

Pro Corda Five Year Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018 Summary Document

Introduction

Building on the achievements of the last five years which now make Pro Corda a full time music course provider, this Plan seeks to develop further our position as the UK's foremost provider of Chamber Music training, and to establish an international position at the forefront of Europe. Within this remit we want to foster, develop, and enhance the powers of small ensemble training as a refined, progressive and creative teaching tool at every level. This will enshrine Pro Corda's key principle that chamber music is a training that develops young people educationally and in every sense, alongside the development of instrumental and artistic skills.

Pro Corda Trust

- We will ensure that at the centre of all our work, full resources are always in place to allow capacity attendance of our age progressive core chamber music courses for 8 to 18 year olds while maintaining the highest standard of entry. To help enable this, we aim to double existing core course bursary funding within this period. We will always work to ensure that talented young musicians who can benefit the most are never denied access to our core courses because of inability to afford fees.
- We will enhance our existing Further Education offer, building on the Pro Corda Fellowship scheme to introduce the UK's first Chamber Music Coaching accredited diploma. Following a pilot, this will be rolled out at diploma level (to be accessed by instrumental teachers) and Foundation level (to be accessed by non specialist school staff). The mission will be to develop small ensemble performance training as a foremost and exciting teaching tool for shared musical learning.
- We will continue to develop the National Chamber Music Festival for schools, combined with an associated national workshop series, with a mission to use the Festival and workshops to bring chamber music to school music departments where it currently doesn't exist, whilst also providing the only national UK celebration of chamber music performing achievement for under 18s.
- We will provide a progressive "base of training" for young students aged 5 to 10 by developing our existing London Saturday School, Young String Experience, while introducing new "Young Music Maker" courses in school holidays to provide a stepping stone to our core courses.
- We will continue to develop Pro Corda's term time Outreach work and ensure our nationally leading "Create Together" programme for young people with autism and other additional educational needs continues to offer cutting edge training built on the core principles of chamber music.
- We will build and develop strategic international partnerships within the above areas to share best practice, and share the ethos of our training.

Pro Corda Ventures

- As the activities of the Trust have increased, the supporting role of Pro Corda Ventures has shifted to focus commercial bookings only at certain times of year, and develop areas of the Leiston Abbey visitor experience that increase resources for Pro Corda's use and development of the site. The next five years will see Pro Corda take a more active role within the visitor/heritage/wider educational aspects of the site by developing existing strategic partnerships with archaeological and heritage groups.
- Within commercial hire bookings, we will focus schools bookings which use the wider educational properties of the site – building on existing educational partnerships established within Pro Corda Trust where possible.
- We will use the enhanced facilities at Leiston Abbey enabled by the Site Development programme (which began in 2013) to enable wider areas of commercial income related to these new facilities; for example recording studio hire.

Buildings and Estate

- The five year period will see the continuation of a Four Stage Site Development programme for the Leiston Abbey site, with the overall mission of providing state of the art facilities to serve all Pro Corda's continuing and expanding educational needs, make the site at all times fit for purpose, and provide a lasting legacy for the site and Pro Corda.
- Alongside the above areas which will see refurbishments of existing performance and workshop spaces, together with extensions and new builds, we will carry out an upgrade development of the Abbey Farm House.
- We will establish an environmental policy for the whole site with the ambition of making Leiston Abbey a beacon green energy site, with all parts of the site using renewable energy within the five year period.