



# The Arts Foundation Futures Awards

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**14 February 2024**

The Arts Foundation will announce the five recipients of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards £10,000 Fellowships in London on 28 February 2024.

The annual Arts Foundation Futures Awards support the UK's most promising artists and creatives at a pivotal moment in their career, providing £65,000 in unconditional grant funding, awarding five transformative £10,000 Fellowships, with all Shortlisted Artists receiving £1,000 towards the development of their practice.

The awards mark over 30 years of the Arts Foundation's support for independent artists in the UK since it was founded in 1993, and whose alumni include eminent artistic practitioners, such as Wayne McGregor CBE, Ali Smith, Asif Kapadia, Carol Morley, Rufus Norris and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye.

Featuring a special welcome address from the esteemed British playwright, Roy Williams, the Award Ceremony will take place on Wednesday 28 February at the Purcell Room, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre in London. The evening will also include the premiere performance of a new choral composition by past Arts Foundation Fellow, [John Barber](#) (Choral Composition, 2021) with Echo Choir, conducted by Sarah Latto.

The ceremony will share the extraordinary and varied practices of the twenty Shortlisted Artists across this year's categories of Jazz Composition, Regenerative Design, Short Documentary Film, Theatre Writing and Visual Art. The recipients of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards will be announced by jury members: Soweto Kinch, Saxophonist, composer, poet, MC, and producer; Mirella Di Lorenzo, Professor of Biochemical Engineering, Bath University; Clare Sillery, Head of Commissioning BBC, Documentaries; Vicky Featherstone, previously Artistic Director of the Royal Court; and Adelaide Bannerman, Curatorial Director of Tiwani Contemporary.

You can explore the work of all the Shortlisted Artists on the [Arts Foundation website](#) and watch the award announcements via [Instagram Live](#) on Wednesday 28 February 2024, from 7.00 pm.

Mary Jane Edwards, Director of the Arts Foundation said:

*"The dynamic spirit and breadth of contemporary creative practice showcased by the artists shortlisted for the 2024 Arts Foundation Futures Awards is hugely inspiring. In the face of persistent challenges confronting the UK's cultural sector, there is an urgent need to deliver no strings attached financial backing to artists, empowering them to not only persevere but to flourish in their creative pursuits. The work of the Arts Foundation in recognising and supporting the livelihoods of independent creatives feels more vital than ever."*

### **Jazz Composition Award Shortlist**

Romarna Campbell

Daniel Casimir

Jas Kayser

Luca Manning

The award supports independent musicians and composers who are expanding the medium of jazz composition and developing original works. The independent Jury members are Gilles Peterson, DJ, Broadcaster, and founder of Brownswood Recordings; Sheila Maurice-Grey, Musician and band leader of Kokoroko; and Soweto Kinch, Saxophonist, composer, poet, MC, and producer, who said:

*"It was a great joy to listen to such diverse and virtuosic submissions for this award: providing a glimpse into how diverse and vibrant the UK jazz scene currently is. All of the shortlisted artists brought personality, skill and an exciting sense of vision to their work; it's exceptional to see such creative, distinctive and original approaches to the same idiom. Romarna Campbell has a flare for composition, great musicianship and a distinctive vision for how to build a collective of like-minds. Daniel Casimir has a unique compositional approach, blending new pathways between Jazz and classical music. Jas Kayser virtuosic playing and energy is guaranteed to make her a generational voice for UK jazz. Luca Manning's music and message is arresting and original - his voice as an instrument is both enchanting and fresh. I can't wait to see what each of these artists go on to create in the near future."*

### **Regenerative Design Award Shortlist**

William Eliot

Aurélie Fontan

Emma Money

Rhea Thomas

The award champions contemporary design practices, which restore, renew or revitalise the environment. The award aims to support a broad range of mediums, including craft, product, material, and or service design and architectural practices that aim to give back more to the environment than they take. The independent Jury members are Prof. Alex de Rijke, a

founding Director of dRMM and Broadcaster; Prof. Mirella Di Lorenzo, Professor of Biochemical Engineering and Associate Dean International for the Faculty of Engineering and Design, Bath University; and Sarah Ichioka, Urbanist, strategist, curator and writer, who said:

