

Become a Trustee



Spitalfields
music

We are seeking trustees with legal, financial and educational expertise to join our board from mid-2026

We are Spitalfields Music

We nourish the foundations of the classical music sector - in East London and beyond - by fostering passion, nurturing talent, cultivating outstanding leadership and staging innovative performances.

We are...

A small but mighty organisation

Rooted in East London

Risk-takers

Backed by decades of experience

Who put joy at the centre of our work

To deliver excellence always



What We Do

We nurture diverse talent by commissioning emerging composers and musicians and offering professional development programmes that propel them to success.

We take risks in who and what we commission. We embrace the potential of unknown artists and the creation of experimental pieces. Our support fills gaps: we host emerging composers' second performances as well as their premieres. We focus on diversifying the artists who have access to high-calibre professional development programmes in order to expand the talent pool of the British classical music sector.

We cultivate outstanding leadership through our first-of-their-kind Trainee Music Leader Scheme and our Trainee Trustee Scheme.

Our Trainee Music Leader Scheme is creative, entrepreneurial, socially relevant and known for launching people's careers. It was the first of its kind and we have honed it over 20 years. Our alumni have a track record of success, taking up leadership roles in prestigious cultural institutions. We prioritise financial accessibility, paying trainees for the valuable work they do. Our programme forges networks within the classical music sector. We collaborate with institutions like the Royal Academy of Music, Britten Pears Foundation, and Streetwise Opera, as well as many spaces and local institutions in East London. Our Trainee Trustee Scheme supports the next generation of leaders in the arts, ensuring they have access to the network, training and opportunities to fulfil their potential – and that they reflect the wide range of communities Spitalfields Music serves.

We stage innovative performances in remarkable, accessible spaces around East London during our Spitalfields Music Festival.

We stage our performances in unusual and diverse spaces in East London – and think intentionally about how each piece and each performance fits within it. In doing so, we bring classical music to the places where people live their everyday lives. We push artistic boundaries, creating and performing music in innovative ways. We work to welcome a more diverse range of audiences, through subsidised tickets, partnerships with local stakeholders, and performances that have relevance.

“Small in scale yet ambitious in its intended impact”

-The Guardian, July 2025

Excited? Us too!

Come and join us. We need more trustees to bring a fresh injection of ideas, ambition and enthusiasm. We are particularly interested to work with people:

- From the Asian, African or Afro-Caribbean diasporas
- Living with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses
- Based in, or with strong links to, East London, as we want to be ever more representative of our local demographics.

Who we're looking for

We're looking for a trustee with experience in the **legal sector**. This might include experience in charity, company, employment or contract law, or any other relevant regulatory frameworks. We are seeking someone who can support the Board of Trustees in maintaining strong governance and sound-decision making, and ensure the organisation continues to meet our legal and regulatory responsibilities. Ideally, we would also be able to call on your expertise – or that of your firm - if specific legal issues arise.

We are also looking for a trustee with **financial expertise**. We are particularly interested in finding someone who can provide strong financial oversight, helping us to ensure robust financial controls, clear and accurate reporting and effective financial planning across the organisation. You may have senior-level experience in finance, accounting, auditing or financial management – and if so, we'd like to hear from you. If you have pre-existing experience in charity accounting, even better!

Finally, we are really keen to have representation on our board from **a teacher and/or senior leader in a school in Tower Hamlets, or a neighbouring borough**. This trustee will act as our Designated Board Safeguarding Lead and help ensure our safeguarding policies and processes remain robust and proactive. Working with children and young people is key to our current and future plans, so having a trustee with this background, from our area of London, is important to us.

If this isn't you, but your interest has been piqued, drop us a line anyway. We're always interested to meet new people, and it could be that your set of skills and experiences are perfect for us, and we just haven't realised. We're big on learning, so tell us what you can bring.

How to Apply

We want to make this process as inclusive as possible.

Applications can be made in writing, by video, or by audio file. Please keep written submissions to max. two pages of A4, and video/audio to c. 3 minutes. We're not judging your editing skills; a simple recording on a phone is fine!

Please tell us why you want to be a trustee, what your interest is in Spitalfields Music and the wider arts sector, and what you feel you could bring to our board, alongside something about yourself.

Please email this to recruitment@spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk, headed 'Trustee Application', alongside the [Equal Opportunities Monitoring form](#). This form will not be disclosed to anyone involved in assessing your application.

What happens next?

Shortlisting will be undertaken by members of our senior leadership team and trustee body.

We will interview potential candidates by Zoom, with a small panel made up of staff and trustees.

Monday 1 st June	Closing date for applications at 12 noon
10/11 June	Interviews
Late June	Confirmation meetings with Chair
Early July	Induction session
23 July	First board meeting
26 July	Board meeting
21 October	Board meeting
26 November	Awayday followed by dinner

Any questions?

If there is anything that we haven't answered here, please email our Chief Executive & Artistic Director, Sarah Gee, on sarah.gee@spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk, with the heading of 'Trustee Recruitment'.

We look forward to meeting you!

Who We Are

Spitalfields Music is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. We are proudly resident at Queen Mary, University of London and play a key part in the delivery of their cultural compact. Spitalfields Music is one of 985 National Portfolio Organisations, given multi-year support by Arts Council England following an extremely competitive process.

The core Spitalfields Music staff currently comprise of the Chief Executive, General Manager, Marketing Manager, Fundraising Manager and Learning & Participation Programme Manager. Our small but mighty team work a mix of full and part time roles. We also have freelance support on NewYVC administration and festival production, and a range of workshop leaders, musicians and other partners with whom we work regularly.

It is hoped to grow this team in coming years, with more admin support, additional investment in marketing & fundraising, and hopefully more producer resource to build year-round community roots.



Board of Trustees

[Nick Addyman](#) (Chair)

[Zoë Armfield](#)

[Steven Berryman](#)

[Tim Davy](#)

[Melanie Fryer](#)

[Holly Holt](#)

[Naomi Lewis](#)

[Andrew Peck](#)

[Louise Williams](#) (Deputy Chair)

[Daniel Nikolareas](#)

Trustees are elected for a three-year term, which can be renewed for a further three years through a majority vote by other trustees. In exceptional circumstances, a 75% majority of trustees present can vote a fellow trustee for a final three-year term, taking the maximum length of tenure to a total of nine years. Most trustees serve a six-year term.

Trustees meet formally four times per year for board meetings and can be asked to sit on other standing committees – such as the Finance & Legal, Programming or Environmental, Social & Governance committees - or task-related and time-limited groups. Board meetings are currently held early evening for up to ninety minutes, in person. We also hold an annual awayday, usually in November, and social events throughout the year.

We want trustees to become actively involved in the life of the charity, including through attendance at performances in our Spitalfields Music Festival (late June-mid July), and community events, by invitation where safeguarding allows. Trustees are also invited to mentor a Trainee Trustee through our buddying scheme.

