
ROMAN RIVER MUSIC

Information for people interested in becoming
a Trustee of Roman River Music.



Aerial photograph of Essex coastline by Roman River Music's 2016 Festival Artist Anne-Marie Jacobs

Introduction

These are exciting times at Roman River Music. After our most successful festival to date, our new management team is settling in, and we are busy planning our next three seasons of world-class music and learning and participation projects.

We are now seeking new Trustees to boost the skills and experience of the Board in key areas.



Background

Roman River Music organises an international music and arts festival in North Essex, and a year-round programme of events with an integrated learning and participation programme. We bring world-class music and performing arts to all those who live within an hours drive of Colchester, filling a gap in top quality music provision between London and Aldeburgh.

Since its foundation in 2000, the organisation has experienced continuous growth and development, responding to increasing ticket sales for the festival and growing demand from schools for our wide range of learning and participation projects.

The Roman River Festival has now become Colchester's annual 2-week international-quality music and arts festival, featuring over 25 concerts in unusual and charismatic spaces, given by over 100 outstanding artists ranging from emerging talent to internationally renowned musicians and ensembles, with a visual artist in residence, new commissions and cross-arts collaborations.

Previously organised by a network of volunteers led by founder Zélie Jopling, Roman River Music

remains a grassroots organisation, relying on over 50 volunteers to put on the festival, but has also recently strengthened its professional administration, creating a small management team to work alongside the seven trustees and the Artistic Director Orlando Jopling.



Top: Zsolt-Tihamer Visontay leads the first performance for 117 years in a disused hall in central Colchester at the 2015 festival

Left: Primary school children rehearsing for the 2015 festival finale.

Our vision

We aim to place top quality professional music at the heart of the cultural life of Colchester and North Essex by producing inspiring concerts and experiences which touch the lives of residents, in the conviction that culture is for everyone. We aim to create inclusive, friendly events in which residents from all our communities feel ownership and pride.



We would like everybody within reach of the festival to have the opportunity to engage with music through our learning and participation programme, which aims to welcome new audiences to enjoy great music and provides a range of opportunities to schools, young people and those who have little access to music.

We would like to carve out a truly national reputation for our quality of programming, boosting Colchester and Essex's cultural reputation. We would like to promote Colchester and the surrounding area as a cultured and vibrant place to live and work, celebrating its rich and varied built heritage and unique landscape, working in partnership with other local organisations, local authorities and businesses.

Our work is funded by a mix of Trusts and Foundations including the Essex Community Foundation and the Jerwood Charitable Foundation, commercial sponsorship, individual giving including our Friends organisation, and public subsidy from Arts Council England, Colchester Borough Council and occasionally Essex County Council and Essex Music Hub. Box office accounts for approximately 40% of festival income. Our strategic objectives also include building financial resilience and exploiting the touring and co-production potential of the new work we commission.

Our audience is concentrated in the borough of Colchester, but the potential is there to welcome attendees from throughout Essex and along the entire A12/ A140 corridor from Norwich to London.

For more information about Roman River Music's work please visit www.romanrivermusic.org.uk

The Board of Trustees

Roman River Music is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (no. 1158366) governed by the charitable objects set out within its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The trustees of the charity therefore have both legal, financial and fiduciary duties under charity law.

In addition to fulfilling a scrutiny / governance role, the Board also draws on its members' extensive knowledge, skills, experience and, importantly, contacts, to provide strategic guidance for the organisation and advocate for it.

