*July 2016 – for immediate release Further information: Chris Pockett, +44 1453 524133*

**Colston Hall and Renishaw extend successful music partnership**

After a successful year long trial to inspire Bristol schoolchildren with an education programme that combines engineering, maths and music, Colston Hall and global engineering company Renishaw today announced a four-year extension to the partnership to educate an estimated 800 pupils each year.

‘Beat Lab’ is a series of innovative music technology programmes, offering 7-14 year olds the opportunity to get involved in a variety of different music-tech experiences, one of which is developed by partners Conductive Music CIC.

The programme offers children the chance to create musical instruments from scratch, using everything from circuit boards and conductive ink to pieces of fruit.

To celebrate the announcement, Bristol Plays Music, the city’s music education hub based at Colston Hall, presented the programme to members of the Royal Academy of Engineering at Renishaw’s headquarters on Tuesday 26 July.

The scheme is being evaluated by the University of Bristol, who will carry out an academic study beginning in September to measure the impact of the programme on young people’s aspirations.

Louise Mitchell, Chief Executive of Bristol Music Trust which runs Colston Hall, said, “The trial scheme has proved a real success with excellent feedback from both teachers and pupils. We’ve delivered a programme that brings together science, technology and music education, taking STEM subjects one step closer to STEAM, including the arts.

“Extending our partnership with Renishaw into a five-year project means that they will continue to work with us well into the new life of our new education spaces at Colston Hall following the completion of our £45 million transformation. Renishaw is a creative organisation, which understands the importance of encouraging young peoples’ creativity for their future lives in the arts, science and engineering spheres. We look forward to the next few years as we continue to develop music participation in creative ways.”

Sir David McMurtry, Chairman and Chief Executive of global engineering company Renishaw plc, which is funding the programme, said, “It has been wonderful to see so many young people gain an understanding of different engineering skills and how they can combine in a creative way.

“Delivering scientific innovation is one of Renishaw’s core values and the Beat Lab programme contains elements of both. We understand the value of supporting young people as they take their next steps towards a rounded education, where science and the arts play active roles in their early development. We look forward to working with Bristol Plays Music, Colston Hall and Conductive Music over the next few years.”

Colston Hall’s £45 million transformation plans will enable Bristol Plays Music to expand its current music education offering in the future, reaching more young people and introducing further programmes. The Hall’s redevelopment includes a new world-class learning centre that will engage school children and adults from all backgrounds and all levels of ability.

**-ENDS-**

**Notes to Editors**

* Bristol Plays Music (BPM) is Bristol’s hub for music education, based at Colston Hall. It is the only music education hub based in a professional performance venue.
* Bristol Plays Music is run by Bristol Music Trust who also manages Colston Hall.
* Colston Hall is run by Bristol Music Trust, an independent organisation created in 2011 to develop the Hall’s artistic programme, promote music and music making in Bristol and help secure a sustainable future for Colston Hall
* In September 2014, Colston Hall launched a national campaign for a multi-million pound transformation to create an international standard concert hall. The ‘Thank You for the Music’ campaign is one of the largest projects of its kind in the UK. The £45 million transformation plans for the iconic building include remodelling the main auditorium, redeveloping the second hall into a versatile venue, opening up the cellars for the first time in 100 years for educational and workshop space and restoring the frontage to its Victorian magnificence.
* Colston Hall will be the last of the main concert halls in the country to have undergone a major redevelopment since the 1980s and works are due to start in the Hall’s 150th year in 2017, ready for opening in 2019. Find out more at [www.colstonhall.org](http://www.colstonhall.org).
* For more information on the transformation campaign visit: <http://www.colstonhall.org/transformation/>

**About Renishaw**

Renishaw is one of the world's leading engineering and scientific technology companies, with expertise in precision measurement and healthcare. The company supplies products and services used in applications as diverse as jet engine and wind turbine manufacture, through to dentistry and brain surgery. It is also a world leader in the field of additive manufacturing (also referred to as 3D printing), where it is the only UK business that designs and makes industrial machines which ‘print' parts from metal powder.

The Renishaw Group currently has more than 70 offices in 35 countries**,** with over 4,000 employees, of which 2,700 people are employed within the UK. The majority of the company's R&D and manufacturing is carried out in the UK and for the year ended June 2016 Renishaw achieved sales of £436.6 million of which 95% was due to exports. The company's largest markets are China, USA, Japan and Germany.

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Further information is available at [www.renishaw.com](file:///G:\Web%20refresh\News\www.renishaw.com)