



City of London Sinfonia

Music that celebrates humanity
with wonder and joy

Who we are

City of London Sinfonia (CLS) is a chamber orchestra. We believe that music - making it, sharing it, enjoying it - can change a person's relationship to the world around them. We explore ideas, emotions, and what it means to be human through the music we commission and play. We find joy in what we do. We think about the people and the places we encounter. We seek wonder wherever we go. We hope to create moments of magic through shared experience, wherever we find ourselves, for whoever we meet along the way.

In 2031, CLS will turn 60 years old – 6 decades of extraordinary music, new commissions, artistic collaborations and audience experience. In the next 7 years, we will create work which explores the beautiful, often messy, sometimes overwhelming experience of being human. We will find light and dark, magic and monsters, and everything in-between. We will arrive at CLS 60 relevant, resourced, celebrated and utterly confident in ourselves and the impact we have on the world.

Our mission

Through music and the stories we can tell with it, our mission is to explore and connect with our collective, human responsibility to the world around us, and to those we share it with.

Our vision

A music sector that is welcoming and inclusive. A country where music is accessible to and accessed by all. A world where music is a vehicle for equity and connectivity among all people.



Photo (c) Laima Alauskaite



Photo (c) Suzi Corker

Our values

Joyous At the heart of everything we do is joy – in the power of music, in the collective experience of making and listening to music and in the gift that music gives us all to live our lives a little brighter, a little lighter, a little more delighted.

Connective We believe that music is the connective tissue that binds ideas and people, stories and science, facts and fictions. Live music holds a space where all people, no matter their origins, can come together and be connected in the ephemeral.

Open We care deeply about our staff, musicians, audiences, partners, participants and artists and are dedicated to an open dialogue with all. Everyone is welcome.

Collaborative We believe that by working together we create more meaningful, more magical work. We will bring individuals, and organisations together to create extraordinary and memorable moments of music.

Wonder We are deeply curious about the world we live in, and those we share it with. We carry with us a sense of wonder and are inspired by the beautiful, the unfamiliar and are made stronger through our desire to seek out stories and discover.



Photo (c) Belinda Lawley

Our history

Our founder, Richard Hickox, never wrote down explicitly what this orchestra was for, nor did he specify that it must always be for that.

However, practically and anecdotally we know that his interest and love lay in contemporaneous English music from the very late-19th century to mid-20th century. From speaking to players and friends who knew him well, we have decided on the following three ways in which to honour our founder:

- With the energy with which we approach performance, and the commitment to collaboration across all our work.
- Building on his love of opera and choral to continue championing the intersectionality of words and music, and finding new ways to explore and enjoy through multidisciplinary concerts.
- With investment into new English repertoire when 'English' is defined not by birth, not by sensibility, not by the passport, but by a shared and collective endeavour of people working together to make the society and community of this England full of music.

We hope you'll join us on this journey.