

## Candidates for Board elections – September 2021

There are eighteen (18) candidates for three (3) vacancies. Please find them below, in alphabetical order (surname), alongside the name of their group, the UK area (as categorised by Making Music) of its location, and a brief statement to help you decide who to vote for.

Deadline for votes to have arrived with Making Music: **9am, Tuesday 7 September.**

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### 1) Janet Ailsa Aps, Lee Choral Society & Lowry Girls, South

Returning to singing in choral and community choirs, after far too long a break, has been a joy. It has awoken a desire in me to support, and be an advocate for, such groups. Packing for my third Sing for Pleasure Summer School, I find myself re-energised and looking for a new challenge. I would relish the opportunity for this to be with Making Music, a team that has worked so hard to support the survival of leisure-time music through these difficult days.

While I dabbled with string and woodwind instruments in my youth, sadly I am now limited to basic accompaniments to Christmas carols and the odd folk song. My appreciation of the depth and breadth of instrumental music remains undimmed, and I would welcome the exposure and further learning that would come from being a Trustee with Making Music.

Having recently retired from senior management and corporate governance roles across NHS, private and charity healthcare environments, I have in-depth experience of working with, and within, effective strategic boards. I believe I could support the Chair, other Trustees and the management team in taking Making Music to ever greater heights.

### 2) Pete Burchill, Romulus Singers, North West

I am inspired by the wonderful work Making Music does in advocating for music groups which has been particularly important in the last eighteen months. The support has certainly been a lifeline to Romulus Singers, the chamber choir I sing with based in Altrincham in Greater Manchester.

I jointly run Singing In, a community music business based in Sheffield, and have an in-depth understanding of the benefits that music making and performing together have on people's wellbeing and mental health. I have extensive skills in marketing, social media, financial management, risk assessment and mitigation.

My professional background working in the charitable sector means I have a strong understanding of the needs of groups and organisations and the challenges they face. I have worked in cancer support and health coaching roles, with particular skills in managing volunteers and developing volunteering policies and procedures. I also have expertise in community fundraising and in securing public and corporate funds.

As a trustee for Making Music, I will use the breadth of my experience, along with my passion for championing community music-making, to support the organisation and its member groups as we face a new future.

### **3) Roger Carter, Camden Choir, London**

I have been a singer for many years, both as a Tenor and as a Bass, and have been fortunate to have sung for many of the leading conductors (Simon Rattle, Colin Davis, Claudio Abbado, Reginald Goodall, Bernard Haitink and more) experiencing first-hand their particular styles.

I was an active committee member of Camden Choir for several years before becoming Chair about nine years ago. As Chair, I have managed the change created by the retirement of a much-loved Musical Director and his replacement by a new exciting younger musician. In addition, I have managed the difficulties faced by the choir by the coronavirus epidemic and consequent lockdown, emerging as a leaner but very healthy organisation.

I am an experienced Company Director of both large and small organisations and Trustee of several charities including a Youthwork charity. I believe I can use these experiences as a valuable Director of Making Music.

### **4) Abby Charles, Cardiff Amateur Flute Ensemble, Wales**

I have been involved with Making Music in some capacity since 2014; first as a volunteer, then as the Manager for Wales and most recently as a Board member, also sitting on the Finance and Compliance Committee.

I would be keen to have continuing involvement in Making Music's work, particularly in representing the position of groups in Wales.

I currently work for Tŷ Cerdd – Music Centre Wales and I am the Chair of Cardiff Amateur Flute Ensemble. Both these roles give me good insight into the challenges that Making Music members face, and I would use this experience to help guide the work of Making Music.

### **5) Kate Comberti, Seaford Music Society, South East**

With a professional performance career spanning over 30 years, my interest in the role of trustee for Making Music comes from a life-long passion for access to music, and a portfolio career that also includes music education and research.

My educational philosophy is founded in the notion that life-long music is for all, evidenced through my considerable experience as a teacher, mentor, and consultant (Junior Trinity, Trinity Laban), and as a music leader on the Music for Life programme, a dementia specialist group based at Wigmore Hall.

As part of the team at Creative Futures <https://www.creativefuturesuk.com>, my role has expanded to include mentoring and coaching, supporting a diverse, socio-constructivist and enabling approach towards all music, music learning, participation and access.

My research experience (Meryc England/EU and Research in Music Education, RCM 2021) has allowed me to reflect on the future of live music in the 21st century, and the role of leadership in representing grass roots music organisations at a political level. I therefore very much hope to be considered for the role of Trustee.

I am a member of Nafme, Meryc England and the ISM.

