



## DUNEDIN CONSORT ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

### Our commitment

1. Dunedin Consort's mission statement, vision and values commit us to giving an excellent experience to all our audiences, in Scotland, the rest of the UK and internationally. We work with the best international musicians: we offer opportunities to perform in an expanding range of places, and our broad audience base in turn benefits from their creativity, spontaneity and infectious commitment to their art.
2. With the profile of engagements we are building comes the challenge of how to ensure that we demonstrate practical concern for the environment. We are committed to monitoring, publishing and reducing our annual carbon output; to arranging our programmes and our travel in ways that are environmentally responsible; to reducing air travel wherever possible; to establishing a Climate Costs Fund to help us meet our targets; and to managing our business operations in accordance with best practice.
3. Our regular reporting to Creative Scotland, from whom we receive Regular Funding, includes measuring our carbon output. We will track this data carefully and use it as one measure of the impact of our environmental policy, and if other measures seem appropriate we will adopt them in addition.

*Current position: As of April 2020, Dunedin Consort's annual carbon output stands at 112 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e (for reference, the average annual carbon footprint of a person living in the UK is 10 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e).*

### Arranging our programmes and travel

4. Our mission means that the musicians we employ, who appear in a wide range of venues — both with Dunedin Consort and with other ensembles — and who live in many parts of the UK and Europe, need to travel to perform with us. And when they are with us we typically move from one venue to another — we are by definition a touring organisation. Our carbon management report tells us that 98% of our total carbon output is travel related, however for an ensemble of our internationals standing, our total output is still low. While it may not be possible to make a significant change to the proportion of travel-related carbon in relation to our working practice, we remain committed to reducing the quantum through a range of responsible policies.
5. **Grouping engagements:** When our musicians are assembled for a particular programme it is our policy is to repeat it in a number of locations — for example, many of our annual programmes, which include *Messiah* and the Passions and our choral tours, are sequenced over a few days in a range of venues in Scotland. We travel between these as a group, to minimise both cost and carbon impact.

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6. **Ensemble size:** Here, artistic factors and cost/carbon factors can sometimes pull in different directions, but we are always conscious of the extra numbers associated with particular programme decisions and our policy is to aim for a sensible balance. Our smaller, chamber music tours to more remote locations, for example, demonstrate that excellence and creativity can be achieved with modest forces, and that by touring further afield with smaller programmes we can minimise the potential environmental impact.
7. **Mode of travel, UK and Europe:** Our policy is to avoid air travel wherever possible, however travel by rail tends to be slower and can be more expensive. There are thus two main constraints — travel time and cost. Additional travel time is something we are often — but not always — able to plan for and to incorporate into our schedule, depending on the nature of the engagement and the demands of the schedule.

But this may sometimes have a significant impact on individual musicians, whose personal schedules (e.g. returning home for family commitments or moving on for rehearsals for their next project) may not be deliverable. We will address these exceptions on a case-by-case basis, our aim being to be mindful and supportive of the competing demands of players' schedules wherever possible. Moreover:

- For travel within the UK our general policy is to cover only the cost of rail travel. Those who choose to fly are of course free to do so, but unless there are extenuating circumstances their costs will not be reimbursed.
  - We encourage individuals joining us in the UK from Europe to travel by rail wherever possible, but we also accept that for reasons including those stated above it is not always practical to do so. We will cover the costs of rail travel from Europe, even where the cost is greater than flying, and we will aim — but cannot always guarantee — to pay for travel days to support this, although we stress that there will be occasions where the budget for the project is outwith our control and this is not possible. However, we will press the promoters with whom we work to support this policy wherever possible.
  - For group travel within Europe, we will always aim to travel by rail where time and costs allow. Where the group is forced to travel by air (for example, because the promoter cannot support the costs of rail travel), we will be happy to cover the costs for any individuals who choose to travel by rail, but as above we cannot always undertake to pay for travel days unless these costs are covered as part of the engagement. Again, we are committed to pressing promoters to support these additional travel costs wherever possible.
8. **Mode of travel, further afield:** Engagements involving long haul flights are relatively few, though in recent years we have seen these begin to increase. In turn, these trips have significantly boosted Dunedin Consort's international standing, and while we do not expect to see a dramatic increase in this trend, we are keen to respond positively to international opportunities. Our approach to programming and size of ensemble can help to contain the environmental impact of such engagements. In all cases, we will make appropriate carbon offsetting arrangements in accordance with accepted best practice, using properly accredited

