

2019 Achates Philanthropy Prize winners' announcement:

World Heart Beat Music Academy & Nick Thomlinson win the Individual Philanthropy Award

Candoco Dance Company & ASOS win the Corporate Award

**Hackney Shed, Square Chapel Arts Centre, Northern Ireland Opera, Streatham Space
& Writing West Midlands receive inaugural Achates Philanthropy Prize Bursaries**

Wednesday 20 November 2019 – the winners of the 2019 Achates Philanthropy Prize, the only annual prize that celebrates first-time supporters of the arts in the UK, were announced last night at a special event at London's Rich Mix and presented by the eminent cultural philanthropist, Hannah Rothschild CBE.

Founder of the Prize, Caroline McCormick, said: *"Culture belongs to and is the responsibility of us all. If a gift of money is one of the manifestations of a successful relationship, then the Achates Philanthropy Prize is a barometer of how well arts organisations are working with their audiences. 2019 is the fourth year of the Prize, and I can genuinely say that the ground is shifting. We saw a 65% increase in nominations this year - covering every art form, organisational scale and geographical region - but most importantly we saw the highest quality of nominations to date. So to those of you who won tonight as well as all of those who were shortlisted – congratulations and thank you - you are exemplars to the sector and are building a campaign for real change in the arts"*.

Prize presenter, Hannah Rothschild CBE, said: *"Anyone can be a philanthropist: it isn't only giving money - it's about contributing your time, skills and passion. Success is often based on partnerships and all of the nominees celebrated tonight represent the exciting outcomes of people, groups and companies working together. They range in size and complexity, but they are all inspirational. This generosity has never been more important: in times of darkness, philanthropists are in the business of giving light"*.

The 2019 Individual Philanthropy Award, sponsored by Spektrix, was won by World Heart Beat Music Academy & Nick Thomlinson.

World Heart Beat provides grassroots, non-selective, richly diverse, music education programmes for children from a vast array of backgrounds. The organisation was introduced to Nick Thomlinson by a trustee who thought Nick's considerable experience in property would make him a good contact as it began its pitch for a new music education centre and venue in Nine Elms. Nick met with founder and Artistic Director, Sahana Gero, and came to a number of events including a concert at Speakers House. Inspired by Sahana's vision and by seeing the young people first-hand he became involved in the pitch for the new space, investing time and providing valuable expertise. Following the successful pitch, he personally donated £37,500 in September 2018 – his first meaningful gift to an arts organisation – and worked closely with the team on the capital fundraising campaign leading to gifts and a widening of World Heart Beat's prospect pipeline. Nick has personally secured donations of between £1,000 and £10,000 from individuals, despite initially being reluctant to be involved in asking for people for gifts.

Nick Thomlinson was selected from a shortlist of seven outstanding first-time cultural supporters: Dr John Stephen Barnes MBBS MRCPsych, nominated by Arts & Health South West; Lyn Glass, nominated by Lighthouse; Karen and Mark Smith, nominated by The Fruitmarket Gallery; Mr R Emery, nominated by Town Hall Symphony Hall; and Jamie Wildman, nominated by the Young Vic - voted on by an independent judging

panel: Jonty Claypole, Director of Arts for the BBC; John Gillman and Mary Winch, winners of the 2018 Individual Philanthropy Award; Sarah Maguire, freelance dance producer; Caroline McCormick, Director of Achates Philanthropy; Patrick McKenna, founder of Ingenious Media and Chair of the Individual Award judging panel; Michael Nabarro, CEO of Spektrix; Francis Runacres, Executive Director, Enterprise & Innovation at Arts Council England; Bill Swainson OBE, Trustee of the Achates Foundation; and Andria Zafirakou MBE, teacher at Alperton Community School in Brent and winner of 2018's Global Teacher prize.

Nick was presented with a sculpture by the renowned British artist, Peter Brooke-Ball MRBS. As the winning philanthropist, he will be custodian of the sculpture for one year. World Heart Beat Music Academy received a £5,000 donation from the Achates Philanthropy Foundation which will be spent on much-needed instruments – including alto and tenor saxophones, trumpets, trombones, drum kits, cymbals, pianos and a double bass – for young people in Wandsworth.

