

Arts Council England and the second National Portfolio round 2015/16

1. Arts Council funding of jazz

1.1 Subsidy per attender for opera, classical music and jazz in 2011/16

Total funding for opera and jazz has risen and the total funding for classical music has fallen in the latest round. Funding for opera has risen by 17% despite the cut in funding to English National Opera and funding for Jazz has risen by 1.3%.

Arts Council England Funding for opera, classical and jazz	2011/12 £ millions	2012/13 £ millions	2015/16 £ millions	Audience as a percentage of population	Audience attending music events in millions	Subsidy per head 2011/12 £	Subsidy per head 2012/13 £	Subsidy per head 2015/16 £
Total funding for opera	50.02	50.5	59.2	3.9%	1.67	31.26	31.56	35.34
Total funding for classical music	18.3	18.9	16.9	7.7%	3.29	5.55	5.72	5.13
Total funding for jazz	1.42	1.25	1.67	5.6%	2.38	0.57	0.50	0.70

Table 1 Source: Taking Part 2011/12 Kantar Media/ Arts Council England

1.2 Jazz as a percentage of the totals of Arts Council England regularly funded music organisations 1991/92, 2011/12 and National Portfolio Organisations for 2015/2016

The total funding for Jazz had risen from 0.5% in 1991/92 to 1.8% of the total funding of regularly funded organisations in 2015/16.

Arts Council England Regularly Funded Music Organisations (RFOs)	1991/92 £ million	As a percentage of total funding of RFOs 1991/92	2011/12 £ million	2012/13 £ million	2015/16 £ million	As a percentage of total funding of RFOs 2011/12	As a percentage of total funding of NPOs 2012/13	As a percentage of total funding of NPOs 2012/13
Total funding of music RFOs	48.5	100%	83.5	82.5	92.3	100%	100%	100%
Total funding for opera RFOs	37.8	77.9%	50.02	50.5	59.2	60%	61%	64%
Total funding for classical RFOs	8.6	17.7%	18.3	18.9	16.9	22%	22.9%	18.3%
Total funding for jazz RFOs	0.24	0.5%	1.42	1.25	1.67	1.7%	1.52%	1.8%
Funding of other music's and projects	1.8	3.9%	13.76	11.85	14.53	16.5%	14.58%	15.7

Table 2 Source: Arts Council England

1.3 A level playing field?

English National Opera received a cut of £5 million from £17 million to £12 million. However it would appear from an article in the Guardian on the 2nd July 2014 (ENO forced to tighten its reins while 58 groups lose all funding from Arts Council) that the funding of English National Opera (ENO) was a done deal as ENO was given an inducement of £7.6 million to “help in the transition of its business plan”. Did the Arts Council of England offer this kind of help to the organisations who lost their funding?

Even with a cut in ENO funding opera funding increased from £50.5 million in 2012/13 to £59.2 million in 2015/16. Jazz increased its overall funding from £1.25 million in 2012/13 to £1.67 million in 2015/16 but Jazz Services the national organisation for jazz was cut which means the real increase was an exercise in robbing Peter to pay Pauline. Classical music's funding was reduced from £18.9 million in 2012/13 to £16.9 million in 2015/16. The audience for opera is 1.67 million attenders, for classical music 3.29 million and for jazz 2.67 million. More and more Arts Council England is beginning to resemble a dodgy hedge fund.