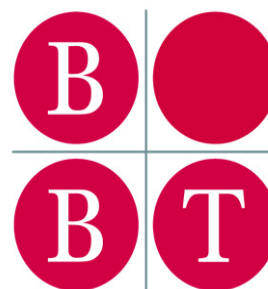


BBT COMMUNITIES

Music Changing Lives

2023 GRANTS AWARDED TO CHARITIES FROM PALESTINE TO RWANDA BY WAY OF ITALY AND UK



This year the Borletti Buitoni Trust announces seven new recipients of **BBT Communities** funding, bringing the total to 20 since the first biennial grants were awarded in 2019. Grants are between £15,000 and £40,000 to assist special projects and ongoing endeavours.

- **Al-Mada for Arts-based Community Development** **Palestine**
- **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra** **UK**
- **Chineke! Foundation** **UK**
- **Fondazione Perugia Musica Classica** **Italy**
- **Musicians Without Borders - Rwanda Youth Music** **Netherlands**
- **Società del Quartetto di Milano** **Italy**
- **Multi-Story Music** **UK**

In a world that is fighting poverty, poor health, discrimination and isolation in so many places, music is an increasingly powerful force with a common language that can cross boundaries and not only touch, but also transform the lives of many.

BBT co-founder Ilaria Borletti Buitoni has supported and worked her whole life with diverse charities internationally, including important music and cultural organisations in Italy and Europe. She knows very well how music can make a positive impact and promote wellbeing in disadvantaged communities: *"I notice a growing number of musically trained people, including our young musicians, who are very serious about finding ways to share their talent and skills with disadvantaged sectors of the population for whom participation is not so easy – and they recognise the mutual benefits of doing this. I want to do all I can to encourage and support this exchange of music and the joy that sharing it can bring to everybody concerned."*

In Palestine **Al-Mada for Arts-Based Community Development** is pioneering an initiative to promote understanding and advance self-expression, inclusion, healing, social justice and advocacy of cultural and human identity through its core programme of 11 years standing, *For My Identity, I Sing*. Al-Mada is extending this project to East Jerusalem to enable groups of young Palestinians to enhance and discover their creative music skills, while helping them cope with the immense social and personal challenges they face on a daily basis.

Netherlands-based charity **Musicians Without Borders** is extending its 11-year experience in Rwanda to potentially engage thousands of young people living in poverty and with HIV in Kigali and the surrounding provinces. By employing and also training more young people as community music leaders, MWB will provide a therapeutic programme of music embedded in existing education and health programmes to build bridges, rebuild societies, connect people and help heal the wounds of war.

In Italy grants are given to two well-established and highly respected music institutions, **Fondazione Perugia Musica Classica** and **Società del Quartetto di Milano**, who are making great strides in the development of activities for their wider communities who cannot attend concerts due to disability and isolation. Working with key organisations that specialise in rehabilitation and care for the disabled and also the elderly in Milan, the *Quartetto Diffuso* project embraces these marginalised sectors of the population through livestreaming of its concerts. Similarly, members of the Perugia Chamber Orchestra take tailored music projects, workshops and concerts into hospitals, prisons and care homes and to children and young people who do not benefit from music as part of the educational curriculum.

In the UK **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra** is working with the National Open Youth Orchestra to train and develop young disabled and non-disabled musicians. By involving participants in planning and piloting an 'Inclusive Symphony in a Day' project with community musicians and disabled-led ensemble, BSO Resound, it aims to remove the barriers and discrimination that prevent young disabled people from taking part in classical music. Participants will become more confident in tackling symphonic repertoire and developing professional careers, giving them greater equality, independence and control in their lives.

The **Chineke! Junior Orchestra** is part of a growing number of initiatives being made by the **Chineke! Foundation** to create resources and a career path for Black and ethnically diverse classical musicians, who are hugely under-represented across the sector. The summer residential course provides opportunities for about 100 young participants to work intensively together. As well as improving their technical skills, this builds a stronger sense of ownership over the music and helps them form the friendships and networks that can kick-start their careers.

Multi-Story Music is the force behind a raft of highly successful performances and projects working alongside young people to write and perform new music exploring contemporary issues and telling stories. *Verified* is a new work about social media for orchestra, violin, percussion, soprano and young voices and is created by Multi-Story's Young Creatives and musicians and their co-founder and composer Kate Whitley, herself a recipient of a BBT Special Award in 2014. The new work will premiere at Bold Tendencies in Peckham, South East London as part of BBT's 20th anniversary celebrations in June.

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Notes to Editors:

BBT Communities grants are given every two years. The first were in 2019 and the next will be in 2025.

<https://www.bbtrust.com/communities/about/>

The Borletti-Buitoni Trust has been supporting outstanding young musicians (BBT Artists) for 20 years and introduced BBT Communities grants in 2019 to assist charitable organisations that help the underprivileged and disadvantaged through music. Whether developing and sustaining young artists' international careers, or bringing the joy of music to new communities, the Trust provides invaluable assistance and encouragement.

www.bbtrust.com