



ORA SINGERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES - ROLE DESCRIPTION

"ORA does something else, something invaluable: by commissioning new works from new composers, they initiate a conversation between the past and the present, enlivening and informing both"

Stephen Fry, President of ORA Singers

THE CHARITY

ORA Singers (charity no. 1160228) is an award-winning 18-voice ensemble, launched in 2016 by its Artistic Director, **Suzi Digby OBE**. It is widely recognised as the world's most prolific commissioner of new choral music, with an ambition to commission **100 new choral works in 10 years**. Thus far, it has commissioned 65 works and recorded 32 across 10 critically-acclaimed albums. Its primary focus with commissioned composers is excellence, whether they be household names (such as John Rutter, Sir James MacMillan, Debbie Wiseman) or exciting prospects (such as Freya Waley-Cohen, Florence Anna Maunders, Owain Park). Two of its commissions – Roderick Williams' *Ave verum corpus Re-imagined* and Joanna Marsh's *All Shall Be Well* – have been awarded the UK's top composition prize, the Ivors Award, and several others have been nominated. Four of its commissioned composers were featured in the Coronation of King Charles III, demonstrating the group's ability to identify and commission the most significant choral composers working today.

ORA is also an **internationally recognised performing choir** which has had its music broadcast on every continent, including Antarctica! The group was awarded **Opus Klassik's 'Best Ensemble of the Year'** in 2018, beating competition from ensembles across Europe. Later in 2024, it will make its debut at Wigmore Hall for a concert to be broadcast on BBC Radio 3. In 2022, its concert programme *Elizabeth, our Queen* was featured on France Télévisions Culturebox. In 2020, ORA performed Thomas Tallis' towering 40-part motet *Spem in alium* alongside a commissioned reflection written by Sir James MacMillan, *Vidi aquam*, in the Tate Modern Turbine Hall during lockdown to a global livestream audience of over 300,000.

The '100 Commissions' project is supported by a **Young Composers' Scheme**, which has mentored 143 students from 107 state-schools since its introduction in 2019, and a newly established **Graduate Composers' Showcase**, which will commission x5 early-career composers each year. At a time when composition has been disproportionately affected by funding cuts, ORA will continue to champion the creation of new music, cultivating exceptional and diverse talent, and supporting future generations who will contribute to a richer cultural life and economy in the UK.

ORA is seeking to **appoint additional Trustees** to complement the existing Board, add skills, and **expand the charity's network**. In particular, the Board is looking for trustees who can support **financial governance and development work**. Professionals with experience in accountancy, financial, legal, or artistic disciplines are encouraged to apply. ORA is committed to diversity in the workplace and the arts, and warmly welcomes applications from all backgrounds.

You will work closely with ORA's Chair, Board of Trustees and Artistic Director to see that the organisation flourishes and continues to produce the high quality of work for which it is renowned. We are looking for someone with a passion for choral music and composition to help build on ORA's already impressive legacy, taking the group to its **10th anniversary** and beyond, and the completion of its extraordinary 100 commissions in 10 years programme.





KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Work with the Chair and ORA Team to plan and execute a personal strategy for engagement
- Set major programming, financial and personnel policies including: mission, vision, strategic plans and other policies to govern ORA Singers
- Ensure the financial stability of the organisation and assist in raising funds for the charity, either through personal contribution and/or helping raise support from other sources
- Approve and provide oversight of the annual budget
- Oversee the documentation of agendas, minutes, legal, and fiduciary duties
- Ensure that the organisation is in compliance with all appropriate laws and uses 'best practice' in its governance.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

- Be an active and visible advocate for ORA Singers in all areas of its work
- Be an engaged and active member of the Board by participating in Board and Committee meetings and providing direct assistance in all appropriate areas
- Be aware of the duties of a Trustee as set out by the Charity Commission.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

- Trustees serve **three year terms**, renewable for a further three at the Board's discretion
- The Trustees meet four times a year, usually via Zoom
- The Trustees may also meet for an annual Away Day
- Additional meetings with members of the ORA Team, external stakeholders or in a consulting capacity are occasionally required between meetings
- Trustees are expected to respond in a timely manner to requests for information and advice requested by other Board members and the ORA Team.

LEGAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Ensure that ORA Singers is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit, as set out in its Charitable Objectives:

"To advance, improve, develop and maintain the public education in, and appreciation of, the Arts, in particular choral music by the presentation of concerts and recordings, the commissioning of composers and the support of young musicians."

- Comply with the charity's governing document and the law
 - Act in the charity's best interests
 - Manage the charity's resources responsibly
 - Act with reasonable care and skill
 - Ensure the charity is accountable
 - To disclose any potential conflicts of interest.
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HOW TO APPLY

Please send an email to **info@orasingers.com** to express your interest and let us know why you would be a good addition to ORA's Board. A full CV is welcome but not essential at this point. We will respond to all applicants and arrange a preliminary conversation with suitable candidates.

For further information or to clarify any points relating to this role, please contact Tom Rayner (General Manager) - **thomas.rayner@orasingers.com**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt - Chair

Professor Henrietta Bowden-Jones OBE DL

Dr Michelle Castelletti

Prof. Paul Edlin

Annamaria Koerling

Lizzie Ridding

Mark Tatlow

ORA EXECUTIVE

Suzi Digby - Artistic Director

David Clegg - Artistic Advisor

Thomas Rayner - General Manager

Jack Rush - Development Director

"We don't talk nearly enough about the economics of new music and the commissioners who keep it alive but it's this kind of canny, easily digestible project that will keep choral music out of the museum and in the mainstream."

Alexandra Coghlan, Gramophone