

# The Fenton Arts Trust

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David Tong

*Trust Manager:*  
Christine Bisatt

Annual News  
2013/2014

Succurrere Artibus

Registered Charity No. 294629

Number 13

## Fenton News

The Trust had a very busy year in 2013-14. During this year we received the funds from the generous bequest made by Alastair Graham-Bryce, and TFAT was able to increase the funds it could make available for distribution as grants by approximately £10,000 per year. In all, the Trust gave £108,763 in grants to 29 different artists and organisations – almost £24,000 more than in 2012-2013. We welcomed two new members to the board of Trustees: Paul Bayley and Gregor Logan, both of whom have had an association with the Trust for some time.



◀ **Paul Bayley** is Director of the Florence Trust, a past TFAT beneficiary. His career in the contemporary visual arts covers a wide variety of different roles, including curator, catalogue writer and collaborator, and he has experience of working with both small charities and national museums. He sits on the Arts Committee of St Pauls Cathedral, and is a member of

the board of the Methodist Modern Art Collection. In particular, his experience of fostering artists at the beginning of their careers means that he can offer the Trustees valuable insights when considering applications from the fine arts.



◀ **Gregor Logan** has been informally involved with the Trust for some time now, via his wife Sue Logan, who held the post of Hon. Treasurer from 2000 to 2005. Gregor's career as an investment practitioner has covered both the corporate and charity sectors, and his role as advisor to the Benevolent Fund of the ISM (Incorporated Society of Musicians) means he can offer invaluable advice

and support to the Trust to help ensure it protects its capital to allow it to continue its grant-making work. (photo: Reuters)

## Scholarships and Bursaries: a change in Trust policy

The Trust has recently reviewed its policies, and now wishes to focus more specifically on those who have already made a professional entry into the arts. Consequently attention will shift away from those who are still seeking that entry. It is hoped that colleges, academies, universities *et cetera* may be able to propose alternatives to bursaries with blanket applicability to a wide range of students, and will be more focused on those who are making a career in the arts rather than on the basis of hardship alone.

## The Poetry Trust

In November 2013 - the second year of the Trust's sponsorship - The Fenton Aldeburgh First Collection Prize was given to Dan O'Brien for his first book of poetry, *War Reporter*.



▲ **Dan O'Brien** at the 2014 Festival (photo: Peter Everard Smith)

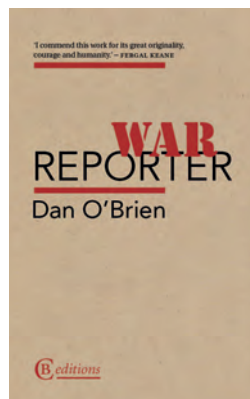
"At the opening of the 25th Aldeburgh Poetry Festival I had the double pleasure of announcing the winner of the 2013 Fenton Aldeburgh First Collection Prize and introducing last year's winner Olivia McCannon to deliver the 'reading' part of her prize.

"From a record total of 83 entries in 2013, the three judges Peter Blegvad, Maura Dooley and Robert Seatter unanimously chose Dan O'Brien for *War Reporter*. The 120 page sequence of poems – the result of a collaboration with Pulitzer Prize-winning war reporter Paul Watson and his experiences in Mogadishu, Rwanda, Afghanistan and Syria – is quite simply essential reading.

"It is such a pleasure for The Poetry Trust to work with The Fenton Arts Trust because we both know how important it is to support artists in the early stages of their careers. And it's a terrific bonus to have such genuinely engaged trustees. The Fenton Aldeburgh First Collection Prize offers vital encouragement to the artform, demonstrating the health of contemporary poetry and above all reminding us that there are poets of real quality to discover"

**Naomi Jaffa, Director**

*"The Fenton Aldeburgh First Collection Prize has changed my writing life. Embarking on a new career as a poet, just as I was establishing myself as a playwright, was in many ways a reckless thing to do. But this prize has brought me supportive readers, a welcoming community of poets in the UK, and added courage to continue as a poet-playwright."* **Dan O'Brien**



*"It is a masterpiece of truthfulness and feeling, and a completely sui generis addition not just to writing about war but to contemporary poetry"*