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offsetting vehicles. We will discuss with promoters how to cover the costs, that may be appreciable in some cases.

9. **Internal travel and accommodation on tours:** Environmental and cost drivers are well aligned here. For engagements in Scotland we will continue where possible to use host accommodation, provided by our friends and supporters. Otherwise, unless promoters are providing accommodation, we will where possible use booking services that provide carbon offsetting for accommodation emissions.

## Managing a low carbon business

10. Our company-wide practice is to ensure that we continue to 'Do the little things'. There is a whole raft of things organisations can do to reduce their environmental impact, particularly as the world at large becomes increasingly climate-conscious, and Dunedin Consort is no exception. The appendix to this policy statement sets out in more detail the steps we have already taken, as well as those we are seeking to change and improve. We will continue to work at reviewing these and adding new initiatives as the world around us changes and adapts.

## How to make all this happen?

11. Many of these policies require those managing Dunedin Consort to handle programming and travel, including carbon offsetting, in ways that respect the commitment: we will do that. They also require those who care about the environment and climate change to support us in what we are trying to do, and to organise their own travel and logistics in a way that supports the commitments we have made. By the same token, we are pleased to offer a platform for discussion and creative programming around these issues, as outlined in Section 4 of the Appendix.
12. Clearly, we will continue to need the backing of our friends and supporters as hosts, but we may also need to appeal for extra financial support to assist with additional travel, accommodation and off-setting costs. Over the coming 12 months, a new 'Climate Costs Fund' will be established for these purposes.

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## Appendix

### Dunedin Consort Environmental Policy — Practical Steps

#### 1. Rehearsals / on home territory

- Minimise single-use plastics in rehearsal space — encourage musicians to bring ‘keep-cups’
- Where disposable cups/cutlery/plates are to be used, buy compostable Vegware or similar
- Provide recycling facilities for paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, batteries
- Buy pesticide-free (organic), palm-oil free and/or vegan options for rehearsal refreshments
- Only permit travel by train for musicians within the UK unless there are exceptional circumstances
- Do not refund taxi receipts where reasonable public transport options are available
- Offer host accommodation rather than hotels in Edinburgh/Glasgow/London

#### 2. Touring

- Travel by train rather than plane within Europe wherever possible
- Offer train travel rather than flying as an option for musicians where practicable
- Where possible, don’t take flights for only one concert
- Carbon off-setting of flights and other travel using accredited off-setting provider
- Book hotels via Tripzero (or similar) to ensure carbon off-setting on accommodation

#### 3. Dunedin Office

- Use FSC/unbleached/recycled paper and natural inks for office printing and marketing campaigns where possible
- Provide recycling facilities for paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, batteries
- Encourage all employees to take public transport to work
- Publish/share annual carbon emissions and reduction targets to set example of good practice
- Share Environmental Policy and company’s green initiatives to set example of good practice and provide ideas for sector

#### 4. Programming / Advocacy

- Engage with Dunedin musicians in planning and implementation of environmental policy
- Seek opportunities to link concert programming with talks, discussions and other events on green/environmental topics — involving Dunedin musicians where possible
- Offer occasional ‘View from a Musician’ page in concert programmes, allowing Dunedin musicians to explain how their work is impacted by — and can have an impact on — wider environmental issues
- Discuss and share initiatives with other organisations — both within and outwith Scotland — to adopt new and better methods of best practice across the sector

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