



*'Over 30 Years of Funding the Arts'  
Founding Trustee: AH Thornton MBE*

## **AHT Enterprise Fund Introduction**

The Mayfield Valley Arts Trust was founded over 30 years ago by Tony and 'Scilla Thornton to support music making in Yorkshire, in particular the Sheffield Chamber Music Festival.

In its early years the Trust funded a wide range of music making as well as a small number of capital grants. For the last 18 years the Trust has focused its support on a small number of music organisations with which it has developed a close and productive relationship.

The objectives of the Trust are:

- 1) to support those organisations which are committed to helping young artists of recognised potential, by offering them a platform/audience which otherwise they would have difficulty in achieving;
- 2) to support those organisations that specialise in education through music, including SEND schools.

The Trust will **not** provide funding for the education of individual students.

The Trust will **not** fund the purchase of musical instruments for individuals, schools or organisations.

The Trust has now established a risk fund, the AHT Enterprise Fund, named after Tony Thornton, to broaden the scope of its work within the current policy guidelines and, in particular, to fund new initiatives.

For the first three years the Fund will focus its support on organisations based, or working, within the North of England as defined by ACE (this criterion will no longer apply from financial year 2022/23).

([https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/download-file/Map\\_area\\_boundaries.pdf](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/download-file/Map_area_boundaries.pdf)).

The Trust will usually make two awards a year. The maximum amount of an award will be £12,000. Applications for funding will only be accepted from organisations which have charitable status and a proven record of good governance and sound management.

Applications will be accepted to seed fund projects which might lead to a more substantial applications in the future.

In the first instance please submit an expression of interest. A PDF form is available on the website. Follow the instructions on the form.

The deadline for expressions of interest is typically early October. The Trustees meet in November and projects of interest will be invited to make a full application. Generally, if your full application is successful, funds are awarded in April.