

JOIN THE BOARD

birminghamopera.org.uk/join-the-board

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Photo: Adam Fradgley

Birmingham Opera Company is delighted to be looking for new Trustees and a Co-Chair as we move into a new stage of our journey. We are looking for people who **share our values**, and want to help us achieve our vision and mission. We want **people who will change us** and help us grow...

We want our Board table to **reflect the diversity of our region** . . . and we want to work differently, too. We want our meetings to reflect the collaborative & rooted approach of our creative practice, particularly as we grow the company and navigate the changing landscape ahead.



Photo: Adam Fradgley



VISION

Our vision is for a **confident, connected and joyful** city & region, fuelled by the creativity of our people, and for our times.

MISSION

Our mission is to **make the most powerful opera anywhere** - together with extraordinary artists and the people of Birmingham & the West Midlands.

Photo: Kate Green

*We provide opportunities for **confident participation in opera for all**, grow the conditions for diverse local & emerging artists to flourish, and from this fertile ground, make world-class opera co-created in Birmingham... as well as sharing our practice in cities across the UK and the world.*



Photo: Jonathan Hipkiss



Birmingham Opera Company is COLLABORATIVE:
we work authentically with our diverse communities, partners, artists and staff team - enabling us to hear all voices and to shape the best possible work.

We are AMBITIOUS - for our region, its people and for opera:
we collaborate with extraordinary artists, we work with rigour and we embrace risk - harnessing the creativity that generated our industrial past to grow a better future.

We are AGILE:
we move and respond to the needs and changes of the city and region, their people, and the sector - our agility is enabled by a productive approach to planning, a responsible use of resources, and a duty of care to our people.

Photo: Adam Fradgley

PERHAPS YOU BRING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Lived experience of the Birmingham & West Midlands communities with whom we collaborate - or with whom we should be collaborating - let us know!
- A strong practice in social justice or co-creation with young people or communities
- Links to networks and resources in the city and region that you could help harness
- Digital, legal, HR or financial expertise
- Knowledge of the art form of opera and how to shake it up!



Photo: Adam Fradgley

APPLY

If you are interested in joining us, **we'd love to hear from you in one of the following ways:**

- If you'd like a ***conversation*** - to hear more about us and what we do, or if you'd like support with making an application - please email our General Manager, Seb, who will put you in touch with one of the team

- You can send us your ***CV with up to a page of A4*** telling us what your interest is in us, what you bring and what you hope to gain from working with us.

- You can share a ***short video clip or voice note*** of up to 2 minutes telling us about what your interest is in us, what you bring and what you hope to gain from working with us.

Please contact us via our General Manager, Seb, on *slh@birminghamopera.org.uk*.

You can also call, text or WhatsApp Seb at 07739 952329.

Please share your expression of interest in writing, or as a video clip/ voice note by 11pm on Wednesday 16 December 2026.

Interviews will be held in the week of 18 January 2027 in person in Birmingham.

We welcome applications from everyone. If you require us to adjust our recruitment process to enable you to fully contribute to it, just let us know how we can support you.

HELP US TRANSFORM OUR CITY AND OUR WORLD THROUGH OPERA TOGETHER!

What it means to be a Trustee:

A trustee is a voluntary role. It allows you to bring your skills and experience to an additional context, making a broader contribution to making our world a better place.
It is a significant role, with legal responsibility for the organisation, so it is a serious commitment.

However, it is also a collective act, so you are not expected to know everything as you start out on your Trustee journey. It is important that you believe in what our organisation is wanting to achieve - so we are looking for people who share our Vision, Mission and Values. You don't need to have previous experienceof Opera, though some trustees will bring this.



Photo: Jonathan Hipkiss



Being a Trustee also enables you to grow in new ways - you might want to think about what you want to get out of being a Trustee, not simply what you are able to give.

We are looking for people with one or more of the following:

- Lived experience of the Birmingham & West Midlands communities with whom we collaborate - or with whom we should be collaborating - let us know!
- A strong practice in social justice or co-creation with young people or communities;
- Links to networks and resources in the city and region that you could help harness;
- Digital, HR, legal or financial expertise
- Knowledge of the art form of opera and how to shake it up!

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Responsibilities for all Trustees:

- Attending Trustee meetings, four to five times a year
- Occasional briefing meetings with staff – these can be more frequent at times of challenge and during reporting, application and policy development processes
- Attendance at events and performances delivered by the Company
- Individual action in your area of expertise
- Advocating for the Company, including supporting fundraising activity
- Compliance with Charity Law (see here).

