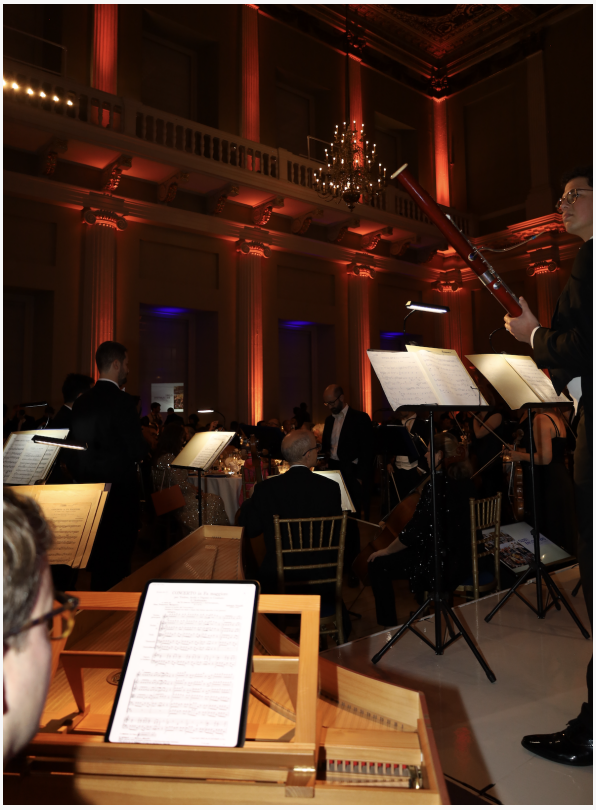
English Chamber Orchestra Royal Gala Attracts 250 Guests and New International Support

The Banqueting House fundraiser generated financial commitments, overseas ambassador interest and enquiries about sponsorship for next year.





LONDON, GREATER LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, October 29, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The English Chamber Orchestra's Royal Gala Fundraiser brought together 250 international guests at Banqueting House, Whitehall, London, on 17 October 2026, generating financial commitments and fresh interest in supporting the orchestra internationally.

Guests have since expressed interest in becoming ambassadors, representing the orchestra overseas and sponsoring next year's gala. For the ECO, the response is particularly encouraging because it includes people introduced through business relationships, partners and friends who now want a continuing role in its future.

The evening welcomed philanthropists, business leaders, diplomats and guests from finance, travel, fashion, entertainment, hospitality and the arts. Established supporters joined those experiencing the English Chamber Orchestra in person for the first time.

By bringing their networks into the room, the gala's partners helped introduce new audiences to both the orchestra's performances and its charitable work. That shared experience began with an evening designed to give guests time to meet, listen and discover what they could help sustain.

Guests arrived on the red carpet before gathering in the Undercroft for a champagne and caviar reception. Conversations and introductions began there before everyone moved upstairs for dinner and performances in the Main Hall.

Beneath the Rubens ceiling, the English Chamber Orchestra performed works by Vivaldi, Handel, Grieg, Mozart, Vaughan Williams and Holst. The candlelit setting gave guests an opportunity to experience the musicianship at the heart of the occasion.



HRH Princess Katarina, Lady de Silva, attended as Guest of Honour, championing opportunities for children and young people to experience the arts. Together with ECO Chief Executive James Rutherford and Gala Event Director Elvijs Plugis, she presented awards recognising support for the arts, philanthropy and the orchestra's charitable mission. Those recognised included Ekin-Su Cülcüloğlu, Nadiya Bychkova, James Ferrell of Sprayground, Kiera and Spencer Chaplin, HSH Dr Donatus, Prince of Hohenzollern, and Ishani Bhoola.

Elvijs Plugis, the gala's Event Director and organiser and an ECO International Advisory Board member, led its organisation, partnership development and delivery through Sigulp, working with the orchestra's team and event collaborators.

His work brought together sponsor relationships, guest introductions, production, marketing and communications. Rebeca Riofrio co-hosted through the Parliamentary Society for Arts, Fashion & Sports, the gala's Alliance Partner.

TrinityBridge supported the evening as Principal Gold Partner, alongside Orient Express as Gold Partner, ATARATMA London as Silver Partner and Eton Holdings as Bronze Partner.

Generation by Kiera and Spencer Chaplin joined as Spirits Partner, Danbury Ridge as Wine Partner, and Empire Caviar as Supporting Partner, with additional support from Justerini & Brooks. The Parliamentary Society for Arts, Fashion & Sports served as Alliance Partner, Sigulp as Strategic Growth Partner, and H.R. Owen as a collaborator.

The Hideaways Club contributed as Silent Auction Prize Partner, while Jumblebee supported the evening as Official Silent Auction & Fundraising Partner. Getty Images and Country & Town House were recognised as Media Partners.

Together, these organisations contributed to the evening's hospitality, fundraising and visibility, connecting their businesses and networks with the English Chamber Orchestra and its charitable work. A silent auction formed part of the fundraising, and end of the evening guests returned to the Undercroft for after-dinner cocktails and further conversation.

The purpose behind these partnerships extends beyond the gala. Under Chief Executive James Rutherford, the English Chamber Orchestra is working to sustain its performances while developing opportunities for more people to participate in music.

Through Close Encounters, its education and community initiative, the orchestra works with Dr Gregory Boardman to bring music into schools and communities. Its guiding principle is that musical excellence belongs wherever music is made.

According to the ECO's education team, schools involved in its Lights Camera Score project have reported improved attendance and increased participation in GCSE Music. In West Yorkshire, musical stories created by primary-school pupils inspired community gardens, giving their ideas a life beyond the original musical activity.

New Horizons, with Ada Witczyk, will complement this work by supporting emerging musicians and composers as they move from education into professional life, through mentoring, practical experience and career development.

These programmes give a clear purpose to the fundraising: sustaining music today while opening opportunities for those who will perform, create and listen in the future.

The interest generated at Banqueting House has opened further conversations about how individuals and organisations can support that work, both in the UK and internationally. For an orchestra seeking to reach new audiences, the willingness of guests to become involved beyond the evening is an encouraging result.

The English Chamber Orchestra, whose Patron is His Majesty King Charles III, welcomes conversations with companies, philanthropists and individuals interested in its future.

Support can take the form of corporate partnerships, major giving, project funding, musician chair sponsorship or membership. There are also opportunities to contribute introductions, professional skills, fundraising activity and ambassador support.

Businesses can explore partnerships around concerts, education and community programmes. Philanthropists can support the orchestra's artistic future and opportunities for emerging

talent.

To discuss these opportunities or register interest in future gala sponsorship, visit: https://englishchamberorchestra.com/support-us/

Elvijs Plugis
Sigulp Ltd
+44 7549945392
elvijs@sigulp.co.uk
Visit us on social media:
LinkedIn
Instagram
Facebook

This press release can be viewed online at: https://www.einpresswire.com/article/953169184

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.
© 1995-2026 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.