



**For immediate release:**

## **OAE Raises £1 million in Catalyst Funding Success**

The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (OAE) has raised £1 million of new funds through Catalyst Arts, meeting its £0.5 million endowment target which was matched by Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund and Department of Culture, Media and Sport under the initiative.

Emily Stubbs, Development Director of the OAE comments:

‘This ambitious target was achieved through widely diverse and creative campaigns for three areas of sustainable future work: developing regional education, increasing regional touring and undertaking an annual ‘green’ orchestral tour.’

At the start of the fundraising effort, a charitable trust was inspired to donate a large sum for a bassoon commission, and related projects including regional education, and suddenly the OAE was well on its way to reaching its target of half a million. Many generous donations from other trusts followed.

OAE Chairman Sir Martin Smith created the ‘Thirty Circle’ to attract donations from a small group of long term supporters of the Orchestra to commemorate its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday year. He says:

‘I am overwhelmed by the generosity shown by members of both the OAE Board and the OAE Trust who have made an extraordinary contribution towards securing the Catalyst funding. As the orchestra approaches its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday this has put us in a very strong position to achieve our future goals and to continue to create exciting, innovative and game-changing musical programmes.’

Another successful magnet for funding was the nationwide ‘Watercycle’ project created by the OAE’s Education Department. The Orchestra played in unusual venues and spaces, from Brighton sewers, to the folk route pub crawl in Chesterfield and an evening chamber concert in York, building strong and lasting partnerships with venues and schools.

Crispin Woodhead, Chief Executive of the OAE, comments:

‘This has been an incredible effort and we are extremely proud to have raised a million pounds. I would like to thank all those who have supported this amazing orchestra as it celebrates 30 years of breaking the rules. The OAE’s birthday season will

demonstrate the huge and daring breadth of repertoire it has become known for, from Baroque to Contemporary, as it continually seeks to innovate and break new ground.'

## **Notes to Editors:**

Player-led and ceaselessly innovative, the **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** is one of the world's most respected period ensembles. They are a resident at Southbank Centre, associate orchestra at Glyndebourne Festival Opera and tour both nationally and internationally.

## **Contact:**

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