



Working with Trust Funds

The Foyle Foundation 2013

Supporting NCO's High Peak Development Project

The Foyle Foundation is supporting the three development strands of the NCO's **High Peak Development Project 2014 - 15**: Musical Development - growing audiences across Buxton and rural Derbyshire; Education Programme Development and Increasing Organisational Capacity. The NCO is already connected to the North Derbyshire area via its Buxton Festival 'Orchestra in Residence' status and to the Orchestras Live programme of concerts in rural areas across the North of England. It is committed to forging additional partnerships with local organisations such as Music Hubs, venues, schools, local groups and funders to build a regular presence and a core audience and to deliver a sustainable series of concerts and learning initiatives.

1. Musical Development

Part of the grant will be used to develop a year-long programme of concerts in the High Peak area (outside of the annual Buxton Festival). The NCO is the only professional orchestra seeking to perform throughout the year in this area and for many local people, this represents the only realistic chance they have of attending a classical concert (given the high ticket and travel costs, plus added effort of attending a concert in, for example, Manchester or Sheffield).



The NCO is working in partnership with Buxton Festival and Orchestras Live to plan and deliver year-round concerts - creating a rich, varied musical offer for local audiences, with an associated marketing campaign.

Both photographs by David Oates

2. Education Programme Development

A second strand of the project aims to increase High Peak children and young people's access to classical music performances and to visiting professional orchestras. Music Hubs in the locality experience ongoing challenges regarding building opportunities in a rural setting, so NCO's project aims to plug gaps in the



current provision by taking musical activities out to schools in the area. Another important aspect of this project strand is to link classical music to other art-forms such as literature, visual arts and drama. NCO believes that this type of direct contact is vital to build future enjoyment and musical aspirations for children in rural areas.

3. Organisational Capacity

The NCO is one of the very few non-core-funded professional orchestras in the UK, performing to the very highest standards, with a strong commitment to reaching new audiences in under-served areas. Previous funding sources have helped the NCO to develop its concert programming and educational offer but not increasing its organisational capacity. The Foyle Foundation grant will, in part, support the development of the new website - to improve our online presence and maximise opportunities for growing new audiences, increasing sales and raising awareness of the NCO and all its services.

The funding from the Foyle Foundation will deliver direct benefits to the local community as follows:

- A total estimated audience of 1,000 people from the North Derbyshire area will have the opportunity to enjoy NCO's series of four concerts.
- Over 300 children and young people from High Peak's children's centres, schools and colleges (aged 3 - 18 years) will have the opportunity to engage with NCO's learning team in various exciting educational projects.
- 3 early-career soloists will be given the opportunity to perform with the NCO.