



Strictly embargoed until 00:01 Friday 19th November

The Three Choirs Festival to receive support from third round of the Government's Culture Recovery Fund

- **Three Choirs Festival among 925 recipients to benefit from the latest round of awards from the Culture Recovery Fund**
- **This award will put the festival on a firm footing for staging next year's 2022 festival in Hereford**

More than £100 million has been awarded to hundreds of cultural organisations across the country, including the Three Choirs Festival, in the latest round of support from the Culture Recovery Fund, the Culture Secretary announced today.

The Three Choirs Festival is a beacon for music making in the Southwest region. One of the most longstanding classical music festivals in the world, it celebrated its 300-year anniversary in 2015. For eight days each summer, hundreds of performers bring musicmaking to the alternating host cities of Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester on a scale rarely seen in the region, and the organisation has a growing programme of community participation activity taking place both during and beyond the festival week. Bringing together voluntary and professional musicians of all ages in front of an international audience of thousands, the festival is a vibrant part of the UK's rich choral and classical music traditions.

Following a triumphant return to live music making in 2021, this award will put the Three Choirs Festival on a firm footing for the future and ensure that the 2022 festival in Hereford retains the unique atmosphere that makes it so special.

The third round of funding will support organisations from all corners of the sector as they deal with ongoing reopening challenges, ensuring they can thrive in better times ahead.

Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries said: "Culture is for everyone and should therefore be accessible to everyone, no matter who they are and where they're from.

"Through unprecedented government financial support, the Culture Recovery Fund is supporting arts and cultural organisations so they can continue to bring culture to communities the length and breadth of the country, supporting jobs, boosting local economies and inspiring people."

Over £1.2 billion has already been awarded from the unprecedented Culture Recovery Fund, supporting around 5000 individual organisations and sites across the country ranging from local museums to West End theatres, grassroots music venues to festivals, and organisations in the cultural and heritage supply-chains.

Alexis Paterson, Three Choirs Festival Chief Executive, said: "This funding support is really crucial to sustaining our operations over the winter months and will allow us to plan



confidently for our 2022 festival, which we know will be another wonderful occasion of music making in our region.”

Darren Henley, Chief Executive, Arts Council England, said: “This continued investment from the Government on an unprecedented scale means our theatres, galleries, music venues, museums and arts centres can carry on playing their part in bringing visitors back to our high streets, helping to drive economic growth, boosting community pride and promoting good health. It’s a massive vote of confidence in the role our cultural organisations play in helping us all to lead happier lives”.

For more information about the Three Choirs Festival and to see our preview flyer for Hereford 2022, visit:

<https://3choirs.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/3ChoirsFestival>

<https://twitter.com/3choirs>

<https://www.instagram.com/3choirsfestival>

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Further information and high-resolution images are available from:

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Notes to Editors

1. The Three Choirs Festival

Having celebrated its 300th anniversary in 2015, the Three Choirs Festival is the longest running classical music festival of its kind in the world. Rotating between the English cathedral cities of Hereford, Gloucester and Worcester, the festival hosts an annual, week-long, summer programme packed with concerts, services, recitals, masterclasses, talks, theatre, exhibitions and lots more. The next festival will take place in Hereford from 23-30 July 2022.

2. Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let’s Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk. Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies administering the Government’s unprecedented Culture Recovery Funds. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19.