



Trustee Information and Application Pack



Berkeley Ensemble

Hailed as 'an instinctive collective' (*The Strad*) the Berkeley Ensemble was formed with the aim of exploring little-known twentieth- and twenty first-century British chamber music alongside more established repertoire. It now enjoys a busy concert schedule performing throughout the UK and abroad, and is also much in demand for its inspiring work in education.

The ensemble's flexible configuration and collaborative spirit have led to performances with leading musicians including Sir Thomas Allen, Gabriel Prokofiev and Nicholas Daniel. Its recordings have attracted critical acclaim, with *Lennox Berkeley: Chamber Works* selected by *BBC Music Magazine* as Chamber Choice (September 2015) and *Lennox Berkeley: Stabat Mater* nominated for a *Gramophone Award* in 2017 and praised in the magazine's initial review for 'a performance of shimmering intensity'.

The group's innovative and thought-provoking programming has received official recognition with a Help Musicians UK Emerging Excellence award and support from the PRS for Music Foundation. It is an enthusiastic champion of new music and has commissioned composers including Michael Berkeley, John Woolrich and Misha Mullov-Abbado. A frequent fixture of the festival circuit, the ensemble has performed at the Spitalfields, Cheltenham, Presteigne and Lake District International festivals, and curates the Little Venice Music Festival in London.

Engaging new audiences, most importantly through education, is central to the ensemble's activities. It is currently collaborating with PRS for Music and Tŷ Cerdd on support schemes for emerging composers. The group is also ensemble-in-residence at the University of Hull and Ibstock Place School, and runs an annual chamber music course in Somerset.

'there is the high quality of the performances by the Berkeley Ensemble, a malleable group which, like the Nash Ensemble, can adapt itself to different formats and plays as if it were truly inside the music.' Geoffrey Norris, Sunday Telegraph

'The Berkeley Ensemble can be trusted to show a total belief and understanding in the composer and his language.' MusicWeb International

berkeleyensemble.co.uk

littlevenice-mf.com

Role overview

Celebrating its tenth birthday in autumn 2018 with performances throughout the UK, the Berkeley Ensemble is an agile and dynamic chamber group with ambitious plans for the future. It is currently engaged in a recording of Beethoven chamber works for release on Resonus Classics and is set to premiere new works written specially for the ensemble by John Woolrich, Tim Watts, Lynne Ploughman and Stephen McNeff in its 2018-2019 season.

The Berkeley Ensemble's board play a central role in the life of the organisation. It comprises expert individuals who support a small and committed freelance team of eight musicians and two freelance administrative roles. We are particularly interested in recruiting individuals to the Board with expertise in one or more of the following:

- Finance
- Managing a high-level arts organisation
- Marketing and PR
- Law
- Education

Key responsibilities

Working as a trustee with The Berkeley Ensemble you will:

- Use your professional skills to support and influence the success of the Berkeley Ensemble's ambitious annual programme of concert and education activity
- Ensure sound financial management
- Contribute actively to the board of trustees, giving firm strategic direction in setting overall policy, defining goals, setting targets, and evaluating performance against agreed targets
- Gain board-level strategic experience in the arts
- Play an integral part in the good governance of the charity

Principal duties

- To attend and contribute to four board meetings a year and sub-committee meetings, if applicable
- To approve the annual budget and business plan, including overall objectives and individual project budgets



- To understand the legal and financial responsibilities of board members and to carry out these responsibilities of monitoring and decision-making
- To advise on the formulation and implementation of a strategy to raise the public and privately sourced funding required to support the activities of the organisation
- To attend Berkeley Ensemble performances and events at the Little Venice Music Festival as frequently as possible
- To support the staff in their activities through attendance at key events
- When available, to act as an ambassador for the group by attending its performances and to meet supporters and audience members
- To use professional and arts networks for the benefit of the Berkeley Ensemble
- To contribute to the recruitment, appointment and appraisal of the organisation's freelance administrative staff

Terms

The role of trustee with the Berkeley Ensemble is voluntary and therefore no remuneration is provided. Board meetings (four per year) usually take place in central London on a weekday evening. Reimbursement of reasonable expenses for those travelling from outside of London to attend meetings is available. Sub-committee meetings are arranged on an informal basis depending on the availability and location of those trustees involved.

How to apply

Expressions of interest should consist of a letter outlining your relevant experience and reasons for interest in the role along with your CV, to John Slack, General Manger john@berkeleyensemble.co.uk.

If you are interested in joining the board and would like a preliminary conversation with a board member, please get in touch with John Slack on 07760 153782 or john@berkeleyensemble.co.uk who will arrange this.

Closing date for applications: 5pm, Wednesday 19th September 2018

The Berkeley Ensemble is a registered charity in England & Wales, no. 1145392.

A copy of our latest accounts can be viewed on the Charity Commission website [here](#).

Visit <https://www.berkeleyensemble.co.uk/privacy/> to read our privacy policy.