Brexit—the exit of Great Britain from the European Union—will have profound effects at home and abroad, with wide-ranging repercussions on the economy and international trade whether it’s a negotiated “soft Brexit” or a no-deal “hard Brexit.” What are the implications of Brexit for classical music? The bottom line from my perspective: Brexit is bad news for British orchestras.

Of primary concern is the impact on touring. British orchestras are a global success story, touring across the major continents and forging new markets in emerging economies. Europe, however, remains British orchestras’ most important marketplace, with members of the Association of British Orchestras (ABO) reporting 96 visits to 26 different European countries in 2016 alone.

Touring is intrinsic to the orchestral business model, and the imposition of work permits, carnets, and other tariffs and barriers after a No Deal Brexit when touring into the European Union will damage British orchestras’ ability to serve as cultural ambassadors for the United Kingdom. Additionally, artistic exchange and cross-cultural music-making will suffer. European orchestras and ensembles will face possible delays and additional costs when touring into the UK. And EU soloists wanting to perform in the UK will have to navigate whatever new visa system the British government imposes.

Contracts with promoters in the EU have already been signed for tours by British orchestras taking place beyond October 31, 2019, when Brexit is slated to take effect. Any additional costs following a No Deal Brexit will not be covered by the promoter, meaning UK orchestras will incur a financial loss. As an example, the London Symphony Orchestra has 38 concerts in EU countries between November 2019 and December 2020, and faces significant extra costs.

Particularly important is the A1 form, which prevents the deduction of social security payments when EU nationals work in another EU country. The UK will lose access to the A1 system, meaning irrecoverable social security deductions will be imposed on UK orchestras and their musicians, in addition to the social security contributions they will already have paid in the UK. It is hoped that the UK will be swiftly able to implement social security coordination agreements with each of the EU27 nations, as the U.S. has.

There are also concerns about delays at the border. Orchestras have their own “just in time” model, meaning that the musicians, instruments, and scores have to be in place at the concert venue ready for a specific start. Should the equipment truck be delayed at the border, the concert may well not go ahead, and the orchestra will be in breach of contract.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, better known as CITES, is a familiar topic for American orchestras and musicians. The UK government has announced that it will be imposing controls on the movement of CITES-listed materials between the UK and EU. This means ABO members will need to present Musical Instrument Certificates for inspection at a limited number of designated ports—and these do not include the ports most used by ABO members, such as the Dover-Calais Channel crossing.

The good news for American orchestras is that they will see little difference if touring directly into the UK. For example, the visa system will stay the same. But they will need to factor in delays and extra paperwork if arriving in an EU country before travelling into the UK, or departing the UK to tour within the EU.

MARK PEMBERTON is the director of the Association of British Orchestras.
SIMPLY THE BEST
THE ULTIMATE SYMPHONIC EXPERIENCE

*All music under license from Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC and Harrisongs LTD. All photos under license from The Beatles Book Photo Library. This show is not endorsed or connected to Apple Corps or The Beatles.*

jami@greenbergartists.com 646.504.8084 GREENBERGARTISTS.COM
Thank you to everyone who helped make our 3rd Annual League Giving Day a success.

With your support we raised $82,478!

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our record-breaking 316 donors who made contributions on League Giving Day:

Lester Abberger & Dr. Amanda Stringer
Peter Abell
Horst Abraham
Jennifer Adair
Jeff & Keiko Alexander
Dan Alcott
Burton Alter
Tiffany Ammerman
Susan Anderson
Celia Mann Baehr
Caleb Bailey
Megen Balda
Erin Bardonay
Jennifer Bartlam
Elizabeth Baroody
Aubrey & Ryan Bergauer
Karina Bhaner
Christopher Blair
Anne Blomeyer
Beth Boleyn
Martin Bookspan
Brenda Booth
James & Melissa Boss
Margaret A. Bracken
Jonathan Brennand
Doris & Michael Bronson
Steven Brosvik
Lisa Alexander
Denise Brown-Chythlook
Bryan Symphony Orchestra
William Bucher
Adair Buckner
Carmen Bugay
Kim Burgan
Sherri Reddick
Janet Cabot
Daniel Camenga
Rosina Cannizzaro
Elaine Carroll
Ann Cavanaugh
Nancy Chalifour
David Chambers
Helen H. Cha-Pyo
Carol Childress
Don & Judy Christl
Hanrich Claassen
Darlene Clark
Heather Clarke
Melanie Clarke
Doyle Clayburn
Jeff Collier
Katherine Curatolo
Dr. Stephanie Davis Wallace
Mary Deissler
Gloria DePasquale
Michelle Devine
Karen Dichoza
Brian Dix
Scott Dodson
Andre Dowell
David Dredla
Emma Dunch
Carolyn Dwyer
Kathleen Kane Eberhardt & Jerrold Eberhardt
Alison Eckis
Marisa Eisenmann
Linda G. Eisenhauer
Audrey Elliott-Risbud
Mary Dare Ellis
Daniel Els
Carol Erwine
Charles Evans
Scott Faulkner
Lynne Fehrenbach
Sandra Feldman
Leslie Fink
Firelands Symphony Orchestra
David Fisk
Dr. Aaron Flagg
Paula Floeck
Ryanne Flynn
Rachel & Terry Ford
John Forsyte
James M. Franklin
Catherine French
Mrs. Elizabeth Galpin
Vanessa Gardner
Dr. Stary Garrop
Bob Garthwait, Jr.
William Gettys
Delta David Gier
Robert Gilder
Amy Ginsburg
Gary Ginsling
Marian A. Godfrey
Eithne Goetz
Caroline Greenberg
Daniel Grossman
Doug Hagerman
Brittany Hall
Mark Hanson
Jennifer Harrell
Mollie Harris
Byron Harrison
Judith Harrison, in honor of Doug Hagerman
Daniel Hart
Jim Hasler, in memory of Bob Peiser
Mieko Hatano
Sharon Hatchett
Betsy Hatton
Linda Haugen
Sydney Reid Hedge, in honor of Helen Shaffer
Gerard Heise
Jennifer J. Hicks
Christopher Hisey
Eric Hobbs
Carol Hodge
Susan G. Hoffman
Patricia Hofschere
Elizabeth Holub
Benjamin Hoyer
Rhonda Hunsinger
Ann Huntoon & David Hastings
Lacey Huszczza
Laura Hyde
Chantal Incandela
Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles
Anthea Jackson
Eileen Jeanette
James Johnson
Ellen Jones
Russell Jones
Alan Jordan
Kathy Junek
Jonathan Kaledin & Nathalie Touze
Caryl F. Kassoy
Alyce Katayama
Sharon Kavanaugh
Sarah E. Kelly
Mary Kelsay
Melinda Kernc
Carolyn Keurajian
John D. Kieser
Gerr Kirchner
Joanna Klett
Esla Koester
Tse Wei Kok
Lee Koonce
Arthur Kull
Nuri Kye
Alex Laing
Carl Lam
Chester Lane & Marianne Sciolino
Larry Lang
Thank you to everyone who helped make our 3rd Annual Giving Day a success.  

League Giving Day donations bolster the League’s ability to serve the more than 2,000 organizations and individuals who make up our membership.