



CHAIR OF SOUTHBANK SINFONIA: ROLE DESCRIPTION

Introduction

Southbank Sinfonia occupies a unique place in British musical life. No other organisation provides such an intensive programme of performance and professional development for musicians drawn from across the world. This is an extremely rare opportunity to play a crucial role in the leadership of this organisation. We are seeking a dynamic and experienced individual to chair the board and work alongside new Managing Director William Norris, to help lead us as we look forward to our third thrilling decade.

Southbank Sinfonia

One of the world's foremost orchestral academies, formed of an orchestra of dynamic young professional musicians drawn from across the globe, Southbank Sinfonia has been described by *The Times* as 'a dashing ensemble who play with exhilarating fizz, exactness and stamina'.

Every year, we welcome 33 of the world's most promising young musicians of graduate level to embark on our Fellowship programme. This is a community where the next generation of orchestral musicians can find and hone their creative strengths, fulfil personal goals, make lasting professional contacts, and take their musicianship to new levels. Recognising the fast changing role of a professional musician in the 21st century the fellowship also equips musicians with a range of other skills, in music education, outreach, public speaking, health and wellbeing and financial management.

Fellows enjoy an unparalleled array of opportunities to perform and gain crucial experience in orchestral repertoire, chamber music and opera. Integral to the programme are the orchestra's creative partnerships with leading arts organisations including the Royal Opera, National Theatre, Academy of St Martin in the Fields, and acclaimed artists such as Patrons Vladimir Ashkenazy and Edward Gardner.

The orchestra is based at St John's Waterloo in central London where it rehearses and performs its regular Free Rush Hour Concert series and also has an annual residency at the Angiari Festival, Italy, as well as appearing regularly at major London venues such as

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Southbank Centre, the Royal Opera House and Barbican Centre, and increasingly at fringe venues such as Oval Space. Our repertoire is equally diverse, spanning period performance, core classical and romantic repertoire, as well as new commissions, jazz and cross-genre projects.

Southbank Sinfonia performances are characterised by their energy, invigorating traditional repertoire with fresh resonance. We strive to ask how the music we make can and should be presented in future, as illustrated by our #ConcertLab series which seeks to experiment with and redefine the concert format. For its versatility and innovation, the orchestra was nominated for the 2017 Royal Philharmonic Society Ensemble Award.

Players who have completed the fellowship now occupy prominent seats in leading orchestras worldwide, from the Philharmonia to the Hong Kong Philharmonic, while others develop rewarding entrepreneurial portfolio careers, balancing orchestral life with other activities such as teaching and music education or founding their own ensembles. Many continue to play a valued role in the life of Southbank Sinfonia, returning as paid deputies and extras enabling us to take on ambitious large-scale ventures, and coaching their successors.

Working with our alumni musicians is an increasingly important part of our work both in their own right playing as our Alumni orchestra, (most recently Amadeus at the National Theatre), and also alongside Fellowship musicians. Since our launch in 2002, we are proud to have generated well over £5 million that has gone directly into young musicians' pockets. Few other institutions worldwide give young artists such a footing and the orchestra achieves this with no public funding.

With a new Managing Director, a talented and largely new staff team, and with the development of a new strategic plan imminent, this is an exciting and decisive moment in the history of the organisation.

The Board of Trustees is seeking to appoint a new Chair as the current incumbent, Sean Finnan, steps down after completing a full term of 6 years. We are seeking an inspirational individual who will galvanise the sense of forward momentum that the organisation is currently enjoying, leading Southbank Sinfonia into its third decade and beyond.

Southbank Sinfonia is a registered charity.

Role Description

Overall objectives of the role

- Provide leadership to the Board ensuring it fulfils its responsibilities for the development of outstanding young professional musicians within the unique orchestral community of Southbank Sinfonia.
- Work in partnership with the Managing Director to develop and deliver the vision, mission and strategy of the organisation.
- Act as ambassador for Southbank Sinfonia, helping to shape external relationships that will reinforce its national and international position and strengthen its ability to secure funding from a wide range of sources to fulfil its mission.

Specific objectives of the role

The Chair has overall responsibility for leadership of the Board, ensuring its effectiveness and the provision of accurate, timely and clear information to Trustees. Particular responsibilities include:

Board leadership and meetings

- Chairing meetings of the Board and ensuring that, through the Board and its committees, the Board runs effectively, fulfils its duties and carries out resolutions. Calling special meetings if necessary. Drawing up agendas for meetings with the Managing Director.
- Chairing meetings effectively and sympathetically, creating an environment in which all Board members are encouraged to participate and challenge constructively and appropriately, reflecting Southbank Sinfonia's values and organisational culture.

- Ensuring that high standards of corporate governance and ethical, professional behaviour are maintained and, as appropriate, introduced to meet changing circumstances and good practice.
- Fostering collaborative and effective relationships between the Board, the Chief Executive, Music Director and the staff team as well as creating and maintaining a culture of innovation among board members,

Governance

- With the Board, ensuring that financial controls and systems of management and risk are in place and effectively operated, and that the Board is kept informed in a timely and relevant manner of key issues and opportunities and performance against the business plan.
- To support, challenge and appraise the Managing Director in the running of the organisation and help achieve the essential balance between artistic and business endeavours, ensuring appropriate separation of the executive and non-executive roles in accordance with the principles of good corporate governance.
- Conducting periodic Board effectiveness reviews, ensuring that new Board members are fully inducted, that existing Board members are contributing effectively and that any conflicts of interest are avoided.
- Maintaining regular communication with Trustees to ensure that they feel valued and can make a full contribution to Southbank Sinfonia
- Work with the Managing Director and in collaboration with to the Music Director, key staff and Trustees to develop, review and monitor the Southbank Sinfonia business plan. It is anticipated that the new Chair will be appointed in time to contribute to the development of a new three year strategic plan for implementation from January 2020.



Advocacy

- Representing the Board and organisation to external stakeholders including funders, national and local government politicians, policy makers and the media where appropriate.
- Being a champion for fundraising, helping to identify and develop relationships with potential and existing donors and supporters.
- Encouraging Trustees to play an active role as advocates in their networks, attend events and external meetings when the Managing Director or senior staff would value this.
- Attending and supporting Southbank Sinfonia events of different kinds, to ensure a thorough understanding of the range of activity the organisation undertakes; demonstrate commitment and be a visible champion of Southbank Sinfonia, its supporters and partners.

Trustee Objectives

All trustees of Southbank Sinfonia, who are also Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law, are jointly and severally responsible for the effective management of the charity, ensuring that it is solvent, well-run, and delivering the charitable outcomes for which it was established. Trustees delegate the day-to-day running of the charity to the Managing Director and management team, whilst remaining ultimately responsible for the governance, compliance and strategic direction of the charity.

Further information

We are looking for a Chair for an initial three-year term. This can be renewed for one further term, or for two in exceptional circumstances. The Chair leads the Board, to whom he/she is accountable. This is an unpaid role, but one which will make a significant contribution to the organisation at a time of much change and development.



The Chair can expect to commit to the equivalent of up to 20 days per year, including quarterly board meetings and monthly in-person meetings with the Managing Director supplemented by regular communication when required.

We are keen to reflect at Board level the diversity of communities we serve and actively encourage applicants from all genders, ethnic, cultural, social and geographic backgrounds. Meeting times and locations are arranged with the access and/or additional needs of attendees in mind. Facilities for attending meetings remotely are made available whenever possible. Southbank Sinfonia offices are not fully accessible, however there are plans to rectify this in the future.

Southbank Sinfonia is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all those who apply to work with us, either as a staff member or volunteer.