**Patrick McGuinness, The Guardian**

# Beneficiaries 2013-2014

## Phoenix Dance Theatre



Photo: Brian Slater

### ▲ Emerging choreographer **Phil Sanger**

*"Phil has a hunger to create, learn, perform, teach and share and the support from the Fenton Arts Trust enabled us to invest time and resources into his creative development. It has been wonderful to see him grow as a creative, generous and rounded artist whose work will touch the lives of many people in the years to come".*

**Lesley Jackson**, Executive Director

## London Symphony Orchestra

*"The support from The Fenton Arts Trust enabled the LSO to offer 15 young string musicians, in their final year at the London music colleges, the opportunity to play alongside the orchestra and be paid as professional musicians. In their end of year reports the students highlighted how valuable the scheme has been helping them become more aware of the high standards required of professional musicians; the benefit of getting to experience the format of an audition and the joy of performing on the stage as part of one of the world's top orchestras."*

**Helen Greer**, Trusts & Foundations Manager

## New Dots



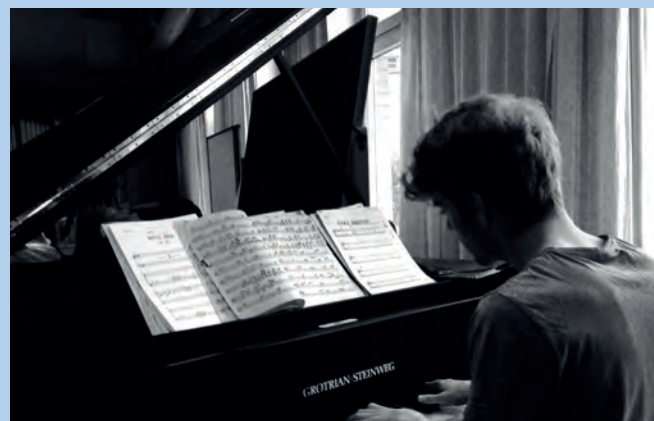
Photo: Cathy Pyle

### ▲ **New Dots** concert 14 November 2013: the Octandre Ensemble with conductor Jon Hargreaves

*"The funds from The Fenton Arts Trust enabled us to work with a bigger ensemble than we had done previously and also to be able to work with musicians with great reputations. This was our 3rd project and the funding from Fenton was timely and helped us to sustain our reputation as creating interesting, professional events. We were also very grateful for the support from the Fenton trustees, who were very enthusiastic audience members at a number of our events and provided us with invaluable feedback."*

**Meryl Hicks**, CEO & Founder

## National Youth Jazz Orchestra



### NYJO 'Chairs': ▲ **Rupert Cox** Piano & **Joe Downard**, Double Bass

*"The support of the Fenton Arts Trust has been crucial to NYJO. It came during a time of rapid expansion of our activities and gave us confidence in our ambition to nurture the next generation of professional jazz musicians and inspire young people of all backgrounds to engage with jazz."*

**Stephen Chamberlain**, Partnerships & Development Manager

## Wolsingham Primary School



### ▲ One of **Jilly Greenwood's** 10 Centenary playground murals

*"Our centenary year was full of exciting, interesting and memorable events. This Grand Finale mural project involved almost every child in school. The artist we engaged (Jilly Greenwood) not only secured a paying commission but a valuable experience which has enriched her CV and has already led to a possible offer of work in another school on a similar project. We would like to express our most sincere thanks to The Fenton Arts Trust for their generosity, which made this project possible. It is our belief that the project has furthered the career of a young professional artist and inspired some of our children to develop further their artist talents."*

**Ken Etherington**, School Business Manager

## Fuel

*"Fuel was thrilled to receive a grant from The Fenton Arts Trust, which allowed us to offer an internship bursary in our Production department. We offered the placement to Tanya Harrison, who worked with Stuart Hayes, our Head of Production, over a three month period in 2013. Tanya's progress was clear to see and we are delighted that, subsequently, we have been able to offer her a paid position as Production Manager of a tour of the Scottish Highlands."*