### **6) Thomas Willard Costich, Harris Music Club, North West**

I am currently Chair of Harris Music Preston, and have been promoting concerts for more than 20 years. It is very rewarding, bringing joy to our members and valuable performing opportunities for so many wonderful professional musicians.

Music societies play a vital role in bringing together artists, venues, and appreciative audiences, and in giving musicians fair remuneration. Over this period, I have sadly witnessed a steady decline in

the number of music societies in the area, and there have been no new start-ups. I would like to see this trend reversed, and hope that through Making Music both existing and new music societies can be assisted and encouraged.

### **7) John Duncan, Monifieth Singers, Scotland**

Music has been a large part of my life from university through army life to recent civilian years. I have been in several amateur operatic groups, choral groups and have performed principal roles and choral solos. I have some keyboard skills albeit rusty.

I was a senior officer in the Royal Army Pay Corps and General manager of Royal Dornoch Golf Club. I was in 2001 a founder member and then second President of the Club Managers Association of Europe and I still chair the certification committee for the organisation. I have considerable experience of administration and working on and with boards of management.

### **8) Elaine Margaret Fox, Vivace Choir, South**

I have volunteered with Making Music for 15 years. I have supported member groups, reviewed young musicians, and helped in numerous other ways. I sing with my local choir and held several roles on the committee including as chair, so I understand the challenges of running a voluntary group.

During the pandemic I have chaired the local Arts and leisure Group providing activities for members including a monthly concert when we were able to showcase some of the people from the MM Schemes. It has been a pleasure to work with such talented young musicians though not without its own trials due to changing regulations! I draw on my work experience as a senior civil servant where I had financial, management and HR training and was involved in the successful delivery of several large change projects.

I believe music making should be celebrated and encouraged and diversity promoted so we bring as much joy as we can to as many people as we can reach. Having experienced the MM 'back office' I appreciate the hard work and dedication of its staff and would like to support them to succeed in helping us against an ever-changing backdrop.

### **9) Paul Graham, Trinity Folk Festival, South East**

In the past 3 years it has been an honour to serve as a trustee for Making Music (MM). It has been a challenging period with the onset of COVID and I have used my skills in music promotion and finance to support MM.

As a promoter I organise a folk music festival and regular concerts, so have first-hand experience of the issues faced by music groups, and as a former chief economist at a major bank I have knowledge of accounting, budgeting and working with companies in financial distress to the benefit of the finance committee.

As one of the interviewers for MM's new Finance Director, I was able to use my knowledge of finance to explore the candidates' financial capabilities and I helped rewrite MM's money laundering procedures. I have encouraged increased use of digital technology by providing an example of how to produce a music video and introducing an online concert. I was invited to Chair NFMS Enterprises which is MM's operating subsidiary.

I believe that my knowledge will continue to be of value as I scrutinise MM's business decisions, and if you re-elect me, I promise to continue to guide MM's development for the next 3 years.

### **10) Chris James, Southampton Concert Wind Band, South**

Search 'Making Music' and find an additional strap line – 'Helping leisure-time music flourish'. I am chairman of a wind band that has indeed been helped to flourish by Making Music in many diverse ways such as gaining charitable status, Adopt a Composer, insurance policies and guest young soloists. I would be excited to become part of the structure that continues and grows in supporting community music makers.

By day, I am a GP, but have had a portfolio of interests which has included chairing health commissioning groups, managing care modernisation, and have been Vice Chair of a national organisation that supported other commissioning groups (NHS Alliance). I was Company Doctor to the English National Ballet from 2002 to 2019. I have been a Board member of the NHS National R+D programme for Service Delivery and chaired its research grant awarding group for research into patient experience in health care.

Scaling back my medical activities, I remain passionate about playing and repairing saxophones and clarinets, playing in and supporting my wind band, various quartets and community music making in general. I have experiences and energy that I would love to use, to do a little bit towards helping leisure-time music flourish.

### **11) Peter Jelfs, Worcester Concert Club, West Midlands**

I joined Worcester Concert Club as a treasurer and trustee in 2004 at the age of 26 and have served continuously while in full-time employment.

Over 17 years I have seen first-hand the importance of music-making to the well-being of our local community. Keeping a small promoting charity alive is a constant battle and I have raised thousands of pounds over the years from various sources to keep us solvent. I love working with my fellow committee members and am so glad that I joined at a relatively young age.

I am keen to see more young people involved in Making Music; over the years, a number of other local promoters and societies have folded through lack of people willing to volunteer, not through lack of audiences!

