



‘Chi-Chi’ Nwanoku
(b. 1956)
British Double Bassist
and
Founder of Chineke!

She was a student at **Kendrick School**.

Chi-chi is Professor of Historical Double Bass Studies at the **Royal Academy of Music** where she was made a Fellow in 1998.

She was a founder member of the **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** and held the position of Principal double bass for 30 years.





Of Nigerian and Irish descent, Chi-chi is the **Founder and Artistic Director of the Chineke! Orchestra**, the first professional and junior orchestra in Europe to be made up of a majority of Black, Asian and ethnically diverse musicians.

In 2016 she was appointed as an **Honorary Fellow of Trinity Laban Conservatoire** in recognition of her 'pioneering contribution to music'.



Chi-chi was awarded the **OBE** for **Services to Music** in 2017 and the **MBE** in the 2001 Queen's Birthday honours.



- She was awarded the Black British Business Awards, Person of the Year 2016
- She was named in the Top 10 of BBC Woman's Hour, Women in Music Power List 2018.
- Chi-chi was voted to the 'Powerlist of Britain's 100 Most Influential Black People 2019.

Chi-chi's Classical Champions,
a 6-part series for Classic FM
radio shines the spotlight on
Black, Asian & ethnically
diverse composers and
performers – those who have
enjoyed success, as well as
those yet to receive
recognition.



Chi Chi Nwanoku | TED talk
Music does not discriminate



‘Changing perceptions is what *Chineke!* is about. That is what will lead to systematic change. And then we can start changing the status quo. Diversity should be business as usual.’