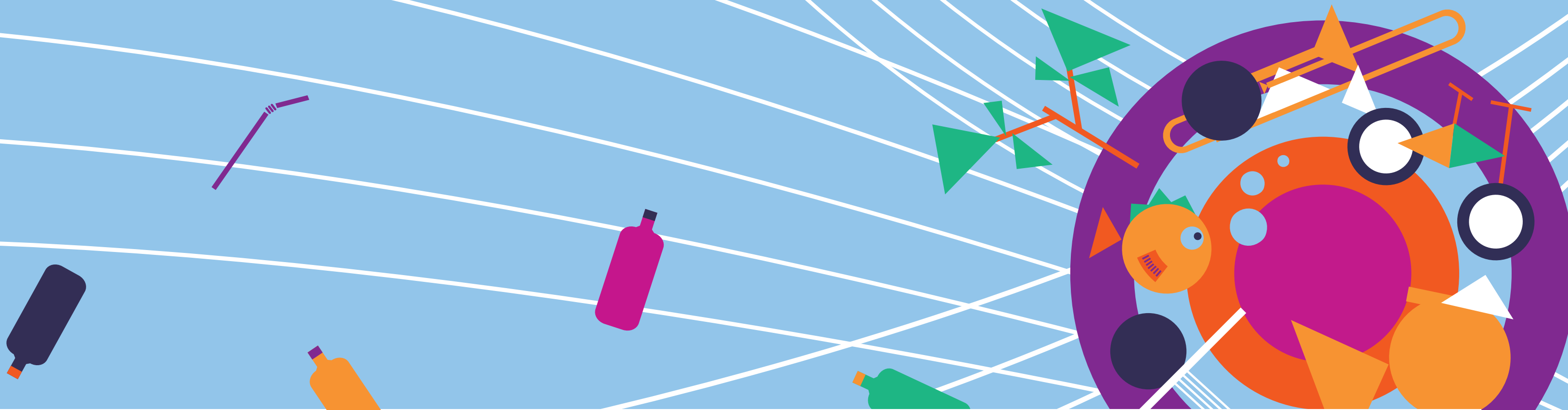


June 2019



philharmonia
orchestra

**Philharmonia Orchestra Workshop:
Inspiring Thinking Around Climate Change**

LEARNING AND GROWTH

“It took us beyond the melting ice caps to understanding how climate change already affects our day-to-day lives and the lives of others. We came out of the session with the enthusiasm to change.”

“Powerful and impactful on my general awareness of the effect of climate change and the earth’s increasing temperatures. Previously I was aware of the negative effects of fossil fuels and single-use plastics, however, I was not aware of the need for immediate change and what small steps I could make to have a much bigger impact.”

“The presentation on Temperature Anomaly was the most shocking. Seeing the rate of red circles (for the countries) exponential increase into the 21st century was scary!”

“Really informative, challenging (in the best sense) and a great way to engage staff at different levels and across different departments in a common cause that should resonate with us all.”

“Inspiring!”

“A very useful and insightful talk. What it did best was help put the Philharmonia in the bigger picture, which is always good to remember.”

“Nation States can make a huge impact on climate change, by enacting legislation, setting targets, and encouraging a change in behaviours, but I am also convinced that changing the hearts and minds of individuals and organisations can also make a huge contribution. The Philharmonia can act as a catalyst to encourage this.”

“Plastics are making a hugely negative impact on our environment, and upon wildlife in particular. I do believe that it is important for humans to drastically reduce the creation and use of plastics, and to make sure that it is re-cycled and/or disposed of in a way that is as environmentally friendly as possible. And at the same time the pre-occupation with plastics pollution may lead to a confusion over global climate change (due to human carbon emissions) which is a much more urgent and pressing issue.”

“The focus on key examples of challenges to arts organisations and how they can be faced, and the positive impact arts organisations can have on promoting business models that are sustainable, was helpful.”

“Created meaningful impact on how I perceive the role of arts organisations in implementing models of environmental sustainability. I liked the practical examples of how other arts organisations have considered and sought to resolve their environmental impact.”

“A good introduction into why we are making a fuss about climate change and the activity questions in particular were really thought provoking.”

