

THE GESUALDO SIX: TRUSTEE ROLE DESCRIPTION



Role	Trustee, The Gesualdo Six (charity no. 1204778)
Remuneration	Voluntary (reasonable expenses reimbursed)
Reporting to	Chair of trustees
Location	Flexible, with meetings in-person (usually in London) or online
Commitment	Term of office shall be 2 years, renewable for two further terms. Quarterly board meetings and as convened by the board; ad hoc involvement between meetings.

ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE

The Gesualdo Six is an award-winning British vocal ensemble comprising some of the UK's finest consort singers, directed by Owain Park. They have garnered international recognition for their performances and recordings of Renaissance polyphony, contemporary choral works, and everything in between.

Notable highlights include a concert in the distinguished Deutschlandradio Debut Series, performances at renowned venues including Wigmore Hall (London), Miller Theatre (New York), the Sydney Opera House, and their debut at the BBC Proms in 2023. In 2024, The Gesualdo Six made their South American debut in Colombia, and will appear in Japan, China and Singapore for the first time. The ensemble has collaborated with Fretwork, the Brodsky Quartet, and Matilda Lloyd, and tour a work of concert-theatre titled *Secret Byrd* with Director, Bill Barclay.

The ensemble has harnessed the power of social media to make classical music accessible to millions worldwide, creating captivating videos from beautiful locations while on tour. The group released their debut recording *English Motets* on Hyperion Records in early 2018 to critical acclaim, followed by seven albums. Their latest album, *Queen of Hearts* will be released at the end of June 2024.

ABOUT THE CHARITY

The Gesualdo Six has established a charity to further the ensemble's mission to promote and advance education of the public in the art, science and history of the musical arts. This will be done through the presentation of concerts and recordings, commissioning new works, supporting emerging ensembles and performers, and providing educational projects for people of all ages.

The ensemble regularly hosts workshops for young musicians and composers. The ensemble has curated two Composition Competitions, with the most recent competition drawing entries from over three hundred composers worldwide. The group has also recently commissioned new works from Shruthi Rajasekar and Joanna Marsh, alongside *coronasolfège* for 6 by Héloïse Werner.

ROLE SUMMARY

We are seeking a committed and passionate individual to join our board of trustees.

We are at an exciting stage of our organisational development as a charity. As a trustee, you will play a crucial role in shaping the future of the charity, ensuring it achieves its charitable objectives and supporting the ensemble in their artistic and educational endeavours.

We welcome applications from all sectors and backgrounds, but we would be particularly excited to hear from individuals with skills, experience and track record in any of the following areas:

- Fundraising, particularly from high net worth individual donors, and creating events to promote charitable giving
- HR
- Governance and/or charity law
- Finance

TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide strategic leadership and oversight, ensuring that the charity operates within its charitable objectives and complies with all legal and regulatory requirements.
- Contribute to the development and implementation of the charity's strategic plan, setting priorities and evaluating progress.
- Ensure the financial stability of the charity, approving budgets, monitoring financial performance, and ensuring proper financial controls are in place.
- Support fundraising efforts, identifying potential donors, sponsors, and grant opportunities to secure the necessary funding for the charity's activities.
- Act as an ambassador both for The Gesualdo Six and the charity, raising its profile, building relationships with key stakeholders, and advocating for its mission and programmes.
- Identify and assess risks to the charity, ensuring that appropriate measures are in place to manage and mitigate these risks.
- Ensure the charity adheres to its governing document, charity law, and other relevant legislation and regulations.
- Support the Chair to support the Director and employees, helping them to achieve the aims of the organisation; and to optimise the relationship between the board of trustees and staff.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

We are seeking individuals who have a strong empathy with our charitable mission to enable the next generation of young people and emerging artists to achieve their musical and personal potential, and to support us as The Gesualdo Six continues to grow.

Additionally, we hope individuals will have experience, skills, and expertise in fundraising and a strong interest in music performance, music education and social change.

The board of trustees are collectively responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of the charity, its financial health, the probity of its activities and developing the organisation's aims, objectives and goals in accordance with the governing document, legal and regulatory guidelines.

Essential

- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship
- A deep appreciation for choral music and the arts, with an understanding of and commitment to The Gesualdo Six's mission and values, and willingness to devote time to carry out responsibilities.
- Some financial literacy, with a willingness to learn and undergo appropriate training as required to understand budgets, financial statements, and funding mechanisms.
- Experience in fundraising, development, or donor relations, with a track record of successful fundraising initiatives.
- Ability to think strategically, analyse complex issues, and make informed decisions.
- Demonstrable experience of building and sustaining relationships with key stakeholders and colleagues to achieve organisational objectives through strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Strategic vision in relation to the charity's objects and aims.
- A proven track record of sound judgement and effective decision making.
- A history of impartiality, fairness and the ability to respect confidences.
- The ability to think creatively in the context of the organisation and external environment.
- A track record of commitment to promoting inclusion, diversity and equality.

Desirable

- Previous experience as a trustee or in a governance role within a charitable or non-profit organisation.
- Understanding of charity law, governance best practices, and regulatory requirements
- Experience of working with/within a new charity [or working to professionalise a new organisation in its first five years of operation]
- Experience of charity governance, committee work, charity finance, or fundraising

We welcome people of all backgrounds, identities and experiences. We would particularly welcome applications from candidates who are disabled, Black, Asian or from other minoritised communities, who identify within the LGBTQIA+ community, or identify as from a lower or disadvantaged socioeconomic background as these groups are currently under-represented on our board and staff.

TIME COMMITMENT

It is expected that trustees will:

- Prepare for and attend quarterly board meetings (either in person or virtually) and other commitments, such as participation on committees and in working groups, by agreement.
- Be available between meetings to support other trustees, staff, and volunteers on ad hoc queries and for support on specific projects.
- Participate in annual strategic planning sessions and other key events.
- Actively engage in fundraising and advocacy efforts.

Planned meetings

27 June 2024	11:00 - 16:00	Trustee 'away day'	St Peter's Church Eaton Square, London
5 July 2024	10:00 - 11:30	Trustee meeting	Online (Zoom)
9 September 2024	09:30 - 11:00	Trustee meeting	Online (Zoom)
16 October 2024	TBC	Charity launch event	St Peter's Church Eaton Square, London

BENEFITS

- Opportunity to contribute to the growth and impact of a distinguished vocal ensemble.
- Engage with a community of like-minded individuals passionate about choral music and the arts.
- Develop governance and leadership skills within a supportive and dynamic environment.
- Make a meaningful difference in promoting cultural and educational initiatives, and to widening participation in music.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please send a CV and covering letter each of no more than two sides of A4 explaining why you would like to be considered for the role of trustee with reference your skills, experience, and the essential and desirable criteria above to Owain Park (owain@thegesualdosix.co.uk) by 15 July 2024.

For further information or an informal discussion about the role, please contact Owain at owain@thegesualdosix.co.uk.

Owain will be in touch with applicants to communicate the Trustees decision by 22 July 2024.