



# City of London Sinfonia

Photo (c) Suzi Corker

## Music and...

[cls.co.uk](http://cls.co.uk)

Registered Charity 286818



# Who we are

City of London Sinfonia (CLS) is an award-winning chamber orchestra with a mission to redefine orchestral music: how it is made, why it is made, and who makes (and enjoys) it.

Founded in 1971, we are best known for our pioneering new commissions and collaborative work, the legacy of founder Richard Hickox who championed composers, singers, and orchestral musicians, and our award-winning participation work which has seen us work directly with some of the most vulnerable members of society, bringing collaborative music-making to people in hospices, children's hospitals, care homes, and young people in NHS psychiatric hospitals. The Orchestra plays for 35,000+ people a year in concert halls, theatres, parks, care settings, and relaxed 'non-velvet' performance spaces. We are home to 45 regular orchestral players, hundreds more emerging and mid-career musicians and music makers, and thousands more audiences. We collaborate with artists from a wide range of art forms and backgrounds, and regularly connect strategically with other orchestras, music venues and community settings across the UK and internationally. The organisation is led by Alexandra Wood (CLS's Leader and Creative Director) and Rowan Rutter (CEO; former High Tide Executive Director and CEO). The CLS leadership team and Board is supported by an Artists Council.



# Our mission and vision

## Our mission

Through music and the stories it evokes, our mission is to explore and connect with our collective human responsibility - to each other - and the world we share. We embrace this mission with openness, curiosity and care, cultivating meaningful collaborations among our musicians, audiences and partners. Everyone is welcome here.

## 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.







# Our values

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## 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.

## Courageous

We dare to imagine and shape new worlds, answering big questions through music, embracing the unexpected and pushing creative boundaries. We amplify new voices and ideas, balancing artistic ambition with financial responsibility to ensure CLS remains sustainable, adaptable, and thriving for generations to come.

## Collaborative

We believe that by working together we create more meaningful, and more courageous work. We bring individuals, and organisations together for extraordinary creativity 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.





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**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.