**Ed Errington**, Executive Director



## Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment



▲ **OAE Experience** musicians at play (photo: Ellie Cowan)  
*"In November 2013, The Fenton Arts Trust awarded the Orchestra a grant of £3,000 towards the OAE Experience Scheme. The scheme is the key stepping stone and catalyst for exceptional young period instrumentalists: it bridges the gap between music college and the start of a career as a professional player. As the only training scheme offered by a professional period instrument orchestra, the scheme leads the way in opening up career opportunities for the outstanding young players of the future.*

*"We are incredibly grateful for the Trust's support, without which we would be unable to invest in young, talented instrumentalists and help to secure the future of historically informed performance."*

**Harriet Lawrence**  
 Deputy Director of Development

## Yorkshire Dance



▲ From left: **Sophie Unwin**, *Visitors* by **Jordan Massarella & Nathan Geering** (photos: Brian Slater, Jordan Massarella, Sara Teresa)  
*"The support from The Fenton Arts Trust was absolutely critical in the delivery of our New Associate Programme through which we were able to support 4 emerging artists with developing their artistic practice and their careers. Sophie Unwin, Jordan Massarella, Nathan Geering and Louise Ahl each received advice and guidance, support with fundraising, studio space but probably most importantly: they were able to take part in real step-change projects. With support from you they were able to learn from hugely experienced artists, gain in confidence and develop new choreography which led, among many other things, to new performances nationally."*

**Wieke Eringa**  
 CEO & Artistic Director

## Northern Film School



▲ From left: Director **Peter Baumann**, 2014 Student Academy Award-winner, with his 'Oscar'. ▲ NFS Director Jennifer Granville presents **Cleo Samoles-Little** with her cheque

*"With the generous funding given by The Fenton Arts Trust we were able to establish an 'Alumni Production Scheme Fund'. Despite the fact that film making can be a very slow process, we were delighted to discover that projects we supported have already had an amazing amount of public success.*

*"Thanks to Fenton support, the production team of the short film Border Patrol – Peter Baumann, Director, Simon Bolton-Gabrielson and Nishad Chaughule Producers, Justin Litton, Director of Photography and James Gover, Editor - were able to attend the Student Academy Awards at the Directors' Guild of America. The team travelled to LA to receive the award and had the opportunity to meet and network with professionals at the top of the industry. The Trust's support went a long way to enabling them to take advantage of this one-off opportunity, and the extra funds particularly made a difference for James, who has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy and had to travel with his full-time carer, a significant further cost."*



▲ Above: Still from **Ashleigh Spindle & Nuno Rodriguez's** film *Safiyah Flies Across the Ocean*. (photo: Manon Ardisson)  
*"The Fenton grant also supported Ashleigh Spindle and Nuno Rodriguez to work on the short film Safiyah Flies Across the Ocean. The film will be screened at the BFI Futures Fest in February 2015.*

*"Gold, a short film by writer/director Cleo Samoles-Little, had raised enough money for production but had no funding left to enter film festivals. TFAT funding has enabled the film to be entered widely into festivals this year, and already the film has been accepted into the London Short Film Festival and Underwire.*

*"Finally Creative Producing Elevator beneficiaries Aurora Fearnley and Ron Wright are developing the work they brought to the scheme, and Aurora has also become the mentee of both Franc Roddam, Director of Quadrophenia and Robert Grant, Director of the London Sci-fi Film Festival."*

**Jennifer Granville**  
 Director & Principal Lecturer

# Financial Support 2013-2014

The Fenton Arts Trust awarded twenty nine individuals and organisations a total of £108,763 in support of the arts in the UK during the financial year 2013-2014.

