



Founder
Paul Steinitz † OBE D. Mus
(1909-1988)

Artistic Director
Margaret Steinitz Hon.ARAM

PRESS RELEASE - Immediate

“Onwards and upwards” #HereForCulture #CultureRecoveryFund

London Bach Society has been awarded **£50,000** as part of the Government’s £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund (CRF) to help face the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and to ensure the Society has a sustainable future, the Culture Secretary announced on 12 October.

London Bach Society is one of 1,385 cultural and creative organisations across the country receiving urgently needed support. £257 million of investment has been announced as part of the very first round of the Culture Recovery Fund grants programme being administered by Arts Council England.

London Bach Society (LBS) was founded by Bach scholar and conductor (Dr) Paul Steinitz in 1946, celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2021-2022 and is unique in Britain. Under the leadership of its late founder, the LBS has changed the way we study and perform Bach’s music in this country. Its ground-breaking Bach projects include the UK première of Bach’s Mattheus-Passion in its complete and original German form (1952) and the early version of it (2013), the first complete cantata cycle in UK of Bach’s extant church and secular cantatas (1958-87), the original pioneering of key baroque instruments, and the UK ‘live’ première of a newly discovered Bach Aria (2005). The Society supports **Steinitz Bach Players**, a professional orchestra founded in 1968 to enhance modern Bach scholarship in ‘live’ performances and the SBP is resident at the annual autumn Bachfest founded by Artistic Director Margaret Steinitz in 1990 that is building on the Society’s musical legacy today.

Forging close links with the Bach heritage at Leipzig has enhanced the London Bach Society’s reputation on the international stage since the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989) and LBS will be a patron of the Leipzig Bachfest in June 2022 (postponed from June 2020).

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said:

“This funding is a vital boost for the theatres, music venues, museums and cultural organisations that form the soul of our nation. It will protect these special places, save jobs, and help the culture sector’s recovery.

“These places and projects are cultural beacons the length and breadth of the country. This unprecedented investment in the arts is proof this government is here for culture, with further support to come in the days and weeks ahead so that the culture sector can bounce back strongly.”

Chair, Arts Council England, Sir Nicholas Serota, said:

“Theatres, museums, galleries, dance companies and music venues bring joy to people and life to our cities, towns and villages. This life-changing funding will save thousands of cultural spaces loved by local communities and international audiences. Further funding is still to be announced and we are working hard to support our sector during these challenging times.”

LBS Artistic Director Margaret Steinitz said

“ The Culture Recovery Fund Award is both a lifeline and an opportunity for our historic Society. We are delighted and immensely grateful to have been given such an award. During this pandemic and in common with many other music organisations nationwide, we too have had to cope with the loss of income streams that, for us, have dried up for the moment. We are partially open, as complete closure would be more injurious. With this award we can continue to build on our musical legacy and over the next six months develop our online performance capacity to keep in touch with our followers, reach new ones and provide a facility for future Bachfests to work alongside our public concerts and recitals, including at our landmark 75th Anniversary in 2021-2022.”

Contact details...scroll down



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Artistic Director

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LBS Contact Details

Email: lbs@lonbachsoc.co.uk

Telephone +44 (0) 1883 717372

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ACE Boilerplate for notes to editors:

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 several bodies administering the Government's **Culture Recovery Fund** and unprecedented support package of £1.57 billion for the culture and heritage sector. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19

