



Trustee Information  
and  
Application Pack



## City of Sheffield Youth Orchestra

The City of Sheffield Youth Orchestra believes in the power of shared music-making to inspire leadership, self-confidence and critical thinking in young people. For the last 40 years this unique youth orchestra has been providing opportunities for young people from Sheffield and the surrounding areas to be involved in high-profile performances of the most challenging and exciting orchestral repertoire in existence. CSYO broadens horizons, nurtures creativity and gives young people a voice.

The City of Sheffield Youth Orchestra is one of the UK's leading independent youth orchestras, recently celebrating its 40th anniversary. CSYO provides valuable orchestral and musical training, develops vital skills such as communication and leadership, and has helped many members take a first step into a wide range of professions.

CSYO is a unique youth orchestra, offering membership to students up to the age of 21. We have around 80 members aged between 13 and 21. Many of our older students are at college or university, training to be professional musicians. But we also have many students studying other subjects who want to keep performing at a high level. And we have plenty turning 22 who don't want to leave!

We hold three courses a year which usually fall at the following times:

Winter course - non-residential course, 27-30th December

Spring course - 5 day residential in the Easter holiday

Summer course - 10 days -. Non-residential and tour

We appreciate that students may want to revise over the Easter holidays running up to exams. Our Spring course is specially designed to allow students to have at least 4 hours revision per day.

Each Summer we go on tour, alternating between touring the UK and abroad. Previous tours have taken us to Belgium, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Spain, France, Italy, Norway and the Netherlands. We have performed with internationally renowned soloists such as Nigel Kennedy, Peter Cropper, Matthew Barley and Natalie Clein. We perform in churches, on beaches, in continental village squares, in palaces (Palazzo Vecchio in Florence), imposing concert halls (Manuella concert Hall in Granada) and even Roman Amphitheatres. We have played to audiences of over 5,000 people and been broadcast live on Radio across Europe.

In 2005, we were honoured to be the first western Youth Orchestra to be invited to accompany the Russian Royal Ballet dancers performing Swan Lake in a Roman Amphitheatre in Pula, Croatia. The event was recorded by television crews from across the continent. In 2018 we returned to Italy to perform in the Emilia Romagna region.

Visit [www.csyo.org.uk](http://www.csyo.org.uk) for more information



## Role overview

The Friends of CSYO (the trustees) plays a central role in the life of the organisation. It comprises committed individuals who support the Director in the running of the orchestra. CSYO is seeking to diversify the governance of the charity and invite in new voices from a wider range of backgrounds in order to help shape its future. We are particularly interested in recruiting individuals with expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Law
- Marketing and PR
- Video and sound production

## Key responsibilities

Working as a trustee with the CSYO you will:

- Use your professional skills and networks to support and influence the success of CSYO's ambitious annual programme of activity
- Ensure sound financial management
- Contribute actively to the board of trustees, giving firm strategic direction in setting overall policy, defining goals, setting targets, and evaluating performance against agreed targets
- Play an integral part in the good governance of the charity

## Principal duties

- To understand the charity's purposes, objects and powers, as well as the current legal requirements of charities and their trustees, and use this understanding in all activities undertaken as a board member.
- To attend and contribute to (on average) four board meetings a year and sub-committee meetings, if applicable
- To act as an ambassador for the group, attending its performances and meeting supporters and audience members
- To approve the annual budget and business plan, including overall objectives and individual project budgets
- To advise on the formulation and implementation of a strategy to raise the private and public funding required to support and grow the activities of the organisation
- To contribute to the recruitment, appointment and appraisal of the organisation's administrative staff.



## Terms

Trustees are re-elected annually. Prior to the coronavirus outbreak, board meetings have taken place in Sheffield on weekday evenings. Meetings are currently held by video conference call. The role of trustee with the Friends of the City of Sheffield Youth Orchestra is voluntary and therefore no remuneration is provided.

## How to apply

Expressions of interest, consisting of a brief email or letter outlining your relevant experience and reasons for interest in the role, should be sent via email to the current chair, James Hodgson, at [james\\_mdsp@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:james_mdsp@hotmail.co.uk). If you are interested in joining the board and would like a preliminary conversation with a board member, please get in touch with James who will arrange this.

**Closing date for applications: Friday 11th December**

*The Friends of the City of Sheffield Youth Orchestra is a registered charity in England & Wales, no. 514479.*

*A copy of our latest accounts can be viewed on the Charity Commission website [here](#).*

*Visit <https://www.csyo.org.uk/general-privacy-policy> to read our privacy policy*