



TRUSTEE VACANCY

Three Choirs Festival Society: Chair

(and by ex-officio appointment, a Director of the Three Choirs Festival Association)

Closing Date: noon, Friday 17 April 2020

Summary

The Trustees of the Three Choirs Festival Society seek to appoint a new Chair of trustees to succeed Jeremy Wilding, who has served as Chairman since 2015.

Founded in 1996, the Three Choirs Festival Society is a charity which exists to enable devotees of the festival to support it financially through Society membership, and whose trustees also manages the investment of endowment funds gifted to ensure the future prosperity of the festival. Together these income streams allow the Society to support around 6% of the TCF Association's annual turnover and make provision for additional support in the event of unforeseen financial challenges.

The Society also has a social function, bringing together members for special events where friendships can be consolidated and enthusiasm for the festival nurtured. Members enjoy benefits such as priority booking at various levels and exclusive festival insights via the Society Spotlight newsletter. The Society presently has over 750 membership subscriptions representing around 1000 individuals.

The role of the Society Chair is to lead the Society trustees in ensuring that the Society fulfils its charitable objects while nurturing the charity's membership base, working with the Association's staff to enhance and develop the experience of members, and to represent to Society on the TCF Association's Board of Directors (of which the Society Chair is an ex-officio member).

This voluntary role is a vital touchstone between an enthusiastic body of members, many of whom are dedicated attendees of the festival, the festival's professional administrative team, and the Association's Board of Directors, who are responsible for the oversight of the Festival's delivery and the organisation's related activity.

This is an exciting time to join us. The trustees of the Society and TCF Association are collectively committed to a direction of travel which ensures the Three Choirs Festival is a forward-looking and sustainable event which brings cultural enrichment, enjoyment and music-making opportunities to the region for generations to come. The Society Chair will join discussions about the festival's future business model and be a principal point of communication with members as this review progresses. Further details will be outlined to shortlisted applicants.

Our Ideal Candidate

We are keen to hear from a wide range of applicants, and would particularly welcome people with some of the following attributes:

- An affinity with Society members, sharing their enthusiasm for the festival and for nurturing social connections and friendships among festival-goers
- A strong sense of the festival's common heart, alongside an understanding of the particular qualities that lend each of the three festival locales their individual identities
- A great collaborator and advocate who can get to know a wide range of members, providing a conduit for their views to be represented to the Association Board
- Commitment to developing the experience of members and sustaining their number
- Openness to working with Association staff and Board Members to develop a clear and unified message to those who want to support the work of the festival.
- Ability to manage and communicate timely and relevant change regarding future organisational developments
- Willingness to understand and stay up-to-date with guidance issued by the Charity Commission and other relevant bodies sufficient to meet the statutory requirements of the role and actively contribute to the trustees decision-making responsibilities.
- To be eligible to serve as a Society trustee you must be aged 18 or over and not disqualified for any reason [set out by the charity commission \(click here for further information\)](#). All Society trustees must also be members of the Society.

Time Commitment

The Society meets quarterly, immediately before or after the Association Board of Directors, with each round of meetings occupying around half a day (plus preparation time for papers). The Society holds an AGM for its members annually during the festival, and the Society Chair also plays an active role in agreeing the content of the member's magazine, *Spotlight*. From time-to-time, either the Society or Association trustees may call additional meetings.

The appointment is made for an initial term of three years and is eligible for re-election for up to two further terms. A trustee induction will be provided by the Association's Chief Executive.

Location: meetings generally take place as centrally as possible in the Three Choirs counties, often in or near Ledbury. It may sometimes be necessary to visit the Association office in Gloucester.

Pay: this is a voluntary role, but necessary out-of-pocket expenses can be reimbursed.

How to Apply

To apply, please send a letter, comprising no more than 2 A4 pages in total, outlining your suitability for this role and any relevant experience by **noon, Monday 27 April**. *Because the role of Association Director is conferred upon the Society Chair ex-officio, applications should also confirm that you are willing to consent to a DBS Check, in line with the Association's Safeguarding Policy.*

Applications or requests for further information should be sent by email to catherine.lewen@3choirs.org

Applications will be collated and shared with the existing Society Trustees, who will vote on the appointment, and shortlisted applicants will be invited to meet with some of the trustees ahead of this vote. We hope the new chair will be able to attend the next trustees meeting in June.

About the Three Choirs Festival

The Three Choirs Festival is a week-long programme of choral and orchestral concerts, chamber music, family events, talks, cathedral services, theatre, exhibitions and walks, rotating each summer between the beautiful English cathedral cities of Hereford, Gloucester and Worcester. It is thought to be the longest-standing classical music festival in the world and celebrated its 300th anniversary in 2015.

At the heart of the modern festival are large-scale evening concerts featuring the Three Choirs Festival Chorus and the Philharmonia Orchestra (resident at the festival since 2012), and services of Choral Evensong sung by the professional choirs of the three cathedrals. Concert programmes feature internationally-recognised soloists and combine the established favourites of the British classical choral tradition with works drawn from a broader, more international musical canvas. Some are conducted by the directors of music of the three cathedrals, who also undertake the role of Artistic Director of their city's festival, and some by guest conductors from the UK and abroad. The main festival's packed schedule of daytime events is augmented by a community and outreach projects bespoke to each city. More information about the organisation, including details of this year's festival in Worcester can be found at 3choirs.org.

Future festival dates: **Worcester** 25 July–1 August 2020 | **Hereford** 24–31 July 2021 | **Gloucester** 23–30 July 2022