Beneficiary	Award	Amount
Academy of St. Martin in the Fields	Young musician residency and concert	£2,500
The Actors Centre	Alan Bates Bursary contribution: Adam Buchanan	£2,065
Association of Dance of the African Diaspora (ADAD)	Trailblazers CPD programme bursary	£2,500
Birmingham Royal Ballet (BRB)	Dancer work placements scheme	£5,000
Cardiff Metropolitan University	MA bursaries: Kate Haywood & Regine Williams	£3,000
Central School of Ballet	Student dancer bursaries	£2,500
Central School of Speech & Drama (CSSD)	Final year bursaries	£5,000
City & Guilds of London Art School	MA bursaries: David Hughes & Alexandra Mason	£5,000
English Pocket Opera Company (EPOC)	Residency for CSM graduate Bryony Edwards	£2,500
Fuel	Theatre arts work placement bursary: Tanya Stephenson	£2,424
London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art (LAMDA)	Postgraduate acting scholarship: Annette O'Shea	£3,000
London Contemporary Dance School (LCDS)	Bursaries	£3,000
London Symphony Orchestra	LSO Discovery String Experience funding	£5,000
National Youth Jazz Orchestra (NYJO)	Sponsorship of two 'Chairs': Rupert Cox & Joe Downard	£4,000
New Dots	Contemporary chamber music concert funding	£5,000
Northern Film School	Alumni Production Scheme	£5,000
Orange Tree Theatre Richmond	Trainee Directors' scheme: Sophie Boyce & Lewis Gray	£3,000
Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (OAE)	Year-long mentoring scheme for gifted period instrumentalists	£3,000
Oxford Lieder	Masterclass for 2013 Oxford Lieder Festival	£2,500
Phoenix Dance Theatre	Emerging choreographer training programme: Phil Sanger	£4,800
The Poetry Trust	Fenton Aldeburgh First Collection Prize sponsorship: Dan O'Brien	£5,000
Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA)	Bursary for 2013-2014 scholarship fund: Eva Clifford & Luke Thompson	£5,000
Sing for Pleasure	Young conductors scholarship scheme	£4,674
Soho Theatre	Soho 6 Writers Programme	£5,000
Spitalfields Music	Emerging artists 2013 Festival: Charlotte Barbour-Condini & Mark Simpson	£3,000
Standpoint Gallery	Support for 2013-14 residencies: Marie Toseland, Laura Reeves & Emily Speed	£5,000
Wolsingham Primary School	Early career artist mural project: Jilly Greenwood	£3,300
Yorkshire Dance	New Associate Programme: Nathan Geering, Jordan Massarella & Sophie Unwin	£2,000
Zeitgeist Arts Projects	Support for 'Show & Tell' artist talks programme	£5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£108,763</b>

## Birmingham Royal Ballet



Photo: Roy Smiljanic

▲ Work placement students in a production of *The Sleeping Beauty* with Marion Tait

*"It's brilliant to be able to say that I have danced with Birmingham Royal Ballet, especially in a touring production. It's definitely helped me with trying to get a contract with a company – in fact, I've already been invited to two auditions which nobody else in my year has been invited to, so it's had a massive effect already!"*

**Emilie Sutcliffe**, Graduate placement, Elmhurst School for Dance

## Applications

Applications for grants may come from groups or individuals directly, or via organisations. Applications may also come from any academic or vocational arts institution who wish to support their alumni on completion of their degrees and as they begin their professional practice. For full application criteria and an application form please visit our website at [www.fentonartstrust.org.uk](http://www.fentonartstrust.org.uk).

Support during the current financial year (2014-15) includes the following beneficiaries around the UK:

Birmingham Royal Ballet
Constella Ballet & Orchestra
Cowbridge Music Festival
Erdington Methodist Church
Glasgow Sculpture Studios
Mid Wales Opera
National Youth Jazz Collective (NYJC)
Papatango Theatre Company
The Poetry Trust
Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA)
Rambert Dance Company
Sherman Cymru
Sing for Pleasure
Spitalfields Music
Standpoint
Wiltshire Music Centre

## Supporting TFAT

We aim to help artistic institutions throughout the UK with awards and scholarships in keeping with founder Shu-Yao Fenton's wishes. We would welcome any donations in pursuit of this, which can attract further Gift Aid. Please make cheques payable to *The Fenton Arts Trust*.

## Leaving a Legacy

If you would like to support the Trust with a legacy amount, please add the following details along with your gift figure to your will: *The Fenton Arts Trust* (Registered Charity no. 294629) PO Box 268825 London SE23 9DG  
If you do decide to do this, we would be delighted to hear from you.