

Is conservatoire training sustainable in the UK?

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Browne and the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR)

- teaching grants withdrawn from 2012 except for 'priority' subjects
- fee cap raised to £9k to compensate
- loans repayable on graduation, when income exceeds £21k
- 30 year redemption



Challenges for the conservatoires

- a generational shift from public to private funding - £2.9bn
- conditions governing access on fees above £6k - can we meet them?
- 4-year undergraduate degrees
- postgraduate training on top
- fee cap £9k; unit costs \pm £18k - will the government bridge the gap?
- will we have any students in the future?

Crumbs of comfort

- Browne's proposals are evolutionary not revolutionary - we already charge fees (up to £3,250) and the world still turns on its axis
 - all tuition remains free at the point of delivery
 - a real rate of interest but below the market
 - repayment arrangements more progressive
 - a 'time-limited contingent tax liability'
- but*
- high unit costs remain a stumbling block

Tackling unit costs

- specification...
- delivery...
- shared services - Guildhall has merged all generic services with the Barbican Centre: finance, HR, estates and facilities, IT, commercial, box office
- artistic and educational synergy: creative learning, Centre for Orchestra (with LSO)
- enterprise, with Queen Mary Innovation (QMI)

Diversifying income

- lettings
- admission
- research
- short courses and continuing professional development (CPD)
- juniors and outreach
- summer schools
- other enterprise
- development: philanthropy, trusts and foundations

Public-private partnership

- a premium price for a premium product...
- ...but the public purse will have to bridge the gap

