

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Recruitment Pack | Summer 2026

In our tenth anniversary year, Fantasia Orchestra is seeking a new and visionary Chair of the Board of Trustees — a pivotal appointment as we enter our next chapter of growth.



"This concert represents a moment when bold programming and instinctive musicianship combine to create a fusion that is truly compelling and memorable."

Everything Theatre (5*)

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1. About Fantasia Orchestra

Purpose

Our purpose is to reimagine orchestral music for a new generation — and to share it as widely as possible.

Our Story

Fantasia Orchestra was founded in 2016 by Artistic Director Tom Fetherstonhaugh, beginning as a group of school-age friends with a shared love of music. In just ten years, the orchestra has grown into one of the UK's most exciting and distinctive professional ensembles.

In 2024, Fantasia made its BBC Proms debut at the Royal Albert Hall. This summer, we return for two further Proms — a remarkable milestone in a decade defined by ambition, artistry and momentum.

What Makes Us Different

Fantasia's programming is defined by its youthful energy and its refusal to work within genre boundaries. Our multi-genre concerts bring together some of the most compelling artists working today, including Sheku Kanneh-Mason, Jess Gillam, Jasdeep Singh Degun, Steven Osborne, Dame Evelyn Glennie, and Alim Beisembayev.

This season marks our first residency at a major London venue, Smith Square Hall, alongside debuts at the Cheltenham Festival, Summer at Snape, and Royal Concert Hall Nottingham. We also return to the BBC Proms with Dame Evelyn Glennie and the BBC Singers, and continue our appearances at Proms at St Jude's and Guiting Music Festival.

Our artistic approach means we are particularly well-placed to introduce children and young people to music-making. Fantasia has a thriving partnership with the music education charity DaCapo Music Foundation: we are able to tap into their educational expertise and connections with Music Hubs and schools: our musicians receive training and support from DaCapo to deliver workshops in schools across London, targeting schools with little or no music provision.

What we are seeking

We are looking for a visionary and proactive Chair who can super-charge our ambition, open doors for us, and enable our innovative vision to carry us to new heights and untapped audiences.



"Fantasia Orchestra's programmes are bold, eclectic, and cross musical boundaries: we love sharing music in this way with our wonderful audiences."

**Tom Fetherstonhaugh,
Artistic Director**

2. Who We Are Looking For

We are seeking an exceptional individual to serve as a new Chair of the Board of Trustees.

This is a foundational role in the governance of Fantasia Orchestra, and it arrives at a pivotal moment: our tenth anniversary year, a growing national profile, and real ambition for the decade ahead.

The new Chair will work closely with our Executive Director, Michael Garvey, and Artistic Director, Tom Fetherstonhaugh, to lead the Board and help shape the orchestra's next chapter.

The Ideal Candidate

We are looking for someone who brings:

- A genuine passion for classical music and the performing arts
- Experience of working with a UK charity or in the non-profit sector
- An understanding of the performing arts landscape in the UK
- Entrepreneurial leadership instincts, with an appetite for and experience of delivering growth
- The desire and personal capability to give financially to the organisation
- A well-developed professional and personal network, and the desire to use it in support of the charity financially and commercially
- The ability to be a compelling public advocate for Fantasia's work and mission
- Dynamism to the Board, introducing new and interesting people to the Fantasia family

We believe that diversity of background and experience strengthens governance. Fantasia Orchestra welcomes applications from across our whole society. We are here to evolve the sector, and that starts with who we invite into the room.



**If being an influential part
of our journey feels like a
compelling opportunity for
you, we would love to connect.**

**Michael Garvey,
Executive Director**

3. Role of Chair of Trustees

The Chair of the Board leads governance at Fantasia Orchestra, working alongside the Executive Director and Artistic Director to ensure the charity is well-run, financially sustainable, and focused on its mission.

Principal Responsibilities

- Provide leadership and direction to the Board of Trustees
- Uphold the charity's mission, values, and long-term vision
- Work in close partnership with the Executive Director to develop and implement strategic priorities
- Support fundraising and financial development initiatives, including through personal giving and networks
- Chair Board meetings and ensure effective, inclusive decision-making
- Ensure compliance with charity law, the Charity Governance Code, and Fantasia's Articles of Association
- Monitor performance against agreed targets in collaboration with the Executive Director
- Act as a public ambassador for the orchestra at events, in the media, and across the sector
- Build and steward relationships with funders, partners, and stakeholders
- Protect the integrity, assets, and reputation of the charity

General Attributes

In addition to the above, we are looking for someone who can demonstrate:

- Entrepreneurial thinking and confidence operating in a competitive marketplace
- Sound judgement and strong interpersonal skills
- The ability to challenge constructively, to lead and contribute to strategic debate at Board level
- A commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of the role
- An appreciation of the non-executive nature of the role, balanced with genuine engagement
- Willingness to engage with fundraising activities and financial development

4. Board Structure



Fantasia Orchestra is governed by a Board of Trustees who provide voluntary oversight of the charity's strategy, finances, and operations. Day-to-day management is delegated to the Executive Director, who works alongside the Artistic Director to run the organisation. The Chair leads the Board and acts as the primary point of contact between the Trustees and the executive team.

Meetings & Time Commitment

The Board meets regularly throughout the year to discuss strategy, finances, and organisational development. Trustees are also expected to attend concerts and events, and to engage in ambassadorial and fundraising activity.

The overall time commitment for the Chair role is likely to be in the region of 20–25 days per year, including Board meetings, preparation time, and external representation.

Remuneration

This is a voluntary, unremunerated position. Reasonable travel and out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

Induction & Support

We are committed to a thorough induction for our incoming Chair. This will include individual meetings with the Executive Director and Artistic Director, attendance at concerts and rehearsals, and introductions to key stakeholders, funders, and partners across the sector.



“Tom Fetherstonhaugh’s control of the orchestra was impressive too: stylish, well-balanced and with textures always transparent.”

Nottingham Post (5*)

5. How to Apply



We would love to hear from you.

To apply, please send the following to our Executive Director, Michael Garvey:

- A statement (max 600 words) explaining why you are drawn to the Chair role at Fantasia Orchestra, and how your skills and experience could contribute to the organisation
- A summary of your professional experience and education and background
- The names and contact details of two referees (to be contact at shortlist stage)

Application deadline: 1 September 2026, 5pm

First round interviews will be held in person, in London, during the week of 21 September 2026. Second interviews will follow shortly thereafter.

You are warmly encouraged to get in touch before applying for an informal conversation about the role.

Fantasia Orchestra is committed to equality, and encourages applications regardless of age, caring responsibilities, disability, gender, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation.

Get in Touch

Michael Garvey,

Executive Director

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Fantasia Orchestra is a Registered Charity, no. 1191335