Sahana Gero, Founder and Artistic Director, World Heart Beat Music Academy, said: *“We’re delighted to have won the Individual Award. It’s fantastic to celebrate Nick Thomlinson’s philanthropy – he has been so generous, making a major gift to our capital project and getting actively involved with our fundraising campaign. Nick embodies the true definition of the word ‘philanthropy’ and we really appreciate his support. Individual donations are a vital cornerstone of our work – we couldn’t achieve all that we do without them.”*

Nick Thomlinson, said: *“How wonderful to have won a Prize that is shining a light on the importance of individual philanthropy for the Arts. I never saw myself as a major donor and certainly never envisaged getting involved in fundraising. However, World Heart Beat Music Academy is a wonderful charity that’s making a real difference to the lives of young people. Once I got involved, I couldn’t step away – I realised I was hooked!”*

The 2019 Corporate Award, sponsored by BOP Consulting, was won by Candoco Dance Company & ASOS.

Candoco Dance Company and ASOS met at the 2018 Paralympics in Seoul where ASOS was an official supporter, responsible for designing and creating the formal and ceremony wear for ParalympicsGB, and Candoco performed as part of the Cultural Olympiad celebrations. It quickly became clear that there were synergies at the heart of these two considerably different organisations that offered an exciting opportunity. Candoco and ASOS developed a partnership to bring to life their shared values around promoting inclusion and celebrating diversity. The ASOS + Candoco Dance Company Training Intensive, a two-week residential for 15 disabled and non-disabled dancers aged 18-30, aimed to increase opportunities to train in an inclusive environment. ASOS offered significant financial support to develop this pilot, as well as gifted clothing for participants. The partnership took a dynamic and collaborative approach to communications and social media, with Candoco featuring on the ASOS Instagram Stories feed on numerous occasions.

ASOS was selected from a shortlist of five outstanding companies which have supported the arts for the first time within the last 12 months: Mace, nominated by Contact; Hotel Chocolat, nominated by English National Opera; Mountain Warehouse, nominated by Hay Festival Foundation; and Dishoom, nominated by HOME - voted on by an independent judging panel: Nigel Farnall, winner of the 2016 Achates Philanthropy Prize; David Hall, founding Chief Executive of The Foyle Foundation; Tarek Iskander, Artistic Director and CEO of Battersea Arts Centre; Steven Jackson-Winter, Senior Associate of Achates Philanthropy; Caroline McCormick, Director of Achates Philanthropy; Danielle Sugrue, Senior Commercial Manager at Laing O’Rourke, winners of the 2018 Corporate Philanthropy Award; Paul Owens, co-founder and Director of BOP Consulting and Chair of the Corporate Award judging panel; Libby Penn, digital specialist working across the cultural sector; Victoria Pomery OBE, Director of Turner Contemporary; and Aliceson Robinson, Executive Director at Russell Reynolds Associates.

ASOS was presented with a sculpture by the renowned British artist, Peter Brooke-Ball MRBS. As winners of the Corporate Award, they will be custodians of the sculpture for one year. Candoco Dance Company

received a £5,000 donation from the Achates Philanthropy Foundation which will be invested in essential fundraising infrastructure to allow the Company to grow the scale and impact of the Training Intensive project in the future.

Jo Royce, Executive Director, Candoco Dance Company said: *“We would like to thank the Prize judges for recognising the impact and importance of this collaboration, which was built on a shared value system around supporting emerging talent and a commitment to inclusion and diversity. We have to thank ASOS who enabled this vital project to happen; through this partnership we have been able to reach a wider and more diverse audience in Candoco’s work and connect with 15 incredible young artists”.*

The Achates Philanthropy Prize Bursaries is the first in a series of national initiatives to be launched and led by the Ambassadors, a group of experienced arts professionals. Supported by the Trustees of the Achates Philanthropy Foundation and the Directors of Achates Philanthropy Ltd, the Achates Philanthropy Prize Ambassadors are: Suzanne Alleyne, Rose Goddard, Nancy Hitzig, Zak Hulstrom, Sarah Maguire, Renu Mehto, Kane Moore, Clare O’Hara, Sally Pennington, Annemarie Shillito and Rossella Traverso. The inaugural Bursaries will offer five UK arts organisations a bespoke masterclass to support the development of their fundraising.

2019 Bursaries were awarded to: Hackney Shed, Northern Ireland Opera, Square Chapel Arts Centre, Streatham Space Project and Writing West Midlands.

