

- He did not feel the responses he had received addressed his central concern which was that the BBC publicly stated that the Proms "...still remains true to its original aim: to present the widest range of music, performed to the highest standards, to large audiences".
- He had not received any explanation for the lack of diversity in the Proms music programming or any word about what the BBC proposed to do about this lack of diversity.
- He said the reply from Audience Services of 19 October 2015 listed music he had already alluded to in his original letter. He also said that the example of "opera" given by Audience Services, Fiddler on the Roof, was a musical, not an opera. He also noted that a lot of the music listed by Audience Services was performed outside the central Proms venue.
- He said that as well as not having addressed his concerns, his complaint had been handled inefficiently.
- He requested an explanation for the "misleading editorial content that promotes the proms".

Decision of the Trust Adviser

The Trust Adviser (the Adviser) understood that BBC Audience Services had ceased handling this complaint at Stage 1 and had not offered him the opportunity to seek a further, more detailed, response at Stage 2. She decided that the point she should consider was whether the complainant's appeal against the decision of Audience Services not to correspond further had a reasonable prospect of success. She decided it did not.

The Adviser noted that the complainant did not feel that the BBC Proms were true to a publicly stated aim of presenting the widest range of music, performed to the highest standards, to large audiences. She noted the context of this statement in an article about the history of the Proms published on the BBC website. The full article can be found at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/1sgMxZvFzHQG3Y1HktMfg6w/history-of-the-proms>

The closing section of the article is included below:

The 100th Proms season took place in 1994 and the festival now includes over 70 main Prom concerts every year, ever widening the range of symphonic and operatic music presented. The BBC Proms continues to welcome leading international performers whilst showcasing the best of the British music scene, including the BBC's own orchestras and choirs.

Yet although the scope of the Proms has increased enormously since 1895, Henry Wood's concept for the season remains largely unaltered: to present the widest possible range of music, performed to the highest standards, to large audiences. And promenading in the Royal Albert Hall's arena continues to be a central feature, lending the Proms its unique, informal atmosphere.