



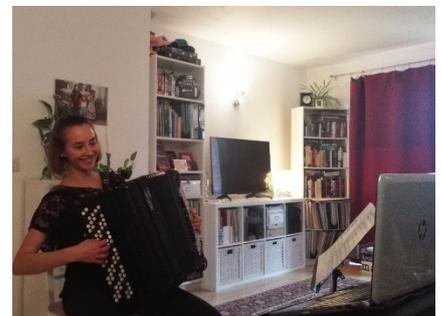
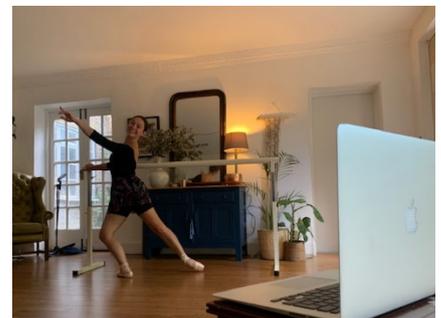
## Connecting Stars

Information for Prospective Care homes



### About Constella

Constella is the world's only company dedicated to opera-ballet, and create cutting-edge, interdisciplinary performances for modern audiences. Founded in 2011, we perform in theatres, at site-specific locations, and broadcast to the world by embracing the possibilities of virtual performance. Described by The Times as 'imaginative and beautifully shaped', Constella's work has been seen across the UK and has been featured at the Royal Chelsea Flower Show and broadcast on BBC Radio 3.



### Connecting Stars

*Connecting Stars* aims to bring joy and happiness to care home residents in a Covid secure environment. With funding from Arts Council, we are delighted to offer care homes **free** weekly performances with some of the UK's most exciting professional musicians and dancers. Uniquely, these performances are virtual and interactive, providing the opportunity for tailored performances encompassing classical, folk and popular musics.

## Our Story

We began *Connecting Stars* in June 2021 in response to hardship the pandemic had on the care sector. We wanted to do our bit to help and with the support of the world-famous baritone, Sir Willard White, we launched a public appeal to raise funds for *Connecting Stars*. Since then, we have given over performances to over 1,000 care home residents from Penzance to Inverness. We are honoured that Arts Council England has endorsed our efforts allowing us to expand our initiative. We now work in partnerships with councils, care home groups and individual homes and deliver regular weekly performances for residents across the country given by our award-winning Star artists!

"Our residents really appreciated the audience participation that you encouraged, the great variety of songs that you performed, and the fabulous sense of fun that you sang with. One of our ladies said you were (and I quote) 'a burst of sunshine'."

**Burwood Nursing Home, Poole**

"They perform so beautifully and are very talented and we really do appreciate the opportunity to be part of this wonderful connection."

**Chawley Grove, Oxford**

"That was absolutely amazing, your voice is incredible – we feel very fortunate to have had you sing for us"

**Glebe House, Kidlington**

To see how the performances work [click here](#)



## How does it work?

We acknowledge that it is a tense and busy time for care providers and our aim therefore is to keep the process as simple and straightforward as possible.

### Selecting your artist/s

1. You will let us know a convenient time for a performance. This can be a one-off or a regular weekly slot.
2. We will notify you which artists we have available and you can choose who would be most suited to your residents. If you choose to have regular slots, we can either rotate different performers or continue with the same artist.

3. If you have any information about the people who will be enjoying the performance, such as repertoire requests and any relevant information on residents' health conditions, we will pass this on to the artist.
4. We will confirm the time(s) with the artist, and they will email you with the call link just before the agreed time. All you need to do is to open the link.

## Technology

The virtual performance will be on Zoom <https://zoom.us>. It can be used for free and runs on all digital devices. If you do not have Zoom on your tablets/laptops already, it can be downloaded in under a minute. You can follow the steps in this video [www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVu9BILRkww](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fVu9BILRkww)

Our artists have worked very hard to ensure the best possible broadcast quality. However, all artists are using modest home equipment and the quality of the connection is impacted by the setup at both ends of the call. We ask that residents embrace this 'homely' quality. To ensure the best results at your end, we advise that you use an ethernet cable or place the laptop/tablet near to the Wi-Fi router. If you can use speakers this will improve the audio quality.

## Performance

The artists' interaction with your residents is as much about human contact as it is about performing. The artist will invite the resident to converse and to make requests. Our artists are highly experienced and will use their creativity and versatility to create an exceptional, personalised performance, and a heart-warming experience that will brighten everyone's day.



Concerts will last up to 1 hour if they take the form of 1-to-1 sessions with a selection of residents, and 45 minutes if they are conducted to a group.

We believe that it is best to split this time into c.15min individual, one-to-one sessions, allowing for the artist to create a personalised experience and friendly conversation. We understand that it may not always be possible to achieve this and we are happy to follow your lead in how the session is run. For example, the performance could be broadcast to a small group of residents rather than to an individual, which would make it more of a private concert style experience.

## Fees

We offer one weekly concert completely free of charge, thanks to public donations and funding from the Arts Council. If you would like to book more than one concert a week, we will ask you to the subsidised rate of £25 for each extra concert that takes place.

## Cancellations

We understand that cancellations can occur however please be aware that our policy is that we still pay the artists for their time in the event that a concert is cancelled with less than 24 hours' notice. We ask therefore that you try and let us know in advance if you need to cancel a performance.

We therefore require care homes who schedule weekly performances to make a deposit of £100, from which £25 will be deducted for any cancellation made within less than 48 hours. The deposit covers a period of two months, providing there are no more than 4 cancellations, after which you may request a refund of the outstanding balance or carry the deposit over into the next period. If you wish to donate the outstanding balance to Constella to contribute to the initiative and pay a new deposit for the next period, we would of course be very grateful.

## Signing up!

We would be delighted to perform to your residents. Please send us get in touch with us at [info@constella.org.uk](mailto:info@constella.org.uk) and we will organise your first performance right away!

Thank you from the Constella team

[www.constella.org.uk](http://www.constella.org.uk)

Patron Sir Willard White