

PRESS RELEASE - 22 October 2020



Jerwood Arts, Wolfson Foundation, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and The Linbury Trust launch £660k Live Work Fund to support individuals across music and the performing arts

- **£20k for at least 33 outstanding artists, creatives and producers to develop their practice**

Today, 22 October, Jerwood Arts, Wolfson Foundation, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and The Linbury Trust, announce a new funding programme - the Live Work Fund - that will offer financial and career support to a selection of the most outstanding and visionary music creators, performance makers and producers to enable them to adapt and thrive through the challenges presented by Covid-19.

The impact of Covid-19 and limitations on bringing artists and audiences together to experience live work in real time are having devastating consequences across the arts ecology. For those with live performance at the heart of their practice - creating new work in music, theatre, opera, circus, dance, live art and the gaps between these disciplines - the closure of venues and reduction on opportunities across the UK has drastically impaired their ability to research, develop, create and share their work. Research suggests artists in the early phases of their careers and those who already faced barriers pre-pandemic are being hardest hit: the permanent loss of a generation of skilled and talented individuals from these sectors is a very real concern.

Learning from its experience of funding individuals, Jerwood Arts has developed a new fund, with substantial contributions from the Wolfson Foundation (particularly to support those working with music), the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and The Linbury Trust. Open to individuals and those with a collaborative practice based in the UK, the £660k Live Work Fund will provide awards of £20k for at least 33 outstanding artists, creatives and producers with no more than ten years' experience over a period of 12 months. Around half of the awards will go to music creators. The fund will also provide meaningful professional development support through expert mentors.

Lilli Geissendorfer, Director, Jerwood Arts, says:

'We're delighted to be working with Wolfson Foundation, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and The Linbury Trust for the first time, in a new model that we hope will strengthen best practice among arts funders at a time with potential for radical change. Our experience of funding and developing outstanding artistic practitioners through significant, long-term grants has shown us that this fund

will enable the awardees to make powerful contributions to their artistic communities as they navigate this intense period of change and transition. The emergency funding that is being provided by a number of funders is absolutely vital, but we believe that transformative opportunities for artists in the early phases of their careers are also needed. We are hoping to support a generation of visionary ideas that can mark a new beginning for live work in the UK.'

Paul Ramsbottom, Chief Executive, Wolfson Foundation, says:

"This is a time of uncertainty and anxiety for artists. We hope that this funding programme is an imaginative response, and I am delighted that it is also a response borne out of partnership with our friends and colleagues at Jerwood Arts, Esmée Fairbairn and Linbury."

Caroline Mason OBE, Chief Executive, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, says:

"We know this is an incredibly difficult time for the arts sector - particularly for the many freelancers who make up a significant proportion of the workforce. Through this exciting new fund, we hope to support and develop a generation of artists and leaders who use art to tackle challenges in the sector as well as in our communities.

"We're also delighted to be collaborating with Jerwood Arts, the Wolfson Foundation and the Linbury Trust on the fund. We believe that working in a partnership such as this, we can achieve so much more."

Stuart Hopley, Director of The Linbury Trust, says:

"We're really pleased to be in this funder partnership that will help to retain creative talent in the sector, and underpin professional artistic development at a time when it is needed now, more than ever."

The Live Work Fund opens for submissions on 22 October on www.jerwoodarts.org with a closing date of 5pm, 16 November 2020. The fund will be open to artists, creatives and producers whose work is focussed and relies on live performance, including but not limited to those working in music, theatre, opera, circus, dance, live art and performing arts. Building on Jerwood Arts' ongoing work in encouraging and enabling outstanding individuals from all backgrounds to flourish, the selection process seeks to reduce unconscious biases and share decision making with practising artists drawn from Jerwood Arts pool of over 70 Artist Advisers. Applicants will be provided with a wide range of support to help them decide whether to apply, and if they do, how to strengthen their applications. Written feedback will be available on request. The selection will take place in December with grants paid out before Christmas. The Live Work Fund awardees will be announced in early 2021.

--ENDS--

For further information about the Live Work Fund, please contact Harriet Clarke or Lucy Pennington at Four Culture:

Harriet.Clarke@fourcommunications.com |
lucy.pennington@fourcommunications.com |

Notes to Editors:

Jerwood Arts is the leading independent funder dedicated to supporting UK artists, curators and producers to develop and thrive. We enable transformative opportunities for individuals across art forms, supporting imaginative awards, fellowships, programmes, commissions and collaborations. We present new work and bring people from across the arts together in the galleries at Jerwood Space, London, as well as across the UK. jerwoodarts.org

Twitter: [@JerwoodArts](https://twitter.com/JerwoodArts)

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation aims to improve our natural world, secure a fairer future and strengthen the bonds in communities in the UK. We unlock change by contributing everything we can alongside people and organisations with brilliant ideas who share our goals.

The Foundation is one of the largest independent grant-makers in the UK. In 2019 we made grants of £36 million towards a wide range of work within the arts, children and young people, the environment and social change. We also have a £45 million allocation to social investments for organisations with the aim of creating social impact.

www.esmeefairbairn.org

Twitter: [@EsmeeFairbairn](https://twitter.com/EsmeeFairbairn)

The Wolfson Foundation

The Wolfson Foundation is an independent charity with a focus on research and education. Its aim is to support civil society by investing in excellent projects in science, health, heritage, humanities and the arts.

Since it was established in 1955, some £1 billion (£2 billion in real terms) has been awarded to more than 11,500 projects throughout the UK, all on the basis of expert review.

Twitter: [@wolfsonfdn](https://twitter.com/wolfsonfdn)

The Linbury Trust

The Linbury Trust is an independent grant-making trust established in 1973 by Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, and his wife Anya, Lady Sainsbury CBE. The Trust supports a wide variety of compelling and exciting projects across the world in the fields of arts, heritage and culture; the environment; and social and medical welfare.

Twitter: [@TheLinburyTrust](https://twitter.com/TheLinburyTrust)

**JERWOOD
ARTS**

 Esmée
Fairbairn
FOUNDATION

The Wolfson*
Foundation

THE
LINBURY
TRUST