

WIGMORE HALL

Impact Report

This report looks back on the last 12 months and what your donations have helped us achieve.

This past year has been tough for live performance. Audiences across Europe were severely diminished as we opened the new season in September 2022, and there was still a post-pandemic lag in the autumn. Despite these unprecedented challenges, the generosity from donors, trusts and foundations backed our efforts to successfully encourage audiences to return.

Whilst we have seen fuller auditoriums, our revenue from concerts is still not quite up to pre-pandemic levels. This is due in part to the change in booking patterns with an increase in discounted last-minute tickets and rising sales of Under 35s tickets priced at £5. Thanks to your gifts we continue to present the largest solo piano, string quartet, chamber music and Lieder series in the world. Most of these audiences exceed pre-pandemic levels.

We have seen huge growth in audience numbers in our Early Music and Baroque series, and contemporary music and commissioning are bringing in audiences from every demographic. The diversity within our programming is attracting new audiences of all ages, and our efforts towards young audiences proved vital as they were the first to return to the Hall immediately following the pandemic.

We continue to put major resources into drawing young people to the Hall. This year we subsidised over **15,000 tickets** for the under 35 age group, with people attending multiple concerts across the season, and we have seen a new group of supporters emerging from this scheme, including some who have become donors.

Thanks to gifts through our Digital Broadcast Fund we continue to live stream concerts worldwide every week. We have had over **2 million views** across our platforms this season, with the greatest percentage of viewers coming from South Korea, the United States and the United Kingdom. These broadcasts are vital in expanding our reach to a global audience. Young pianist Yunchan Lim received our highest ever YouTube viewing figures from his debut concert in January, currently at **803,000 views** (and rising).

Thanks to you, in the 2022/23 Season we:

- Worked with over **2,600 artists**, including the ongoing rescheduling of concerts cancelled during the pandemic. This has been a full and exciting season which has seen the return of many regulars and many newcomers too.
- Launched a new and re-energised website, which is already connecting with and bringing in new audiences, and updated our printed materials.
- Featured key debut recitals and concerts from Yunchan Lim piano, Emily D'Angelo mezzo-soprano, Severin von Eckardstein piano, Francesco Corti harpsichord, Shenyang bass-baritone, Francesca Dego violin, Michael Spyres tenor and the astonishing composer and singer Will Liverman.
- Worked with some of the most marginalised members of society through our Learning programme, with both in-person and online workshops.
- Commissioned a highly praised new photography exhibition from Christopher Jonas displayed throughout the Hall, much to the joy of audiences and artists alike.
- Continued to invest in our building, including rebuilding the stage, refurbishment of the balcony seating and new LED lighting in the Restaurant and Learning Room.



Jennifer Pike © Mark Allan



Anubrata Chatterjee and Amjad Ali Khan © Mark Allan



Chamber Tots © James Berry

Your Investment Matters

Thanks to your support we made significant investments in the artistic programme, infrastructure and young audiences.

Artistic highlights from the past year

We have received substantial financial support towards our artistic programme, which has enabled us to maintain our commitment to artists, despite a difficult climate. Thanks to your support we have not compromised or reduced the number of concerts, and we are investing in new and innovative programming, and in new audiences.

We began the season in September with a Schubertiade featuring an all-star chamber ensemble specially assembled for the composer's Octet, and performances of the Schubert String Quintet from the Belcea Quartet and Jean Guihen-Queyras. Amjad Ali Kahn was in residence at the start of 2023, we had a weekend of concerts from the African Concert Series, and two debut recitals from American baritone Will Liverman. We saw six concerts from Sir András Schiff exploring Haydn, Bach and Mozart among others, three appearances from Christian Gerhaher in Schubert and Schumann, and a Mozart focus from the Hagen Quartet across three concerts. Héloïse Werner performed a programme of music focusing on contemporary women composers to celebrate International Women's Day, and Associate Artist Christian McBride was awarded the Wigmore Medal following his recital in July. Our Learning Festival saw concerts and workshops for babies, families, school groups and people living with dementia and their carers, and we hosted two concerts at St James's Spanish Place with Le Concert Spirituel and Solomon's Knot this summer, with the series inaugurated by a visit from His Majesty The King.

Over 20,000 tickets to young people in the Hall

Thanks to the generous support of the CAVATINA Chamber Music Trust, we offer free tickets at selected concerts for

school groups and young people aged 8-25. This season **4,609 tickets** have been used under this scheme. We continue to invest in the under 35 age group and this year have subsidised **15,762 Under 35s tickets**.

New website launched

Our new website launched in June. Its design is in line with our printed materials, and we have incorporated features which promote increased security and many others which make the site easy to use. Account details, live streams and past concert videos are now more accessible, and concert listings are clearer. The ticket booking facility is simpler, and use of tags for artists and composers allows for new ways to explore our concert series.

Competitions

Following postponement due to the pandemic, the Wigmore Hall International Song Competition took place in September 2022, with British tenor Laurence Kilsby winning first prize. 48 singers and pianists representing 23 different nationalities were selected to take part, from 162 applications.