For more information, please visit: www.achates.org.uk or follow us on Twitter and Facebook: @achatesprize

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NOTES TO EDITORS'

The Achates Philanthropy Prize is a project of the Achates Philanthropy Foundation, which was created in 2016 to support innovation in the cultural sector and to support the development of models enabling organisational resilience. Achates Philanthropy Foundation is a UK registered charity, number 1173008.

The 2019 Achates Philanthropy Prize is sponsored by Achates Philanthropy Ltd. with Award sponsors, BOP Consulting and Spektrix, in partnership with venue partner, Rich Mix.

2019 Achates Philanthropy Prize sponsors:

Achates Philanthropy Ltd supports cultural sector organisations in achieving resilience with integrity. Our audience informed approach has meant we have developed into one of the UK's leading cultural sector fundraising and management consultancy companies. We operate a unique ethical model, which enables us to work with cultural organisations of all sizes. Achates brings together a team of highly experienced fundraisers and arts managers to offer a tailored approach to connecting with audiences—helping organisations to achieve a long-term, resilient position and to maximise the impact of their work. Our ethos is based on quality of service and that's how we came by our name. In Virgil's *Aeneid*, Achates was the close friend and loyal advisor of Trojan leader, Aeneas. We thought this described the exact relationship we offer our clients.

BOP Consulting is an international research and strategy practice specialising in culture and the creative industries. BOP helps cultural organisations and creative businesses to plan for the future, generate new sources of funding, and prove their impact. They help governments, cultural funders and cities to provide effective support for the sector. BOP's clients include the largest and most dynamic organisations working in culture and the creative industries. Clients range from the Royal Opera House, National Gallery, and the Smithsonian, to Arts Council England, the British Film Institute, and the European Commission. BOP has a long-standing partnership with Achates Philanthropy, in part through the evaluation of Arts Council England's Catalyst programme - the largest direct public policy intervention to support cultural philanthropy and fundraising in the UK.

Spektrix is the leading provider of cloud-based ticketing, marketing and fundraising software to the arts industry. Founded in London in 2007, Spektrix now works with more than 400 organisations in the UK, Ireland, the US and Canada, providing them with the tools and support needed to help them build stronger relationships with their audiences, as well as develop new revenue streams and streamline their operations. Users in the UK and Ireland include Chichester Festival Theatre, the Royal Court Theatre, Birmingham's Town Hall and Symphony Hall and the Gate Theatre in Dublin. While in the US and Canada they include New York Theatre Workshop, the Curran in San Francisco and the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.

2019 Award winners:

World Heart Beat Music Academy provides high-quality music education and fulfilling personal development opportunities for children and young people from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds living in Wandsworth and the surrounding boroughs. Every week, students aged 5-25 years participate in a rich programme from grassroots to early-career level, learning and performing music from a breadth of music genres, reflective of the heritages of the diverse community. Selected by London Borough of Wandsworth and developers Eco-World Ballymore from a competitive field of 42 cultural organisations, World Heart Beat has been awarded a 750 m2 space in the heart of the Nine Elms to create a 110-seat auditorium with world-class acoustics, state-of-the-art recording studios, expanded teaching rooms and practice spaces, digital learning labs and community café.

www.worldheartbeat.org/embassygardens/

Candoco is a world-leading professional dance company. Bridging the mainstream and the experimental, our bold approach and powerful collaborations create distinctive performances and far-reaching learning experiences. We celebrate different ways of seeing, of being and of making art, putting us at the forefront of conversation around dance and disability. The company, founded in 1991 by Celeste Dandeker-Arnold CBE and Adam Benjamin, collaborates with some of the industry's most renowned choreographers and artists to

create performance work that is presented at prestigious venues and festivals in the UK and internationally. Alongside touring, last year Candoco created a sensation when it became the first contemporary dance company to appear on the BBC's Strictly Come Dancing, performing to over 10 million people. More recently, the company ran a 2-week residential dance training intensive for young disabled and non-disabled dancers supported by fashion retailer ASOS. In December 2019, the company will open *The Lost Thing*, a musical reimagining of the children's book by Shaun Tan, at the Linbury Theatre in a major co-production with the Royal Opera.