Above - Nicola Benedetti, who is appearing at the 2016 festival

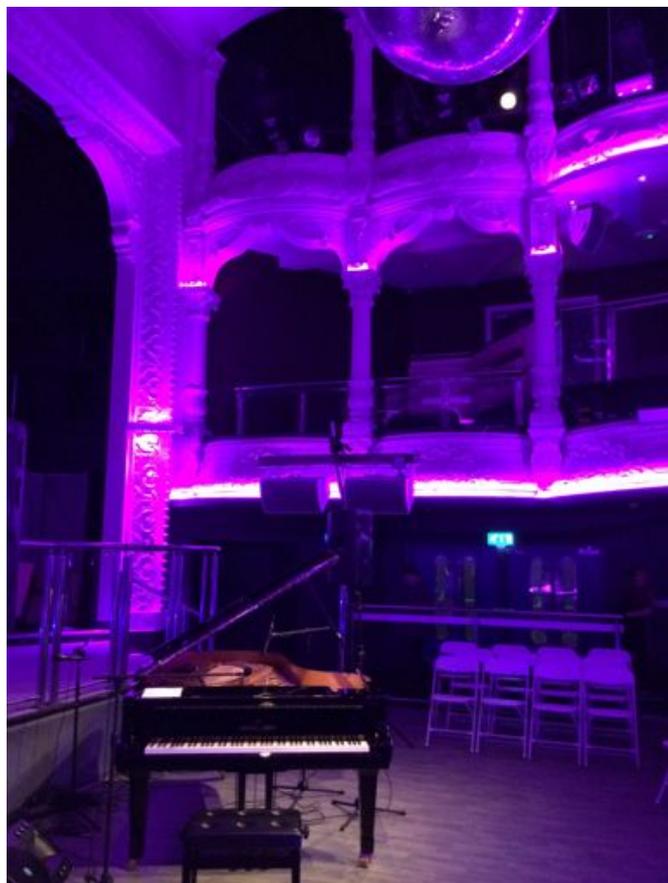
This Opportunity

As a result of the increase in size of the organisation over the last few years, we are looking to increase the size of the Board, recruiting new Trustees who can bring skills, knowledge and experience that will complement that of existing board members and who will work with the rest of the Board, the Artistic Director and General Manager to deliver our vision.

We would like to find people who understand and appreciate the huge benefit that Roman River Music brings to Colchester and North Essex, both in the boost to the reputation of Colchester as a cultured place, and to the young people who would otherwise be deprived of the opportunity to participate in music-making.

We're looking for people who share our passion for bringing top quality music to Colchester, who can be confidently ambitious for the organisation and its work. You will be able to think strategically and work collaboratively, and want to make a significant positive difference to culture in Colchester.

Board members are volunteers and these are unpaid appointments. Trustees will need to have the time available to attend up to 6 Board meetings, 6 concerts/events, 2 fundraising events and 1 community event per year. Trustees must also make time to read papers in advance of Board meetings, and will from time to time, be required to contribute to fundraising activities or the work of specific sub-committees and/or task groups.



The majority of Board meetings are held in central Colchester. Diary dates are distributed at the beginning of each calendar year.

We value a diverse team and welcome applications from all sectors of the community, including both those who are new to non-executive/trustee board work, and individuals who have experience in senior governance roles.

Application Process

Please contact Orlando Jopling on orlando@romanrivermusic.org.uk for an initial meeting or chat.

Images from the 2015 Roman River Festival:

Top - LSO bassist Ben Griffiths gives advice to a young player

Left - the piano is in position ready for Joe Stilgoe in Liquid nightclub, housed in a spectacular Edwardian horseshoe theatre with a perfect acoustic, on Colchester High Street.

We are looking for people with expertise and experience drawn from one or more of the following areas.

Statutory funding strategy

Professional experience of arts/creative/cultural sector senior management, with experience of successfully applying for Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation status and dealing with the requirements of this funding stream.

Sponsorship

A person with local standing in North Essex, a wide range of contacts in and knowledge of local businesses, and the confidence to pro-actively lead our sponsorship appeals and persuade companies to join our current sponsors.

Individual giving

Someone who will work closely with the Artistic Director and the management to achieve our ambitious individual giving targets each year, introducing new supporters, and enthusiastically promoting cultural patronage as an essential part of a healthy society.

Learning and Participation

Professional experience of Learning & Participation departments of other successful arts organisations, to advise on strategy and funding.

Marketing

Recent expertise in marketing, preferably in arts organisations.



Young woodwind players on a steep learning curve in rehearsal for the 2015 Festival Finale

Board members also need to demonstrate:

- Good contacts/networks and the ability to act as a champion for Roman River Music
- A preparedness to offer their specialist, personal and business skills and experience to support the work of the staff when required
- Good, independent judgment
- An ability to think both strategically and creatively
- Excellent communication skills and a willingness to speak their mind
- Ability to work effectively as a member of a team

Board members are expected to use their specific skills, knowledge and experience to help the Executive reach sound decisions. This may involve scrutinising Board or committee papers or documents prepared by advisers; leading discussions; focusing on key issues; providing advice or guidance on new initiatives; and supporting other initiatives in which the Board member has special expertise or knowledge.

The day-to-day duties associated with running the charity are delegated to the Executive, but the ultimate joint responsibility for the charity's operation lies with the Trustees, who are strongly encouraged to gain a good working knowledge of the key operational and strategic challenges facing the management team and to keep abreast of any major external issues that might affect the organisation.

Board members are required by law to ensure that Roman River Music:

- Complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations, and pursues its objects as defined in that governing document;
- Ensures the effective and efficient administration of the charity, including maintaining proper financial control and using its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects;
- Appoints an Artistic Director and a General Manager and monitors their respective performance;
- Maintains and ensures effective Board performance;
- Safeguards the reputation of the organisation;
- Protects, manages and adequately insures the property and funds of the charity;
- Approves and monitors the implementation of internal policies (which include Health and Safety, Equalities and Diversity, and grievance and disciplinary procedures)

