



Sistema England 4th January 2022

A NEW CHAPTER FOR SOCIAL ACTION THROUGH MUSIC EDUCATION IN ENGLAND

Sistema England is delighted to announce that it is passing on its activities and national leadership role to [The Nucleo Project](#). After more than a decade of service from Sistema England to the ‘music for social action’ community in the UK, this will enable The Nucleo Project – now to be known simply as “Nucleo” - to continue this work and further develop its own activities.

United by their shared belief in the unlimited potential of young people and the power of community music education, Sistema England and The Nucleo Project have worked closely together since the latter was founded in 2013, and the changes announced today are a natural next step for their collaboration and shared values. Julian Lloyd Webber, founder of Sistema England and champion for music education, will join Nucleo as Honorary Patron. Nina Kaye, Sistema England trustee, will join Nucleo’s board as Interim Chair. Additionally, Sistema England’s other trustees and former executive (including Julian Lloyd Webber, Marshall Marcus and Fiona Cunningham) will continue to support the Nucleo executive team as members of an advisory group.

In its new capacity, Nucleo will take forward Sistema England’s Young Leaders Program, bringing together skilled and committed young musicians and their teachers from around the country for national meetups and orchestra residencies focused on youth leadership, collaborative learning and musical aspiration.

Nucleo will also continue Sistema England’s instrument donation bank, which has already put over 2,100 instruments into the hands of young musicians who need them, supporting schools and organisations around the country that strive to increase access to music.

Julian Lloyd Webber said: “Over the past decade, Sistema England and The Nucleo Project have been proud to support children and young people from all backgrounds around the country to have access to music-making. In embracing the principles of immersive music-making and excellence, they have forged distinctive identities and approaches to their local communities.

We are delighted that the work of Sistema England will be continued by Nucleo as a beacon organisation, beloved by young people, staff and families alike. We were inspired by Lucy Maguire and her students from the earliest days of the programme’s existence. We congratulate Lucy, the young musicians, families and staff of The Nucleo Project for the aspiration, achievements, inclusion and growing pathways that make it so special in its locality, in England, and also in the international field of music for social action.”



Fiona Cunningham, previously CEO of Sistema England, said: “On behalf of the team, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has supported Sistema England’s work over the years, especially our cherished donors for the Young Leaders programme. I would especially like to thank our Young Leaders themselves and their dedicated teachers – from The Nucleo Project, *In Harmony* Lambeth, Liverpool, Newcastle and Telford, and Sistema in Norwich. You inspire us all, and we are excited to see the next era of Young Leaders reach new heights.”

Lucy Maguire, Founder and CEO of The Nucleo Project said: “I am really excited about this next phase of our development, and the whole Nucleo community – our team, our supporters, the families and most of all the kids – should be really proud of having worked together over the last nine years to reach this point. A big part of what Nucleo is all about is just showing what young people can do when they have the chance, and on top of all their musical accomplishments, this milestone is also a representation of that. Our young musicians are incredible people, and it’s really exciting that with this new national scope for our organisation, we’ll have the opportunity to meet and work with many more amazing kids, and to bring them together with one another to make music and build communities.

We started The Nucleo Project with almost no resources and just a handful of kids and instruments, but very early on we came into contact with Sistema England and they championed and supported our work and played a big part in helping us grow into the organisation that we are today. On behalf of our whole project, I am grateful for the relationship we have had over the years, and proud of the work we have done together. We are both honoured and excited now to be taking forward their national work alongside our existing project in North Kensington. I think this represents a continuation of the confidence and faith the Sistema England team have had in The Nucleo Project since its early days, and I’m thrilled at this opportunity to take our work forward into its next phase.”

For further information about this announcement, please contact Nina Kaye, Sistema England trustee, on nkaye@sistemaengland.org.uk