

Nevis Ensemble

“Redefining what it means to engage audiences.”

Classical Music magazine

Nevis Ensemble is currently seeking new Trustees, including individuals willing to take on the roles of Chair, Treasurer and Company Secretary.

As with all arts organisations, 2020 has brought many challenges for Nevis Ensemble as the organisation adapts to life in the midst of Coronavirus - artistically, logistically and financially. Still a young organisation, Nevis is looking for hands-on Trustees to meet these difficulties, and not only survive, but thrive in life both during and after the pandemic.

Established as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation in December 2017, Nevis Ensemble’s initial founders Trustees are keen to open up the organisation to new people and talent, resulting in the above exciting roles within the Board.

Nevis Ensemble is different, and there’s nothing else quite like us in Scotland. Our vision is simply that of ‘music for everyone, everywhere’.

Artistically-led by Holly Mathieson and Jonathan Hargreaves, the orchestra has given almost 200 performances to around 28,500 people all across Scotland, from the schools, supermarkets and museums of Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, to a farm in the Scottish Borders and the summit of Ben Nevis in the Highlands – and everywhere in between, including the biggest ever tour by an orchestra of the Outer Hebrides – all the way out to the remote

archipelago of St Kilda. Concerts have taken place in venues as diverse as swimming pools and children's parks, to homeless centres, museums and train stations.

Removing barriers to accessing orchestral music means bringing it to where people are, and when they are there. Just think: 40 energetic musicians run out of a bus, instruments in hand, and less than five minutes later the intrigued crowd hears something incredible and unexpected. Everyone leaves feeling uplifted and inspired, proud of the place to which they belong. Full-scale, orchestral performances with music of all genres; popping up and surprising commuters first thing in the morning; entertaining residents in oft-forgotten parts of the city; guerrilla-style appearances in swimming pools; generating large audiences in public spaces. Our approach to performing has seen us win at the Scottish Awards for New Music in 2019 and 2020, and shortlisted for the Classical:NEXT Innovation Award.

Running in parallel to a fast-and-furious performance schedule, are a number of community-based projects. Partnerships with voluntary and third-sector organisations are nurtured to ensure the most vulnerable and marginalised in our society have equitable access to the arts to share their stories and experiences. Our musicians can take advantage of a training programme to hone their specialist skills in working with the very young, the very old, and those who face challenges in their lives, knowing that access to great live music provides a huge wealth of benefits, particularly to health and wellbeing, social cohesion, and the simple but powerful feeling of joy.

Responsibilities of Nevis Ensemble

Trustees include:

- Attending Board Meetings - minimum of four times a year, with each meeting last around two hours.
- Meetings are currently held online (on Zoom);
- Ensuring the organisation conducts its activities in line with its Aims and Objectives;
- Contributions to strategic planning for both artistic and financial sustainability;
- Ensuring the organisation is compliant with charitable and legal obligations;
- Working with staff to measure and mitigate organisational risk;
- Overseeing the financial management of the organisation, including its budgets and accounts;
- Reviewing the policies of the organisation, including Safeguarding, Sustainability and Equalities;
- Attending Board meetings four times per year;
- Supporting the organisation and advocate for its work among contacts;
- Recruitment and contracting of staff.

In addition, the **Chair** would:

Chair Board meetings;

- Work with the Chief Executive to ensure the smooth running of the organisation and compliance with
- the objectives of the charity and charitable law;
- Lead on the development of Nevis Ensemble's Board;
- Represent the charity at events as appropriate.

In addition, the **Treasurer** would:

- Work with the Chief Executive on an ongoing basis to ensure financial procedures are followed;
- Sign-off on payments and invoices as required for larger sums (payments are currently issued once a week);
- Liaise on the development of Annual Budgets and assist where necessary on the preparation of Annual Accounts;

- Chair and lead on the Finance Committee, reporting to the full Board.

In addition, the **Company Secretary** would:

- Prepare and disseminate meeting Agendas;
- Minute Board meetings;
- Act as a signatory as appropriate.

Remuneration and expenses

Trustee roles are voluntary, and members do not receive remuneration for their role with Nevis Ensemble. Any expenses incurred by Trustees can be reimbursed.

Process

Following application, interested parties will be invited to have an informal chat with an existing Trustee or Nevis Ensemble staff member. If we receive a high number of applications, we shall then produce a short list for a further meeting with other Board members.

Suitable candidates will then be invited to attend a Nevis Ensemble Board Meeting as an observer before any appointments are made.

If you are interested in supporting Nevis Ensemble in its work, and joining us on the Board of Trustees, please send a CV and a letter outlining your experience and interest in the organisation at hello@nevisensemble.org

If you would like to discuss anything about the organisation or the role, prior to application please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Closing date for applications: **Friday 6 November 2020**

Can I be a trustee?

There is no 'right' or specific specification for being a Trustee. At Nevis Ensemble we are looking for people from a range of backgrounds and experiences who have:

- An interest in music and the arts
- Enthusiasm about how the arts can achieve social change
- A willingness to advocate for the organisation
- A willingness to be involved in the running of Nevis Ensemble.

We would especially welcome applicants with backgrounds in **Charity Law, HR, and Finance**, but people from all backgrounds and professions are encouraged to apply.

Applicants are welcome whether or not they have previous experience of sitting on a Board. Nevis Ensemble is committed to ensuring that the organisation reflects the communities in which it works, and we therefore especially welcome applications from those under 30 years of age, as well as D/deaf, disabled and BAME applicants.