

Dear Sir or Madam

Allow me to express my shock at the fact that the funding for the Ulster Orchestra is way below what would be spent in either Wales or the Republic of Ireland? What is wrong with us? Are we going to let this fabulous orchestra wither on the vine or have to price its patrons out of existence? No I am NOT a typical classical music nut! I know nothing about it other than liking to listen! Yes I go to regular concerts but I'm JUST as happy listening to Seasick Steve and or Donal Lunney as in your recent Open Air Festival. (Interestingly, I never see the Minister with responsibility the Arts and Culture at ANY of these events!) We (or our elected representatives) are being short sighted to short change the Ulster Orchestra! Please listen to this plea and CHANGE the budget while we still can! Are you aware that it costs £7,000 for the Ulster Orchestra to hire the Waterfront Hall for one night? The Birmingham Symphony Hall costs £2, 600 for a night? Why is this?

YOU (The Arts Council) are right - the ARTS could die of neglect and we could all end up living in a second rate provincial city in a cultural vacuum! Please add my voice to your appeal!!

Mary Gordon