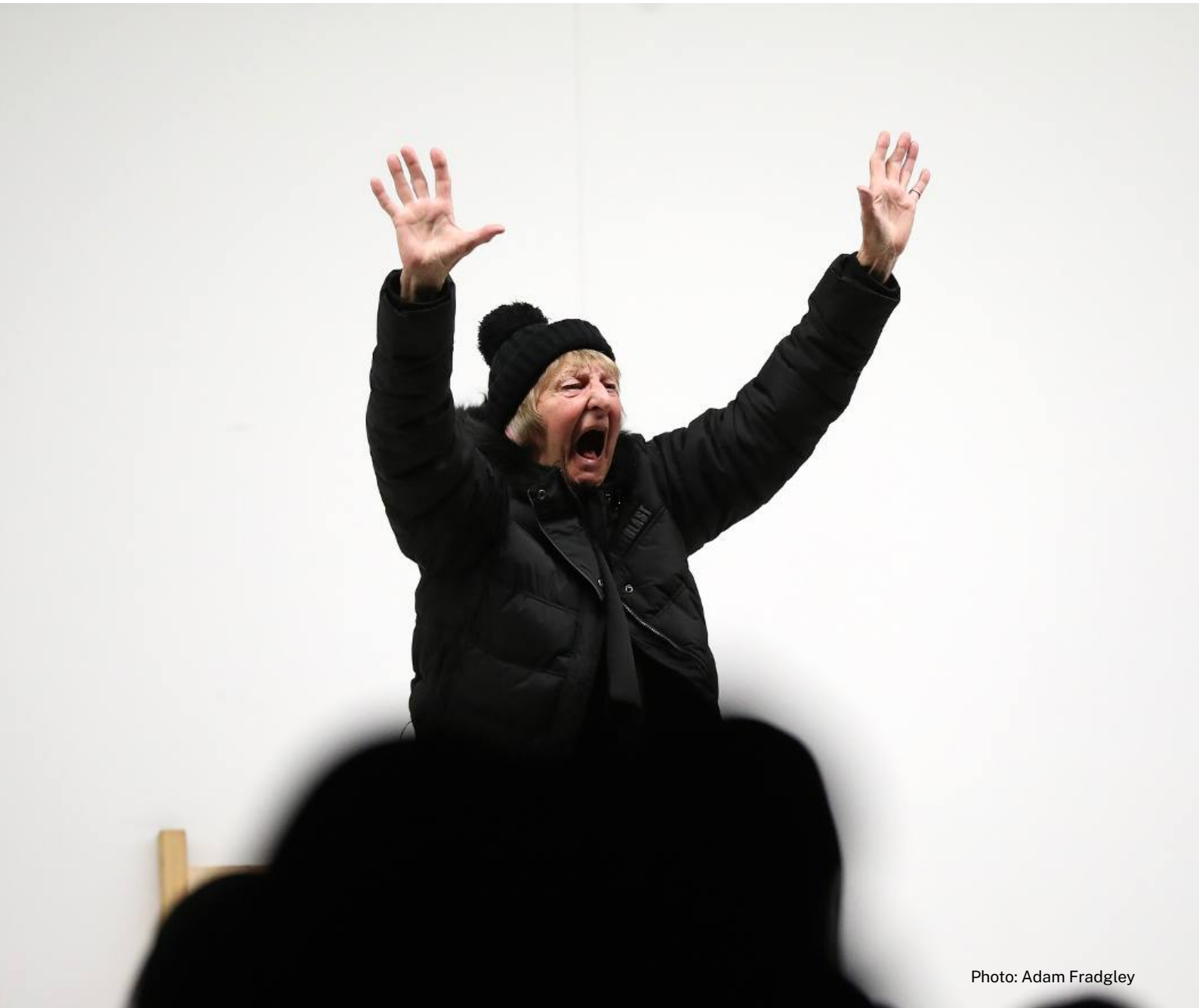


Photo: Adam Fradgley

Additional Responsibilities for Co-Chair:

We have introduced a Co-Chair model over the last two years, which has worked very well in terms of sharing the responsibilities of leadership. We are interested in one of our Trustees taking on this Co-Chair role, together with current Co-Chair, Justine Themen.

Additional responsibilities include:

- To chair Trustee meetings, and to lead and develop the Trustees to oversee the strategic direction of the Company.
- To work with the General Director and team to ensure that plans are compatible with project income, and that the Company satisfies solvency tests.
- To work with the General Director and team to ensure that the day-to-day business of the Company is efficiently managed, and that good communications with major stakeholders are maintained.
- To represent Birmingham Opera Company as a key ambassador.

Our Trustee terms are for three years, with a maximum of three cycles (a maximum possible total of 9 years).

We are positively curious and committed to understand what you might need to be able to go the fullest journey with us - changing how we meet, or covering access costs (including care costs) you might incur.

Thank you for your interest; we look forward to hearing from you soon!

Birmingham OPERA company

Birmingham Opera Company
General Director Richard Willacy
Music Director Alpesh Chauhan OBE

birminghamopera.org.uk
205 The Argent Centre, 60 Frederick Street, Birmingham B1 3HS
info@birminghamopera.org.uk
@birminghamoperaco

Birmingham Opera Company is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales, number 01850467 and registered as a charity, number 291130

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