*"All the designers demonstrated creativity and commitment to their respective research and development processes. It's often challenging to sustain a practice in this emerging field, where access to facilities, materials and technical support can be limited, so as a jury, we were impressed that all the shortlisted designers had managed to test and iterate their work in real-world scenarios."*

### **Short Documentary Film Award Shortlist**

Jessica Bishopp  
Rosie Morris  
Cherish Oteka  
Kateryna Pavlyuk

The award supports nonfiction filmmakers working in cinematic short documentary film, focusing on independent and inventive storytellers exploring contemporary thematics that shape national conversation and inform our shared cultural identity.

The independent Jury members are Louisa Dent, Managing Director, Curzon; Clare Sillery, Head of Commissioning BBC, Documentaries; and Raul Niño Zambrano, Artistic Director, Sheffield Doc Fest who said:

*"The four shortlisted filmmakers demonstrate the great range and breadth of short documentary filmmaking practice in the UK. Cherish Oteka, Jessica Bishopp, Kateryna Pavlyuk and Rosie Morris are all exploring very important questions about identity and belonging in contemporary society. It's been a real pleasure and privilege to watch their respective work and highly original ways of thinking about documentary form and storytelling; from our relationship with nature, to centring under-represented communities, telling local and global histories of migration and displacement, to highly personal stories of intimacy and emotion. Being part of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards has been a hugely hopeful and energising experience."*

The Short Documentary Film Award is supported in partnership with The David Collins Foundation.

### **Theatre Writing Award Shortlist**

Safaa Benson-Effiom  
Laurie Motherwell  
Tatenda Shamiso  
Yomi Sode

The award champions theatre writers focusing on new contemporary writing, including original works and theatrical or performative adaptations of fiction and non-fiction. The independent Jury members are Alice Birch, Playwright and Screenwriter and past Arts Foundation Fellow for Playwriting, 2014; Vicky Featherstone, Artistic Director, Royal Court Theatre; and Dzifa Benson, Arts Journalist, Dramatist who said:

*“It was such a pleasure to take part in this year’s jury for Theatre Writing. I was so impressed with the extraordinary talent, creativity, ambition and dedication to their craft of all the artists. Laurie Motherwell’s complex narratives bring fresh perspectives to Scottish stories while Safaa Benson-Effiom’s sheer determination to tell compelling theatrical stories jumped off the page, the scope of Tatenda Shamiso’s intimate storytelling is deeply affecting and Yomi Sode’s dramas channel the voices of characters seldom heard on our stages. It is such an honour to support these artists who continue striving to make stellar work despite these financial precarious times. I can’t wait to see how all four artists progress in their careers.”*

### **Visual Art Award Shortlist**

Rebecca Bellantoni

Dan Guthrie

Alexi Marshall

Rafal Zajko

The award supports artists working across a broad range of visual arts and interdisciplinary art form practices, including, painting, drawing, ceramics, sculpture and artist moving image. The independent Jury members are: Maria Fusco, Writer and Professor of Interdisciplinary Writing, University of Dundee; Zadie Xa, Artist; and Adelaide Bannerman, Curatorial Director of Tiwani Contemporary who said:

*“We feel that each of the shortlisted artists has the potential to make a major contribution to contemporary artistic practice, and are all furthering important questions about identity, place and belonging in our shared world. It’s not an easy time to be a visual artist in the UK, which makes the artists’ compelling interdisciplinary work all the more admirable.”*

---

### **Press Pack & Images**

The Press Pack and Artist Images can be viewed [here](#).

### **Media Enquiries**

Mary Jane Edwards, Director, The Arts Foundation  
[press@artsfoundation.co.uk](mailto:press@artsfoundation.co.uk) / +44 (0) 7969 029 656

---

## Notes to Editors

### About The Arts Foundation

The Arts Foundation is a registered charity that supports individual artists and creatives in the UK with unconditional financial fellowships through the Arts Foundation Futures Awards.

