



Charity No. 1134465 | Company No. 7134930
www.exaudi.org.uk

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Appointment of new Directors, 2023 Information Pack for Applicants

About EXAUDI



Since our foundation in 2002, EXAUDI's reputation has grown steadily into one of the most prestigious and respected vocal ensembles working in the field of new (contemporary classical and experimental) music today. We are a UK-based ensemble but our outlook is international: our work takes us across Europe to many of the most significant festivals and venues for new music, we broadcast widely, and we have made around 20 CD recordings. Commissioning and performing new work is at the heart of what we do, and we are also firmly committed to nurturing new talent among emerging composers, with strong links to institutions such as Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

Our artistic base is London, and our singers are contracted as freelancers on a per-project basis. There are currently 12 core members including our Artistic Director/conductor, James Weeks, but we regularly draw on a much wider pool of singers as required.

Our Ethos

EXAUDI has a unique artistic profile: our specialisms are, on the one hand, the most ground-breaking and progressive end of contemporary music, from new research into microtonality to experiments in performance art, electronics or AI; and on the other hand, the rich heritage of medieval and Renaissance vocal music. We are known as much for our Gesualdo, Vicentino and Hildegard as for our John Cage, Salvatore Sciarrino, Cassandra Miller or Catherine Lamb. We are proud of this dual focus and the distinctive programming it engenders, and are praised for our exceptionally high levels of precision and artistic insight in both repertoires.

*Watch our performance of Cipriano de Rore's madrigal **Da le belle contrade d'oriente**
Watch our performance of Geoff Hannan's **Pocket Universe***

While we are undeniably a specialist ensemble working mostly outside the classical mainstream, our aesthetic attitude is one of openness, and constantly refreshed by encounters and collaborations with new composers and artists.

We are committed to diversity of opportunity within new music and are signatories to the PRS Keychange initiative.

Our Aims

EXAUDI is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated 25 January 2010 and granted charitable status on 23 February 2010. The organisation is run by James Weeks as Executive Director on a part-time, freelance (self-employed) basis, assisted by one of the singers. Our income derives from engagements (performances, workshops, recordings), one-off grants for specific projects, and a small amount from charitable donations. We receive no core funding.

Our charitable aims are as follows:

to advance the education of the public by encouraging the understanding, appreciation and development of music by such charitable means as the Members of the Company determine from time to time in particular but not exclusively by:

- a) the provision of concerts and concert opportunities for professional musicians and composers*
- b) the provision of workshops for young and amateur musicians and composers*
- c) undertaking research and development projects which further the principal objects*

Our Future



We presently undertake around 15 projects a year, and plan to increase that over the next 5 years. This is an exceptionally challenging time for the arts in the UK, with survival the foremost objective for many organisations, but we are confident that our reputation and expertise puts us in a good position for growth.

Our activity centres on the continual development of new work with composers. In this respect, every new artistic relationship and project is a development in our work and ensures we are constantly evolving.

Beyond this, over the next 5 years we aim to:

- overhaul and modernise our online presence and branding
- update and develop our Friends scheme
- begin a commissioning fundraising scheme for new work
- increase the annual number of our European engagements and potentially perform outside Europe for the first time
- increase the number of commercial recordings made
- develop our educational presence in the North East of England (our administrative base) through partnerships with Durham Music Trust (local music hub) and Durham University, devising ambitious artistic and educational projects for the region's schoolchildren and HE students
- establish stronger links with HE institutions throughout the UK – conservatoires and universities – with a view to creating enduring partnerships such as we enjoy at GSMD and Durham University

Our Board of Directors

We have a small but highly supportive Board, chaired by Vincent Keaveny, a partner with DLA Piper and former Lord Mayor of London. The Board meets 3 times a year in order to manage the business of the charitable company. These duties include:

- ensuring that the principal objects, public benefit priorities, and compliance duties are met
- approval of the annual report, accounts and recent minutes
- overseeing the organisational structure and supporting the Executive Director
- involvement in long-term business strategy, funding and sponsorship

New Directors – who we are looking for

New Director(s) will complement the knowledge and skills of our existing Board members. We have no specific preconceptions as to what new Directors may bring to the Board, other than that you will:

- have some prior experience of classical and/or contemporary music, whether as a listener, participant, patron or professional
- be enthusiastic about new vocal music, its commissioning and creation, and be committed to supporting both the charity's objects and EXAUDI's unique artistic ethos
- be well networked in your area of expertise and experience, willing to open your network and to get involved in fundraising activities as appropriate

In addition, you may:

- be, or have been, of professional standing in an area relevant to EXAUDI's activities, such as arts administration, education, business, or the charity sector
- be involved with the arts as a patron
- have prior experience as a charity trustee

Eligibility

Some people are disqualified by law from acting as trustees, including:

- Anyone who is an undischarged bankrupt
- Anyone who has an unspent conviction for an offence involving deception or dishonesty
- Anyone who has been removed or disqualified, on the grounds of misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of a charity, from trusteeship of a charity by a court or the Charity Commission
- Anyone under a disqualification order under the Disqualification Act 1986
- Anyone disqualified by the Charities Act 1993 (section 72) from acting as a charity trustee

EDI

EXAUDI is strongly committed to the principles of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and welcomes applicants from all genders, ethnicities and other protected characteristics. Increasing diversity is a significant and longstanding challenge in our field and we welcome applicants with direct experience or expertise in this area.

Commitment

Board members are expected to attend meetings (3 times a year), either in person (Central London) or remotely. These last c.90 minutes and generally take place from 5pm-6.30pm on a weekday evening.

Directors are also strongly encouraged to attend EXAUDI performances whenever possible.

Occasionally the Board organises receptions or other fundraising events alongside performances, which Directors are also encouraged to attend.

Remuneration

This is a voluntary role with no remuneration attached.

Process of Appointment

To apply, please send a current CV and covering letter no longer than one A4 page stating why you are interested and how your experience matches the attached role profile/person specification by e-mail to manager@exaudi.org.uk. The closing date is **1700 on Friday 28 April 2023**.

Selected applicants will be invited to participate in a short video interview with the current Chair Vincent Keaveny, Artistic/Executive Director James Weeks and at least one other current Director in May or June (date and time tbc).

Successful interviewees will be invited to attend the following Board meeting (date tbc) after which appointments will be confirmed subject to mutual agreement.