



Wiltshire Young Musicians

Board Member Information Pack

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1. About Wiltshire Young Musicians

Wiltshire Young Musicians is a charity organisation and was formerly the ensembles section of the Wiltshire Music Service. Since the cessation of the Music Service in 2015 we have been an independent organisation resident at, but not part of, Wiltshire Music Centre, supported by an Arts Council grant provided by Wiltshire Music Connect (Wiltshire's Music Education Hub).

What we do

There are numerous studies which prove that music has many benefits outside of just learning to play, such as social skills, patience and perseverance, confidence and creativity, and the ensembles that we provide help to nurture all of these things.

We provide ensemble opportunities and tuition to young musicians from Wiltshire and the surrounding areas. We currently have fourteen different groups operating across the West and North of the county and cater for all abilities from complete beginner to grade 8 and beyond. The groups we operate include:

- 4 x Junior String Groups
- 2 x Junior Wind Bands
- 2 x Intermediate String Ensembles
- 2 x Intermediate Wind Bands
- 2 x Senior Ensembles, a Concert Band and a full Symphony Orchestra
- 1 x Choir
- 1x Steel Pan Ensemble

Our rehearsals take place during term time at various venues across the county including Wiltshire Music Centre, Bradford on Avon; Wiltshire Rural Music, Trowbridge; King's Lodge and Frogwell Primary Schools, Chippenham; Somerford's Walter Powell School, Great Somerford and The Trinity Primary Academy, Devizes.

We currently have around 300 members and we provide a number of different opportunities for our groups to perform throughout each year. These generally include a Christmas Festival, Summer Festival and Senior Concert. We also run events that promote what we do and encourage other young people to join us, such as our Love To Play Junior Days.

There is a clear progression route through our groups from complete beginner all the way to grade 8 and our young musicians often progress from Wiltshire Young Musician groups to the West of England Youth Orchestra and even the National Youth Orchestra with many going on to music college. Some even return to us as tutors.

Our charity operates with a corporate trustee (WYMT Ltd) and our board of directors acts on behalf of this trustee to manage the governance of the charity.

The first Wiltshire Young Musicians group was formed 40 years ago and we continue to provide the same quality musical opportunities today.

2. What we are looking for in a board member

We are looking for people who are passionate about music, and the enormous impact that it can have on young people's lives, and who want to help us take the charity forward at this key moment in its history.

We welcome interest from anyone and we are looking for individuals from all areas of the community and all levels of experience, but we are particularly interested in people with skills in the following areas:

- Finance – especially those who are willing to act as Treasurer
- Charity governance and development
- Fundraising
- Marketing and communications

We currently have four board meetings per year as well as our AGM, but would also expect board members to be available at other times by email or phone to provide advice/support, and to attend key events, such as concerts. There may also be opportunities for further involvement, but this would depend on a board member's availability – we appreciate that many people are very busy and only have limited time to give.

Being a member of our board gives you the chance, along with members of our staff, to influence the direction the charity goes in and have a hand in major decision making.

Any member of the board should recognise a responsibility and duty to safeguard the long-term future of Wiltshire Young Musicians. As a member of the board of a charity this position is unpaid.



3. About the role

This role is very similar to becoming a trustee of a charity but without the same level of liability. As such if anything were to happen to Wiltshire Young Musicians you would only be liable for £1.

The main responsibilities of a member of our board include:

- Ensure that Wiltshire Young Musicians is carrying out its purposes for public benefit
- Make sure Wiltshire Young Musicians complies with its governing document and all charity law requirements
- Act in Wiltshire Young Musicians best interests. Decide what will best enable the charity to carry out its purpose
- Manage Wiltshire Young Musicians resources responsibly. Ensure that resources are used appropriately and that no unnecessary risks are taken with the charities assets
- Act with reasonable care and skill. Make best use of your skills to actively contribute to the board of directors
- Make sure Wiltshire Young Musicians carries out the necessary statutory accounting and reporting requirements
- Safeguard the reputations and values of the Wiltshire Young Musicians
- Monitor and ensure the financial stability of Wiltshire Young Musicians, both in the short term and long term

The duties that result from these responsibilities are as follows:

- Line managing the Musical Director
- Reading any relevant documents ahead of meetings and contributing to board discussions and debates
- Attending board meetings
- Representing Wiltshire Young Musicians at concerts/events
- Reviewing and approve all policies biennially.
- Taking a role in specific projects or events, including working groups, recruitment panels etc

For further information about what being involved in the running of a charity requires you can read more guidance from the Charity Commission here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-what-you-need-to-do>



4. How to get involved

If you are interested in being involved with the Wiltshire Young Musicians board then please contact our Musical Director, **Matthew Thorpe**, by email on:

musicaldirector@wiltshireyoungmusicians.org.uk

You can also visit our website to find out more about what we do:

www.wiltshireyoungmusicians.org.uk

