

1. Sinfonia Cymru is a chamber orchestra based in Wales, which focusses on supporting young professional musicians in the early stage of their careers. Players are drawn from Wales and the rest of the UK. We provide a wide range of programmes – chamber orchestral, chamber music recitals, contemporary chamber music, cross–genre projects and schools performances. One of the distinctive features of the way in which Sinfonia Cymru works is that we put players at the heart of our creative programming.
2. Sinfonia Cymru is a member of the Association of British Orchestras (ABO) and our Chief Executive sits on the ABO Board.
3. To give the Committee a UK–wide perspective of the potential impact of Brexit on the orchestra sector, we are providing as part of our evidence a paper produced by the ABO earlier this year for the UK Government. This sets out in some detail the likely areas of impact.
4. The ABO represents a varied range of orchestras within the professional sector as its core members. Through its associate membership, it also represents youth orchestras, conservatoires and other bodies.
5. Orchestras in Wales and the rest of the UK cover a variety of models in terms of their governance, management and purpose. There is also a wide–range of scales – from full–scale symphony orchestra with 80 or 90 players to smaller chamber ensembles of between 12 and 30.
6. Sinfonia Cymru is a freelance orchestra, engaging players when it needs them, according to the requirements of each programme or project. Occasionally, it will play at symphony orchestra scale, but most of its work is focused on chamber orchestral repertoire or smaller ensembles for chamber music projects. It uses guest artists and conductors, who sometimes come from abroad, although most are based in the UK.

7. Given the diversity of models across the UK, as well as specifically in Wales, the impacts of Brexit are difficult to predict as they are likely to differ for each organisation. However, the key elements addressed in the ABO paper for the wider UK orchestral sector are just as likely to impact on the orchestras based in Wales, immediately or at some future time.
8. Freedom of movement for guest artists, conductors, and orchestral musicians, currently enjoyed by EEA artists, could be restricted and subject to increased bureaucracy and cost if the current system for non-EEA artists is extended to the EEA.
9. European touring is likely to be impacted. Sinfonia Cymru's international work is fairly limited but recent events include a cross-nation festival in 2014, which took place in Estonia, Italy, Sweden and Wales; and, in 2017, a visit to Romania as the guest ensemble at the Vibrate Festival.
10. Although we may be less active in international touring than some of our sector colleagues, anything that restricts, inhibits or makes it more difficult to tour, will potentially be detrimental to future European touring projects. Restriction of movement, increased border controls, increased cost and bureaucracy for travel, reduction or removal of common health provision, and changes to withholding tax rules will all potentially impact on the viability and desirability for Sinfonia Cymru and other Welsh orchestras to organise performances in Europe in the future.