

19 May 2016

Jean-Claude Juncker
President of the European Commission

Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament

The Principals of the Royal Schools of Music and the Chief Executive of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) have come together to issue a strong endorsement of the importance of the European Union Youth Orchestra (EUYO) and to issue an urgent request to the European Commission to restore EU core funding to enable the Orchestra to survive.

The EUYO represents one of the pinnacles of arts education and performance. It has provided students from throughout Europe the opportunity to make music at the highest level, to create lasting bonds between participants and to create a vibrant and visceral approach to music making. The EUYO is one of the great cultural ambassadors of Europe.

Some of our finest students and staff have contributed to the EUYO and the faculties of conservatoires in the UK and throughout Europe have been greatly enhanced by its former members. At a time when the very ideals of cohesion and collaboration across Europe are under duress, we believe the EUYO to be an inspiration for young musicians everywhere and to be far more than a showpiece of artistic attainment. We believe it is an essential way to draw our young people from diverse nations and backgrounds together to make art, to share beauty, to stimulate the imagination and affirm our common humanity.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Jeffrey Sharkey
Principal



Royal Conservatoire
of Scotland



Professor Colin Lawson
Director



Professor Linda Merrick
Principal



Michael Elliott
Chief Executive



Professor Jonathan Freeman-Attwood
Principal



Royal Academy of Music