



**JAZZ NORTH**  
ENRICHING  
LIVES  
THROUGH  
IMPROVISATION

## **CALL FOR TRUSTEE BOARD MEMBERS**

Now in its sixth year, Jazz North is a vibrant, creative and professional organisation which has already made a significant impact on the jazz sector in the North of England. As it enters the next stage of its development, the company is seeking creative and dynamic individuals who can contribute their knowledge and expertise and join our Board of Trustees. The new trustees will join the organisation at an exciting albeit challenging time. Jazz North is well placed to deliver its ambitious Business Plan, with Arts Council England funding confirmed until 2022, a strong and highly motivated Senior Management and core team, a dedicated and highly skilled board, an extensive list of supportive partners, a reputation for high quality music initiatives and a growing roster of talented associate and ambassador artists. Nevertheless, there are challenges ahead which call for imaginative and strategic leadership to support continued growth at a time of increasing pressure on infrastructure and funding in the arts and public sector.

Our Board is made up of people who are passionate about supporting Jazz North to achieve its potential. We are now looking to further strengthen our excellent board of trustees by appointing a small number of new Trustees who share our passion for jazz and who have the skills, knowledge and experience to support our senior management team. We aim to maintain a balanced set of experience and expertise on the Board of Trustees in order to deliver strong and effective governance, strategic development and decision making and we are particularly keen to appoint individuals who have professional experience in the following areas:

- Finance and accounting
- Marketing and Communications.

We value diversity of perspective and lived experience and we would particularly welcome applications from women and people from culturally diverse backgrounds.

The board meets five times per year in locations across the north of England.

If you're eager to be part of this innovative and ambitious company I encourage you to read the enclosed information and contact us at the email address below with any questions you may have. To apply please send a copy of your CV with a covering letter to [lesley@jazznorth.org](mailto:lesley@jazznorth.org)

*These roles are voluntary and unpaid, although appropriate expenses will be offered.*

### **1). Overview of the company: Vision, Mission and guiding principles**

The north of England, with its unparalleled musical heritage, enjoys a vibrant jazz scene. It is home to a diverse and distinctive range of artists with an appetite for collaboration as well as numerous festivals, venues and promoters. Founded in 2012, Jazz North grew from the desire to bring together these elements in order to raise the profile of contemporary jazz in the region and to put the North on the international map as a place where jazz flourishes and where jazz artists thrive. As the Strategic Development Agency for jazz in the North of England, the organisation is unique in its scale, scope and geography; and is funded and recognised by Arts Council England (ACE) with National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) status since 2015. The success and geographic scope of Jazz North has led to our new designation as a Sector Support Organisation by ACE from 2018-2022. Our **mission** is to support the sustainable growth of contemporary jazz in the North by developing opportunities for artists and building audiences – in the North, nationally and internationally.

Our **vision** is that the North is recognised within and beyond the area as a leading talent hub for jazz.

#### **Our guiding principles:**

- Artists will be at the heart of every project we support
- Our work will value and promote diversity in all its forms
- Our work will demonstrate openness and transparency

Jazz North is unique in its approach to supporting and nurturing jazz. With a pan northern territory, it has an ethos and method of delivery that are rooted in artist development, cultivating partnerships and networks, recognising the expertise and established positions of other presenters and providers, and working in ways that add value to their efforts. Whilst our purpose is to support and develop the sector, artistic creativity is at the heart of our approach and our primary aim is to ensure that excellence in jazz is thriving and celebrated across the north of England.

Recent achievements include:

- Supporting **104 artists per year** through the provision of CPD, mentoring and tour subsidy;
- Providing support to **73 promoters** across the north (including 34 voluntary promoters);
- Co-promoting **134 high quality performances** by northern jazz artists;
- Engaging more than **17,000 people**, including more than **900 children and young people**, with live jazz experiences.

### **2). Role Description**

Jazz North is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. All non-executive directors are also charity trustees in law. The additional responsibilities this brings have been considered in the following role description.

In order to make an effective contribution to Jazz North you will be required to become familiar with our mission statement, aims, objectives, organisation and resources.

#### **Trustee Statutory Responsibilities:**

- To ensure that Jazz North complies with its governing document, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations

- To ensure that Jazz North pursues its objects as defined in its governing document
- To ensure Jazz North uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objectives
- To contribute actively to the Board of Directors' role in giving firm strategic direction to Jazz North's vision and mission, setting overall policy, defining goals and setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets
- Appointing and employing the Senior Management Team
- To ensure the financial stability of Jazz North
- To safeguard the good name and values of Jazz North
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of Jazz North

In addition to the statutory duties as laid out above, board members also have the following responsibilities:

- To keep up to date with developments in the Jazz, music education, and public funding fields within which Jazz North operates.
- To prepare for meetings and offer effective contribution as a Board member, this will involve taking the appropriate time to read the agenda papers in advance of meetings and delivering on agreed action points.
- To accept and stand by decisions of the Board and to ensure that deliberations of the Board remain confidential.
- To provide guidance and support to the staff in their dealings with stakeholders and external parties such as the media and the public. This may include representing the organisation at public or business events.
- To be a champion for fundraising, helping to identify and develop relationships with potential and existing donors and supporters.
- To act as advocate for the organisation, working with the SMT to identify, nurture and developing new and existing partnerships to help meet the organisation's overall objectives.
- To support the Senior Management Team in identifying and developing sustainable income generation opportunities.

