ESM provides music lessons and activities for over 7000 children and young people in East Sussex. Services include:

- weekly instrumental lessons in local schools in every part of East Sussex
- bands, choirs and orchestras, including our local Area Music Centres in Wealden, Eastbourne, Hastings and Lewes
- a range of creative and exciting music activities at weekends and during the holiday
- performances, events and training for schools, their staff and pupils

Our team of over 80 teachers are outstanding musicians who go through a rigorous and competitive interview process to work at East Sussex Music. Our teachers have outstanding credentials in music and education and will typically be either qualified teachers (PGCE., QTS), have university degrees in music and/or education and perform professionally. The minimum requirement of our teaching staff is performing at diploma level on their instrument and having a successful track record in teaching.

<https://www.eastsussexmusic.org/>

@eastsussexmusic

Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in [Let's Create](#) that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million **Emergency Response Package**, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies administering the Government's **Culture Recovery Fund**. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19.

At the Budget, the Chancellor announced the £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund would be boosted with a further £300 million investment. Details of this third round of funding will be announced soon.