

Ref.: TC/1919

11 January 2024

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By e-mail: [planning@liverpool.gov.uk](mailto:planning@liverpool.gov.uk)

**Application:** 23L/3128

**Site:** Philharmonic Hall Hope Street, Liverpool, L1 9BP

**Proposal:** To carry out alterations to the raised stage area, installation of new stage lift and associated modifications below stage, carry out acoustic modifications to the side walls and rear wall of the stage, addition of new stair-lifts in the stairs serving the choir risers, and carry out alterations to the rigging positions.

### **Remit:**

Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1976 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in England through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, requiring the Trust to be consulted by local authorities on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre'.

### **Comment:**

Thank you for consulting Theatres Trust on this application for listed building consent at the Philharmonic Hall. It seeks to undertake a number of internal alterations

#### **Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

**Telephone** 020 7836 8591 **Email** [info@theatrestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@theatrestrust.org.uk) **Website** [theatrestrust.org.uk](http://theatrestrust.org.uk) **Twitter** @TheatresTrust

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**Chair** Dave Moutrey OBE

**Director** Jon Morgan

**Trustees** James Dacre, Suba Das, Stephanie Hall, Annie Hampson, Lucy Osborne, Truda Spruyt, Katie Town

around its stage.

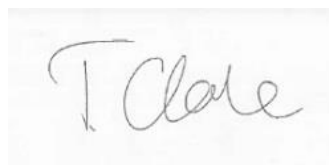
The Philharmonic Hall is a Grade II\* listed heritage asset. It has a main hall with a capacity of around 1,700 as well as three smaller spaces. Its programme consists of a number of classical music concerts each year alongside other live music, comedy, talks and other such events. It was built in the late 1930s after some delay to replace a previous hall which was destroyed by fire with the Liverpool Corporation demanding it must be suitable for cinema and theatre use alongside being a concert hall. It was designed by Herbert J. Rowse in a Streamline Modern style. An extension was added in 1995 and a major refurbishment programme in 2015 saw the addition of a further small performance space.

These works are being brought forward to help optimise the function and operational performance of the stage and its supporting facilities, addressing current deficiencies including sub-optimal accessibility. This includes replacing the facing to the back wall for better acoustic reflection and dispersion, improving the side of stage acoustics, replacement of retractable platforms and steps and improved access to the stage's different levels.

We note that this area has been altered as part of previous works and therefore fabric is less sensitive in heritage terms. Nonetheless, with reference to paragraph 207 of the NPPF (2023) these proposals generate public benefit through enhanced acoustics and improved provision for performers with reduced mobility.

We therefore support the granting of listed building consent.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance or should you wish to discuss this representation in greater detail.



Tom Clarke MRTPI

National Planning Adviser

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