Purchase of Graf fortepiano

With no useable Graf fortepianos in the UK, presenting historically informed performances of certain repertoire at the Hall was very difficult, and hiring an instrument from abroad was expensive and logistically challenging. This year we purchased a Graf fortepiano, which is used for our own promotions (it featured in eight concerts this season) and hired out to concert promoters (this summer our Graf will feature in a concert at the BBC Proms).



Chiaroscuro Quartet © The Wigmore Hall Trust 2023



Christian McBride and Rhiannon Giddens © Mark Allan



Sir András Schiff © The Wigmore Hall Trust 2022

AUG 22 - JUL 23

Learning & Participation

Over the past year, Wigmore Hall Learning has led **449 events** and **18,254 engagements** across our Music for Life, Schools, Young People, Families and Pathways programmes, continuing work with some of the most marginalised members of society.

This season we have continued important creative partnerships with schools and Music Education Hubs; the NHS, care homes and social care organisations; the Royal Academy of Music; Solace Women's Aid; and Cardinal Hume Centre, ensuring people who have experienced adversity, trauma, isolation and marginalisation can experience the transformational power of music, through taking part in creative music making activity. The Learning programme is generously funded by individual gifts, and grants from trusts and foundations, and we are very grateful for the ongoing support which enables us to continue developing and refining our programme.

This year thanks to your support:

- We celebrated 30 years of the Music for Life programme with a celebratory event at Wigmore Hall. We led a range of workshops, a panel discussion and a performance from Singing with Friends. The day was live streamed and watched by **2,200 people**.
- We continued to develop our inclusive recruitment initiatives to give more opportunities to people from under-represented backgrounds and minimise bias, increasing the diversity and representation among the musicians and staff.
- In February our Learning Festival saw **1,281 engagements** across **15 events**.
- We led six half-day interactive workshops across two Solace refuges in Lambeth and Enfield, supporting women and children in refuge through the lens of interdisciplinary and participatory music making.
- 23 Pathways trainees completed training schemes developing skills and confidence in leading creative music making activity.
- Partner Schools, Singing with Friends and Come and Create shared their year's work onstage.



Music for Life: Sharing Our Stories © James Berry



Chamber Tots © James Berry

Our plans for 2023/24:

- We begin an exciting new programme of work with the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, supporting young people impacted by the criminal justice system, in partnership with the New Town Culture team.
- We are extending our BSL interpreted concerts to include schools concerts.
- We welcome our new cohort of Pathways trainees in September.
- This year marks 30 years of Wigmore Hall Learning, and we will celebrate during the Learning Festival.

A more substantial report on the Learning Programme and each strand of activity is available on request. Please contact **Tara Fry** in the Development Office tara@wigmore-hall.org.uk

Finances

The 2022/23 Season comprised just under 1,000 concerts and Learning events. Thanks to your support, we raised over **£2.7 million** this season, including memberships, donations, grants and other gifts, and we brought in **£3.7 million** in ticket sales.

After a slow start to the season, due to initial audience reluctance, audience numbers have been steadily increasing over the course of the year, and we had many sold-out concerts over the spring and summer. This is good news. Our challenge now is to ensure that we maintain the same level of funding for next season so that we can programme on the same scale going forward. Standing still is not an option, supporting great artistry is our priority.

To achieve a full programme every season, our fundraising efforts continue unabated. The gap between ticket sales and public grants is **£3.5 million** for the 2023/24 Season. In October 2023, we will also launch our Director's Fund: a restricted fund which will invest in future generations of artists, independent programming and uncompromising quality of experience. This fund will set the Hall up for the next 50 years; it will give purpose and a long-term impact for any gift, whether made now, so that a donor can see its impact in their lifetime, or later with a legacy gift, to the benefit of future generations of artists and audiences.

A full statement of financial activity will be available to download once our annual accounts for 2022/23 are published in 2024.

Our plans for 2023/24:

- We will start to present a series of 16 new works, commissioned by Wigmore Hall, from composers we have not commissioned previously. The new pieces will be performed by leading artists and ensembles over the next four seasons.
- The new season features residencies from Louise Alder, 12 Ensemble, Jeremy Denk and Veronica Eberle amongst others. There are return visits for international stars such as Mitsuko Uchida, Brad Mehldau, Magdalena Kožená, Christian Gerhaher and Maria João Pires.
- After a run of pilot concerts, we launch a new series of low stimulus concerts for neurodivergent audiences.
- We begin a project in the borough of Barking and Dagenham working with those impacted by the criminal justice system.
- We will give a long-awaited update and refresh of the artist facilities backstage, including toilets and showers, which have not been refurbished since 1991.

'That we could approach the 2022/23 Season with an undimmed sense of ambition and adventure is thanks to the magnificent support of the many individuals, trusts and foundations who underpin the Hall's work. With audiences now returning to pre-pandemic levels, we look ahead, with renewed confidence, to the many exciting projects and plans that will shape our future.'

I remain personally grateful to you all for each and every donation to the Hall. Without such support, a programme of this scale and breadth would be impossible.'

– John Gilhooly



His Majesty The King attends the Wigmore Hall concert of Handel's coronation anthems and *Dettingen Te Deum* with Le Concert Spirituel
© Matt Crossick/PA Wire