### **3). Person Specification/Key Attributes**

Your passion and enthusiasm for Jazz North together with your background and skills will help to drive the organisation forward.

#### **Skills and competencies**

- Understanding of the charitable or not for profit sector.
- A democratic and collaborative leadership style.
- Good communication skills.
- Ability to scrutinize board papers.
- A knowledge of the north of England and a range of local, regional and national contacts.
- Knowledge of and interest in the jazz sector and an appreciation of arts and culture generally.
- An independent strategic thinker able to develop relationships and drive consensus.

- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of directorship including those specific to the role of charity trustee.
- Ability to distinguish between strategic board role and operational management role.
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team.

#### **Personal attributes**

- Eligible to act as a charity trustee
- A commitment to equal opportunities and diversity.
- A commitment to the organisation and its objectives.
- Integrity.
- Tact, diplomacy and excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- A willingness and ability to devote the necessary time and effort to their duties as a board member including attendance at four Board meetings per year (including the AGM), development “away days” and other Jazz North events.
- Willingness to acquire and maintain up to date knowledge through induction and training.
- Good, independent judgement.

We are particularly looking to appoint members over the coming months with backgrounds in the following fields:

- Professional finance or legal background
- Skills in marketing, PR and audience development
- Commercial acumen with a track record of growing sustainable revenue streams.

#### **BACKGROUND, HISTORY AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

In Spring 2012 a consortium of organisations - Jazz Yorkshire, Creative Arts Promotion, Manchester Jazz Festival, NWJazzworks and Live Music Now - successfully applied to ACE for a strategic commissioned grant for a Northern jazz development programme 2012 – 2015.

Jazz North officially started life as the new Northern jazz development agency in October 2012 and was established as a constituted organisation in Spring 2013 providing a range of services and running a number of projects in partnership with others and with a founding vision of:

- Building a new northern jazz delivery model based on collective partnerships
- Increasing the profile of northern jazz artists, so that the north becomes recognised nationally and internationally as a place for jazz artists to reside and develop practice
- Keeping artistic creativity at the heart of the plan with projects requiring partners who share the vision of encouraging and developing artists, creative activity and an informed audience base.

The organisation’s current business plan covers the period 2018 to 2022 and outlines the following Strategic Objectives:

#### **Northern Artist Talent Development**

Projects include:

- northern line – an innovative subsidised roster scheme for northern bands
- Jazz North Introduces – supporting emerging young (16-24) northern jazz ensemble

- Beyond the North – positive activities for Northern artists across the UK and overseas
- Mentoring & career development – open to all early- and mid-career northern jazz artists

### **Building Networks and Sector Partnerships**

Focussing on:

- Capacity building of the sector within the north
- Capacity building beyond the north
- Creative Case for Diversity
- Communications and advocacy

### **Inspiring Children and Young People**

Projects include:

- Jazz in Schools programme
- Alt Shift J – a series of pop up jazz festivals curated and promoted by young people.
- Annual jazz education conference aimed at educators, musicians, music hubs, and anyone with an interest in furthering the teaching of jazz and improvisation.

## **GOVERNANCE/MANAGEMENT**

Jazz North is managed on the board's behalf by a Senior Management Team (SMT). The SMT is responsible to the board who meet quarterly to receive financial, project and management reports, and to make strategic decisions. We have an innovative organisational structure, with a virtual office that is facilitated by creative use of digital technology.

### **Board**

The board has a diverse range of experience and skills, including Chair/board members of arts organisations; senior private, public and third sector executive experience; experts in public funding and not-for-profit governance; marketing; business; finance, and education.

The board meets at least five times a year in locations across the North of England. Board meetings usually take place in the afternoon. Members may join by conference/Skype call where personal attendance is not possible. We are committed to flexible arrangements in order to build a diverse board.

Current board members are based across the North, from Liverpool to Durham, complementing the location of core staff in Doncaster, Leeds and Manchester. The board currently consists of Debra King (Chair), Simon Ryder (Vice Chair), Sarah Derbyshire, Elizabeth Manning, Matt Robinson, Dafydd Williams and Alex Douglas.

### **Debra King (Chair)**

Debra King is an experienced creative producer and arts director with a wide-ranging knowledge of music, the arts, education, culture and community participation at a local, national and international level. Debra is currently the Director of Brighter Sound a cultural producer of music programmes, pioneering new ways to explore creative music with musicians, composers, artists and young people. Brighter Sound regularly commissions and produces work and provides a platform for artist's development. The company also contributes to research and strategic development concerning music and its impact and role across learning and education on a regional and national scale. Her previous roles include- Director of Women in Music; ACE Music Officer: Co artistic director of the

Commonwealth Games Cultural Programme; Manager of the of Australian Contemporary Arts programme across the UK and Europe; Co-director of Fkuk an international producing company; Co-producer for the Nitin Sawhney project, Aftershock.

