

Playground Proms scheme expands with additional Arts Council funding

NEWS JAN 24, 2024 BY GEORGIA LUCKHURST



Children watching a Playground Proms performance. Photo: Alexandra Kenyon

A scheme that delivers classical music performances to school playgrounds has received a £114,271 grant in Arts Council England funding, enabling it to expand its offering.

Playground Proms, devised by comedy string quartet Graffiti Classics, has secured a third ACE grant to assist its 2024 tour across the UK.

The music education project has previously been awarded £14,500 in 2021 and £29,555 from the public body.

Conceived in 2021 as a means of performing while maintaining Covid-19's social distancing restrictions, Playground Proms began as a collaboration with Cumbria Music Education Hub. It is aimed at engaging 5-11 year-olds in classical music and its workshops include an introduction to conducting and composition, as well as performances.

Initially serving Cumbria and its surrounding areas, the initiative has expanded to become a dedicated charity, with the latest grant enabling it to visit schools and work alongside music hubs in East Riding, Lancashire, Norfolk, North Yorkshire, Portsmouth and York. A pilot project will also commence in Kent.

The tour begins on March 18 and runs until July 6, with workshops for schools complemented by a series of pop-up performances targeting the wider community.

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Cathal Ó Dúill from Playground Proms said: "We are so pleased to be able to take Playground Proms to even more school children in 2024 and are very grateful to Arts Council England for their support. We believe classical music can be enjoyed by everyone and the response to both our schools' workshops and performances in the local communities show this.

"Some children we perform with may have never heard any live classical music before our visit and we believe passionately in the transformative nature of live music in all children's lives. All our audiences really enjoy the music being presented in a new and fresh way, and we hope this can go some way to show there is interest from the public and that classical music should be invested in. We can't wait to hit the road."

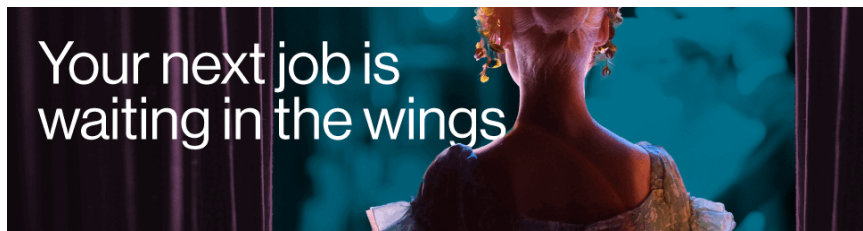
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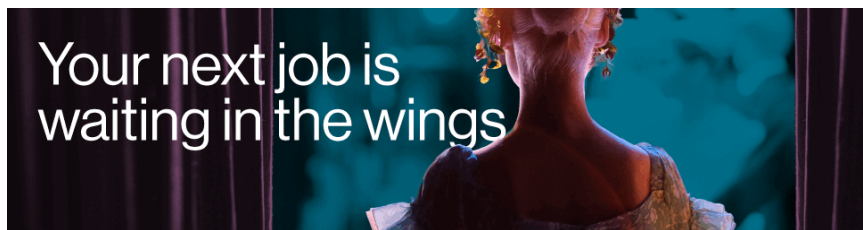
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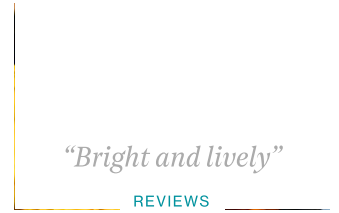
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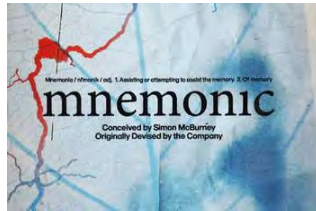


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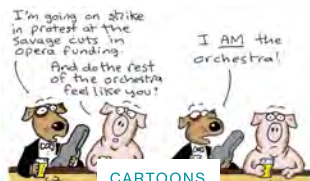
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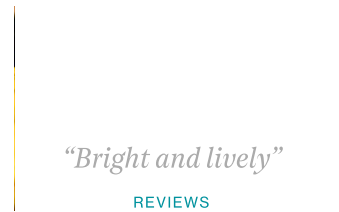
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