“The case studies outlining a few examples of what other organisations have achieved are exciting to see. It will be interesting to see what we can come up with on an equivalent scale in the coming year.”

“It definitely made me think about the crisis, especially the film showing the rise in temperatures from before fossil fuels were introduced to present day.”

“Great to see we are thinking of our future together and making changes for the good of all.”

“The workshop was inspirational: to start with such a top-line, holistic view of what the climate crisis is and means, before focusing in on the arts and the Philharmonia’s role could have been overwhelming, but was in-fact fascinating, relevant and intellectually stimulating (as well as terrifying).”

THE PROBLEMS WE NEED TO SOLVE

“Nobody has quite worked out how to reverse our ‘jet setting, I’ll be there tomorrow’ culture.”

“How do we go about environmental change as an organisation; and how this might be possible without changing our business/artistic model drastically – or whether that is even possible.”

“Our current business model doesn’t have the scope for climate change to be on the table. Whether that’s because of the financial demands we are under as an organisation which don’t allow for a decrease in touring activity or the option of off-setting carbon emissions.”

“This issue is going to continue to be political and to a certain extent a lifestyle choice for those who can afford it for at least the near future.”

“What can I do to help? I felt I knew a lot more about the crisis but little as to what I or the company could do about it.”

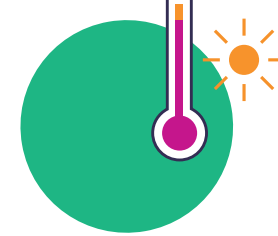
“The targets seemed unreachable for us as a business as such a lot of it includes transporting people and freight all over the world.”

“There’s a lot of (valid and necessary) information about the irreparable damage we are doing to the planet, and statistics about the inevitable end of ecosystems and whole species, and the repercussions of these changes on our lives, but this information is often quite paralysing and overwhelming.”

“Big picture – how can we respond to the climate crisis day-to-day?”

DIRECT INSPIRATION

“The session encouraged debate, discussion, and further research within our changing company culture – helping us as an organisation beyond our commitments to the environment. It facilitated cross-departmental collaboration and gave everyone the information required to start planning our Environment Concert Series.”



“It has made me really think about what Education’s programmes can do to respond to this issue within our upcoming Environment-themed series:

- Early years work – have the environment as one of the key thematic pillars;
- A schools-based project centred around Robert MacFarlane and Jackie Morris’ book *The Lost Words*
- Supporting young teenage composers to write a soundtrack to the *Our Planet* series, putting young people’s musical voices at the heart of these issues, as it is their world we are destroying.”

“Set aside some budget for lower-carbon transport options within the UK.”

“We need to get stronger player membership involvement in this discussion.”

“As an inspiring ‘arts-led’ organisation, we can also do our bit to inspire other organisations, and individuals to change their behaviours.”

“I’m lobbying the local council for improved cycle storage facilities, we’ve moved to FSC-certified paper, and we’re trying to find ways of funding compostable potato starch wrap for our mailings.”

“We can all get behind getting our carbon footprint as low as possible (without curtailing our core activities).”

“Fascinating to learn more about how culture and environment interlink, and above all, how the Philharmonia Orchestra can lead the sector towards more sustainable ways of producing and consuming culture.”

“I still don’t know the extent to which an orchestra of our size could reach a point of carbon-neutrality, but I am hopeful that we are finding new ways to embed sustainability within our artistic vision.”

“I really enjoyed the workshop, it was very thought provoking and made me think about how I could make more effort to reduce my personal carbon footprint – I bought a bike and try to commute on that as much as I can.”

“We need to consider our partnerships and the way we engage with other businesses in order to make sure that even externally we are having a positive impact on the environment. It inspired me to think about building relationships with equally as sustainably-minded companies and making sure our efforts towards sustainability make an impact beyond the Philharmonia.”

“Fundraising in a sustainable way is definitely possible!”

“Before the session I’d never really thought about using our work as a way to advocate for environmental issues, and it was really interesting to start considering the ways in which we as an organisation can help to drive action on environmental sustainability through the art of music.”

“We can use our unique voice as a performing arts organisation to champion environmental causes - something I hadn’t considered in depth before, especially working for an orchestra, rather than perhaps a theatre or art gallery.”