www.candoco.co.uk

2019 Bursary winners:

Hackney Shed is an inclusive young people's performing arts company established in 2001 in partnership with the Chickenshed Theatre and is now an independently operating charity. We work with young people aged 7-25 years old. As an inclusive company we believe that every participant has something unique to offer to the development of the shared artistic vision and development of the group. We strive to make all our activities accessible to everyone, including members with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), and we pride ourselves on our 'no barriers' policy. Hackney Shed's mission is to provide a vibrant, creative and informal atmosphere for children and young people in the London Borough of Hackney to come together, share ideas and produce exciting theatre in an inclusive environment. We bring young people with and without SEND together in a creative way, and through this we aim to increase tolerance and confidence as well as reduce isolation for young people in the borough of Hackney.

www.hackneyshed.org.uk

Founded in 2010, **Northern Ireland Opera** is Northern Ireland's award-winning national opera company, widely acclaimed as one of the most exciting operatic start-ups in UK and Irish history. With a philosophy of artistic excellence and risk-taking, underpinned by a bold and imaginative approach to programming and productions, Northern Ireland Opera is committed to the idea of opera as a uniquely enriching 'total' art form and one which should be open to everyone. Through a modern but accessible production style, an emphasis on local participation and young people, and inexpensive ticket prices, the company has broadened the audience for opera in a region where there has been historic under-provision and where the arts are uniquely placed to foster relations between communities. In only nine years, the company's energy, ideas and high artistic standards have led to both national critical acclaim and an international profile.

www.niopera.com

Square Chapel Arts Centre is a highly successful multi-artform venue and community hub in Halifax, West Yorkshire. In 1989, poised to be demolished, the building was saved by a group of 6 passionate local people with a view to creating a thriving arts centre. Over the past 30 years the organisation has grown to become a nationally significant arts organisation, an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation, and one of the largest cultural providers in the Borough. Most recently Square Chapel has undergone a huge transformation, with the successful completion of significant capital redevelopment which was completed in July 2017 and is now celebrated as winner of the RIBA Yorkshire Design Award for 2018. The works doubled the footprint of the previous building with a stunning glass and copper extension, perfectly complementing the original architecture and red brick construction of 1889.

www.squarechapel.co.uk

Streatham Space Project is a Theatre, Music & Comedy venue, aiming to bring the best live performance to South London. Set up by a team of Streatham-based artists in June 2018, our aim is to use live events to reach the different corners of our neighbourhood and bring people together. We want to promote the work we love for the area we live in.

www.streathamspaceproject.co.uk

Writing West Midlands is the literature development agency for the West Midlands, supporting creative writers and creative writing. It offers support to help writers establish their writing careers. It supports young writers as they develop their interest in creative writing. It runs festivals and events, including the Birmingham Literature Festival and the annual National Writers' Conference. It exists to champion the West Midlands region as a great place to be a writer.

www.writingwestmidlands.org

2019 Achates Philanthropy Prize presenter: Hannah Rothschild CBE is a writer, filmmaker, company director and philanthropist. She has also lectured on art, film and philanthropy at the Getty, the Royal Academy of Arts, the Hay Festival and the National Gallery. Her biography, *The Baroness: The Search for Nica the Rebellious Rothschild*, was published in 2012. Her first novel, *The Improbability of Love*, won the Bollinger Wodehouse Prize for best comic novel and was shortlisted for the Bailey Women's Prize for fiction in 2015. Her latest novel, *House of Trelawney*, will be published by Bloomsbury in February 2020. She has served on the boards of Tate, Whitechapel Gallery and the Institute of Contemporary Arts. From 2015 to 2019 she was the first woman to chair the trustees of the National Gallery. She is also actively involved in the Rothschild Foundation, Waddesdon Estates, Yad Hanadiv, an asset management company, and Illuminated River, a project to light up to fifteen bridges across London. In 2018, Hannah was made Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for services to Literature and Philanthropy.

2019 Achates Philanthropy Prize guest artist: Amani Saeed is an international spoken word artist whose work brings the big issues to your kitchen table. She explores the crisis cultivated by living between sometimes (but not always) contradictory cultures, treading the line between masjid and mini skirt. A Barbican Young Poet and curator of spoken word nights Golden Tongue and The Hen-nah Party, she has worked with Richmix, the Roundhouse, the BBC, and the Huffington Post, among others. Amani's poetry has been described as 'electric,' 'strident,' and 'brave.' Her debut collection, *Split*, was published with Burning Eye Books in 2018.

The 2019 Achates Philanthropy Prize is sponsored by Achates Philanthropy Ltd.



with Award sponsors, BOP Consulting and Spektrix, in partnership with Rich Mix



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