### **Simon Ryder**

Simon Ryder has had a wide-ranging career in the public and private sectors, focusing on organisational development, research and business planning. He has been a consultant since 2004, specialising in the arts, culture and the creative industries. He has over 30 years' experience as a non-executive director of not-for-profit arts and creative organisations, including the Bluecoat Arts Centre.

### **Dr Elizabeth Manning**

Elizabeth Manning is a musicologist who, before her retirement, spent most of her career as an Assistant Director with The Open University in the North with a focus on student support. She has wide experience of committees and staff management in an institution which is committed to diversity and equal opportunities. As Head of Services for Younger Students, she has worked closely with secondary schools and was responsible for safeguarding and child protection. She has considerable experience of networking, both in the UK and on the continent.

### **Matt Robinson**

Alongside his role as Artistic Director of the ever-growing Lancaster Jazz Festival, Matt is also an incredibly busy session musician, composer, teacher and award-winning community musician. Matt gigs most nights around the North of England with everything from contemporary jazz groups to orchestras, Jamaican ska bands to French pop acts and can also be found in contemporary cross-discipline works such as the critically acclaimed outdoor walking epic Jack Scout and the recent mass international community work The Long Walk in Hong Kong.

### **Dafydd (Dav) Williams**

Dafydd Williams currently works as Development and Alumni Relations Coordinator at Leeds College of Music. In 2015, he participated in the Arts Fundraising and Philanthropy Fellowship programme, working at Phoenix Dance Theatre. Whilst there, he helped raise new funds from multiple income streams and develop the organisation's fundraising strategy. During the year, Dafydd studied for a Postgraduate Certificate in Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy and attended specialist-training sessions including the National Arts Fundraising School. Prior to this, Dafydd studied Music (BMus) at Newcastle University, graduating with First Class Honours. He subsequently gained a MA in Music and Management from the University of Leeds.

### **Alex Douglas**

A 'son of the north', Alex is a musician, educator and humanities thinker from a conservative West Indian Christian background in which jazz was taken to be the 'devil's music'. A jazz pianist and composer, he undertakes commissions and performances both across the UK and internationally. He is founder and Artistic Director of ADM Productions and Principle of the SEC Music and Worship Academy. He also has a keen interest in Music and health and holds the title of Artistic Associate with NHS research & Development Northwest.

### **Senior Management Team**

The Senior Management Team consists of Lesley Jackson (Executive Director) and Nigel Slee and Steve Mead (Creative Director job-share). Together they provide a wide range of expertise, built up over many years of working at director level in arts organisations in the North. Jazz North projects are delivered by a contracted freelance team of Project Leaders.

### **Lesley Jackson**

Lesley Jackson joined Jazz North in 2015 from Phoenix Dance Theatre where she was Executive Director for six years helping to reestablish the Phoenix as one of the UK's leading contemporary dance companies and overseeing the company's involvement with the £12m capital development that became the home for Leeds based Phoenix and Northern Ballet. Prior to this she spent ten years as a senior manager in regional theatre; first as General Manager at LBT Huddersfield and then as Executive Director at West Yorkshire Playhouse. She is on the advisory panel for Slung Low and has been a board member for Dark Horse, a theatre company for learning disabled adults, since 2007. Although she hasn't picked up an instrument since school, Lesley enjoys listening to music of all kinds.

### **Steve Mead**

Steve Mead is Artistic Director and co-founder (in 1996) of Manchester Jazz Festival, where he has pioneered initiatives for talent and audience development and commissioning new work and led on NPO, LA and Trust funding bids. From 2005-2012, he co-directed NWJazzworks, Jazz North's NW predecessor. He sits on the board of the Jazz Promotion Network and on several advisory panels for Serious, PRS for Music Foundation and, previously, Jazz Services. He is a music assessor (and previously a Music Advisor) for Arts Council England. He enjoys a wide range of music, people and really old things that still work.

### **Nigel Slee**

Nigel discovered jazz via an evening class at Southampton University in 1992. In 1994 while studying at Chichester College of Arts and Technology he set up Students Talkin' Jazz and was awarded the Ed Higgins trophy. In 1995 he moved North to study on the Jazz Studies (BA Hons) degree course at Leeds College of Music. A Student Union officer 95-98, he started a student jam session and student jazz festival (J98) and served as a committee member on the Musicians Union Leeds' branch. As a musician he has played with a variety of British and International musicians and performed in France, Switzerland, Germany and Denmark. In the early 2000's Nigel set up 'Jazz In Leeds' with a website and monthly newsletter to promote jazz in the City. In 2005 Nigel was appointed Jazz Development Officer for Jazz Yorkshire, Jazz North's predecessor.