Since 1993 the Arts Foundation has awarded over £1.8 million to the most promising artists in the UK at a pivotal moment in their careers to enable them to concentrate on their creative development, experiment, and realise their artistic potential.

The annual Arts Foundation Futures Awards provides five transformative £10,000 fellowships, with all shortlisted artists receiving £1,000 towards the development of their artistic practice. Each year the awards focus on broad and innovative art forms across Craft, Design, Film, Literature, Music, New Media, Performing Arts, and Visual Arts.

The vital contribution of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards to the arts in the UK is demonstrated by its past Fellows, many of whom are regarded as contemporary pioneers and have gone on to become leaders in their respective art forms, including: Wayne McGregor (1994), Alice Oswald (1996), Sarah Kane (1998), Asif Kapadia (2001), Ali Smith (2001), Rufus Norris (2002), Carol Morley (2003), Lynette Yiadom-Boakye (2006), and more recently, Simon Fujiwara (2009), Sam Lee (2011), Alice Birch (2014), Hollie McNish (2015), Evan Ifekoya (2017), Holly Hendry (2019), Onyeka Igwe (2020), Klein (2020), and Bethany Williams (2020).

The Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2024 are supported in partnership with The David Collins Foundation, PRS Foundation and The Yoma Sasburg Estate.

[www.artsfoundation.co.uk](http://www.artsfoundation.co.uk)

Instagram: [@the\\_arts\\_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/the_arts_foundation)

Twitter: [@Arts\\_Foundation](https://twitter.com/Arts_Foundation)

Facebook: [@theartsfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/theartsfoundation)

Linkedin: [TheArtsFoundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/TheArtsFoundation)

---

### About Roy Williams

Roy Williams began writing plays in 1990 and is now one of the country's leading dramatists. In 2000 he was the joint-winner of The George Devine Award and in 2001 he was awarded the Evening Standard Award for Most Promising Playwright. He was awarded the OBE for Services to Drama in the 2008 Birthday Honours List and was made a fellow of The Royal Society of Literature in 2018.

Roy Williams' work in theatre includes *Death of England*, *Death of England: Delroy*, *Death of England: Closing Time* (all co-written with Clint Dyer), *Baby Girl*, *Slow Time* and *Sing Yer Heart Out for the Lads* for the National Theatre; *Sucker Punch* (Olivier Award nomination for Best Play and joint winner of the Alfred Fagon Award), *Fallout*, *Clubland* and *Lift Off* at the Royal Court. *Days of Significance* for the RSC; *Wildfire*, *Local Boy*, *The Firm* and *The Fellowship* at Hampstead Theatre. *Out West* and *Absolute Beginners* at Lyric Hammersmith; *The No-Boys Cricket Club* and *Kingston 14* at Stratford East; and *Soul: The Untold Story of Marvin Gaye* for Hackney Empire at the Royal & Derngate.

His work for TV and film includes *Death Of England: Face to Face* (BAFTA nomination for Best Single Drama) *Soon Gone: A Windrush Chronicle* (BAFTA nominated for Best Short Form Programme), *Fallout*, *Babyfather*, *Offside* and *Fast Girls*. Radio includes *The Likes of Us*, *The Midwich Cuckoos* (adaptation), *Faith Hope & Glory*, *Bess Loves Porgy* and eight series of *The Interrogation*.

—

#### About John Barber

John Barber is a composer from Bristol with a passion for voices, collaboration and storytelling. His versatile, rhythmic and intensely dramatic music has been performed by some of the UK and Europe's leading opera houses, theatres, ensembles and choirs including the Royal Opera House, Gothenburg Opera, BBC Symphony Orchestra and The Sixteen.

