



Trustee Recruitment Pack

Thank you for your interest in becoming a trustee. I've been a trustee and latterly Chair of The Stringcredibles for some years and have loved my involvement with the charity. To have the opportunity to work so closely alongside the musicians is such a privilege, and visiting schools to see the impact of our work has definitely been a highlight. But now it's time to hand this over to new trustees, and I hope you'll consider putting yourself forward. It's a wonderful organisation and you could help steer its future in a very exciting way.

Sarah Gee
Chair, The Stringcredibles

About the Stringcredibles

The Stringcredibles is a string quartet delivering work to support the connection between musicians and audiences, mostly in schools and community settings.

We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to experience classical music which is played to an excellent standard and communicated to them in an excellent way. It is our duty as performers to understand what audiences need from us and to perform in a way that makes a lasting difference. In our work we are constantly refining how best to do this, and we develop our skills in the performances we give, as well as through teaching these performance skills.

Our activities are varied: concerts in schools and community settings, creative music making, partnership work with Music Hub teachers and students, delivering continuous professional development (CPD) for music professionals and engagement with conservatoires and specialist music schools. Our performance strand features concerts that explore issues pertinent to primary schools and the curriculum including *What a Feeling* (PSHE), *Making Music* (Music), *Tunes from the Trenches* (History), *Stringlebell Rock* (celebration) and our newest show, still in development, explores the plight of refugees in the West Midlands. Our work with our Stringcredible Apprentices, music schools, conservatoires and professional CPD explores performance skills and is based on our *Pitch Pace Perform* methodology. We have a website, a digital learning platform, social media presence and a busy YouTube channel.

The Stringcredibles have received ongoing Arts Council England project funding since 2015 as well as Cultural Recovery funding. We are also supported by varied trusts and foundations, as well as generous individuals. We have very low overheads; we fundraise and work project by project.

Individually, the four core members of The Stringcredibles - Catherine Arlidge MBE, Bryony Morrison, Amy Thomas, and Helen Edgar - offer many years of experience of working as professional performers, alongside teaching, coaching and presenting. Rebecca Goldsmith is our part time Project Manager and Fundraiser.

More information on them can be found on our website:

<https://www.thestringcredibles.com/about>

Structure

The Stringcredibles was founded in 2014 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. In addition to our core musicians, we have a project manager as part of our team, and big plans to reach more people over the coming five years.

It is now critical that we develop and diversify our Board, and are therefore looking for new trustees, including a new Chair. Priorities are to increase our public reach, and secure additional income streams across earned and fundraised income.

Key Responsibilities

By becoming a Board member of The Stringcredibles, applicants would become part of the leadership of a small but thriving music charity.

As with all charities, the trustees have over-arching responsibility for compliance with the charity's legal and financial responsibilities and providing public benefit in line with its charitable objects; manage resources and accountability; and will always act in The Stringcredibles' best interests. In addition, trustees will offer guidance and expertise on strategy and its implementation, and fundraising.

We are looking for candidates who will possess three of the following:

- an understanding of, and commitment to, the vision and values of The Stringcredibles and its future development, particularly around diversity and inclusion
- a high-profile background in either the arts, academic, creative, commercial, voluntary or public sector
- the ability to act as an inspirational advocate for The Stringcredibles with potential partners, donors, sponsors, and supporters
- the knowledge to ensure that the organisation complies with its governing documents, charity law, company law and other relevant legislation and regulations
- the skills to ensure financial stability of the organisation and its efficient administration.

Additionally, candidates will be able to demonstrate the following other essential criteria:

- an understanding of the diverse communities in the UK – and Birmingham in particular - and a real commitment to promoting diversity.
- an understanding of the broader impact of the arts, and music in particular, locally in the West Midlands, nationally or internationally in order to help the Board to provide advice and opinions on the development of partnerships and work.
- the ability to engage with good governance, including budgeting and financial planning
- a willingness to become involved in fundraising activities, and to support the charity at a level which is appropriate to their ability to give
- the ability to act as a 'critical friend', offering both support and constructive challenge

The role is unremunerated, with quarterly meetings in central Birmingham. Some additional time will be required to devote to preparation for meetings and attending events and other *ad hoc* meetings.

Current Trustees

Sarah Gee – Chair (outgoing)

Sarah Gee is Chief Executive of Spitalfields Music, a charity in London that builds harmonious communities through music. She was previously Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Indigo-Ltd, an award-winning UK-based consultancy for arts and cultural organisations, and Director of Communications for the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, where she was responsible for rebranding the ensemble, and increasing fundraising income and ticket sales by 42%.

Originally trained as a hornplayer, Sarah has thirty years of fundraising, marketing and communications experience in the arts and charities, having been personally responsible for raising over £80 million. She is also in demand as a visiting lecturer at key universities, and as a trainer, coach and international conference keynote speaker, including the Middle East, Europe and Japan. She has been a trustee of The Stringcredibles since 2016.

Eluned Mansell

Eluned works for Birmingham City University as the Head of University Change. She has over 20 years' experience in the education sector, specialising in the development and delivery of national and international programmes, such as Teach First's Training Programme, the English national curriculum and a performing arts collaboration between The Juilliard School and Nord Anglia Education.

Having studied music at the University of Birmingham, Eluned continued her love for music by singing in choirs. She now performs regularly as a member of the CBSO Chorus. She joined the board of the Stringcredibles in 2019.

Sally-Ann Sinclair

Sally-Ann is a retired Headteacher and Educational Consultant. Having taught for 32 years in schools across the country, she has a successful educational track record in moving disadvantaged and poorly performing schools to 'Good' and 'Outstanding'.

As a music enthusiast, Sally-Ann has always established strong music teaching and curricula in her schools. In her final school in Walsall, she worked with the Stringcredibles to establish their first residency in a primary school and to create a successful partnership between the musicians and children from a deprived background, enriching their love of and competency in music.

Sally-Ann dabbles with saxophone and guitar, and has eclectic music tastes. She has been the Director of Purple Butterflies, an Education Consultancy company, since October 2018 and joined the board of the Stringcredibles in the summer of 2019.

Philip Mills

Philip is Corporate Services Director and Company Secretary of Beacon Centre for the Blind in Wolverhampton, and is a Chartered Management Accountant. He has over 30 years of experience as a finance professional in blue-chip groups, and in recent years, in the charity sector. He is a Trustee and Chair of the Finance Committee of Visionary – Linking Local Sight Loss Charities, and also a Trustee of BGSO.

Philip is a keen amateur clarinettist and supporter of the arts.

Next Steps

We wish to be a place where everyone can contribute with the confidence to be themselves. The Stringcredibles actively encourages applications from those with less visibility in arts leadership. We specifically welcome applications from people with disabilities; who are Black, Asian, or Minority Ethnic; Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans including non-binary, and related communities.

We look forward to receiving your application and thank you for your interest in the role.

Key Dates

- Application deadline: Sunday 4 June 2023
- Proposed Interviews: Thursday 22 June 2023 (online)
- Proposed Start Date: Ideally, the term of office will begin from our AGM in Autumn 2023

How to Apply

Please apply with your CV and a letter (no more than 2 pages) outlining:

1. Why you are interested in the role of Trustee with The Stringcredibles
2. Details of your skills, interests, personal attributes, and experience relevant to the role
3. If you wish to be considered for the role of Chair of Trustees

All applications should be marked APPLICATION FOR TRUSTEE and emailed to elunedmansell@hotmail.com

For more information on The Stringcredibles, please visit
www.TheStringcredibles.com