He has written several operas and large-scale vocal pieces which often bring professional and non-professional musicians of all ages together. Notable pieces include *We Are Shadows* (Spitalfields Music), *Consider the Lilies* - based on the stories of refugees in the UK and *Seven Seeds* - a major retelling of the persephone myth featuring 1500 singers, Aurora Orchestra and soloists.

John's music has been recognised with various awards including an Ivor Novello Classical award and two Royal Philharmonic Society awards. Recent projects include *The Selfish Giant* for Garsington Opera and Opera North, *The Song of the Ladder* - a major new community opera for the Camerata Stumentale, Italy and *Our Dark Side And The Moon* - an audio opera for the Royal Opera House's 8bit digital project.

In 2021 John was awarded the Arts Foundation Fellowship for Choral Composition. This award has enabled a new recording featuring members of Echo Choir, which will be released later this year.

[www.johnbarbermusic.com](http://www.johnbarbermusic.com)

—

About Echo Vocal Ensemble  
Conductor - Sarah Latto

Described as "sparkling, poised and powerful" (The Arts Desk), Echo Vocal Ensemble is a dynamic group of singers known for their flexibility, innovation and excellence. Since their debut in 2017, the group has performed at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, as Ensemble-in-Residence at Ryedale Festival and live on BBC Radio 3.

The group has quickly developed a reputation for innovative programming and multi-disciplinary collaborations, including with poet Roger McGough, composer James MacMillan, visual artist Polly Apfelbaum and the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Echo aims to explore the full range of what ensemble singing can achieve, including improvisation and audience-immersive concert experiences, whilst achieving musical excellence at all times.

Recent projects include a collaboration at Sadler's Wells with choreographer Gregory Maqoma, and an audio installation at Frieze Sculpture in London. 2024 sees the release of Echo's debut album, Innocence, with a launch concert at the Wigmore Hall In July.

The group has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with composer John Barber, and are delighted to be premiering his music this evening.

[www.echo-choir.com](http://www.echo-choir.com)

—

About The David Collins Foundation

The David Collins Foundation was set up in memory of the late designer David Collins to honour his legacy and celebrate his love of the Arts. Since its creation in 2016, the Foundation has partnered with the Arts Foundation to support artists across multiple disciplines, including furniture design, poetry and animation.

[www.davidcollins.studio/foundation/about-the-david-collins-foundation](http://www.davidcollins.studio/foundation/about-the-david-collins-foundation)

—

About PRS Foundation

Since 2000 PRS Foundation has given more than £44 million to over 8,500 new music initiatives. 9 out of 12 Mercury Prize 2022 nominees had received PRS Foundation support (including the winner Little Simz) and the charity has supported BRITS, RPS, AIM and Ivors Award-winners.

PRS Foundation supports outstanding talent from all backgrounds, covering the whole of the UK and all genres, with grantee success stories including Little Simz, Wolf Alice, Dave, Sam Fender, Years & Years, AJ Tracey, Anna Meredith, Yola, Glass Animals, Ezra Collective, Jade Bird, Ghetts, Shiva Feshareki, Sarathy Korwar, Floating Points, Nadine Shah, The Fanatix, Imogen Heap, IDLES, Kae Tempest, Kojey Radical and Emily Burns.

Widely respected as an inclusive, collaborative and proactive funding body, PRS Foundation supports an exceptional range of new music activity through direct grants to music creators

and through support for pioneering organisations, including venues, festivals, promoters and other talent development organisations. PRS Foundation founded the Women Make Music fund, co-founded global gender equality initiative, Keychange and most recently launched the POWER UP initiative to tackle anti-Black racism in music.

[www.prsfoundation.com](http://www.prsfoundation.com)

—

#### About The Yoma Sasburg Estate

Born in Amsterdam Yoma Sasburg was a professional ballet dancer. She married the prolific film composer Edward Clifton Parker and later trained as a sculptor under David Weekes becoming a founder member of the Devon Guild of Craftsmen. Gifted by her daughter Roselyn in 2010, the Yoma Sasburg legacy has supported a variety of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards Fellowships for sculpture, installation art, live performance art and visual art.