In my day job I am a qualified chartered accountant and currently work as an academic at Brunel University Business School, so my business-related skills as well as my love for music will help me add value to the current Board.

### **12) David Mark Jarvis, Chesterfield Philharmonic Choir, East Midlands**

What can I bring the Making Music Board and all the musicians they support? Like many choral singers, I have no formal musical training, teaching myself to read music. Singing brings me release from the day-to-day pressures, helping my well-being by working as a team. As a Trustee for my choir, I updated our constitution, liaising with the Charity Commission, and published our accounts online, winning the ICAEW/CAF Charities On-line accounts award in 2008.

An experienced Civil Servant, I have acquired many skills – developing new strategies, making policy, programme, project and risk management, financial accounting, delivering new services and working with lobbyists from many sectors. Recently, my inside knowledge of Government allowed me to help Making Music and others make more effective representations on the impact and appropriateness of the Covid-19 restrictions.

As Making Music looks forward for the next five years, if the impact of the pandemic teaches us anything, it is that we cannot be sure what is coming next. I believe I can use all my skills to help us develop a new strategy that will help amateur musicians, and the groups they perform in, face both existing and emerging challenges that are around the corner.

### **13) Susan Mary Prutton, Norwich Philharmonic Society, East Anglia**

Having always been a singer, I joined church and school choirs in my teens and throughout subsequent decades sang my way through local choirs, musical societies, University of East Anglia choir and on into opera and operetta.

Voice problems, coupled with the fact that I am very much a “people person”, encouraged me to move into production, administration and financial posts within a large amateur opera group who regularly performed at the Theatre Royal, Norwich – I was their librarian, secretary, treasurer and production manager (though not simultaneously).

Subsequently I performed similar duties within another, smaller, opera group whose speciality was open-air performances. For this group I additionally dealt with catering, licensing, police and fire authorities and I learned a great deal about portable loos!

Twenty years ago I helped found a new popular music orchestra of which I remain a Trustee and now I am Front of House Manager and a Trustee for the Norwich Philharmonic Society which was established in 1841.

A retired civil servant and a serving member of Broadland District Council, I offer a lifetime’s experience and expertise to Making Music.

### **14) Kathleen Ellen Reeves, The Fantasy Orchestra, South West**

Having been the Chair of the Fantasy Orchestra (an inclusive community orchestra based in Bristol and Paris) for five years, I understand the importance of leisure-time music. I have seen first-hand the positive transformations that are brought about through music. The Fantasy Orchestra has created a musical community and it provided support to its musicians through the pandemic. As a Trustee of Making Music, I would like to bring about the benefits of music on a larger scale.

I would like to join the Trustees of Making Music to empower everyone, whatever their background or experience, to benefit from learning an instrument and making music together. In my own musical career as a recorder player, I have seen how even the smallest of instruments can bring joy and confidence.

I have experience of heading up multiple organisations – I am currently Chair of the Fantasy Orchestra, and I have been Chair of the Association of Contemporary Jewellery in Bristol – which I would bring to the Trustee role. I know how to manage projects, such as organising micro-festivals and large concerts in locations such as Glastonbury and the Bristol Beacon. This required clear communication and including stakeholders in decision making.

### **15) Martin Scragg, Blackpool Symphony Orchestra, North West**

I recently retired early from a career with the Civil Service including 22 years in Human Resource management. I have wide experience in setting team tone and direction, developing objectives and targets. I have excellent organisational skills, adept in managing relationships and ensuring stakeholders have the necessary information to inform high level decision making. I have a proven track record in delivering to tight timescales whilst ensuring efficient use of public funds. These were frequently in challenging circumstances, needing me to quickly get to grips with legislative changes and deal with uncertainty.

I have played trombone for over 40 years, with experience in wind bands, symphony orchestras, pit orchestras, big bands and brass bands. I have been secretary of our local brass band and there gained valuable experience in liaising effectively with players, conductors and venue management in order to put on a number of successful concerts.

Having got so much out of music in my life I would now like to put more back in and would relish the opportunity to support local and national music-making, from the grass roots up, particularly at the present time when we are facing so many challenges in the aftermath of the Covid pandemic.

### **16) Robert David Taylor, Battersea Choral Society, London**

I am a keen amateur singer with Battersea Choral Society under the direction of Sam Evans, and a member of a very active parish choir and a number of informal choral ensembles.

After singing as a child and teenager with my parish choir in South Shields, I was not involved in active music-making until 12 years ago when I resumed singing.

My singing teacher for the last 11 years has been Ghislaine Morgan. I am pursuing ABRSM exams in singing and also music theory as a student at Morley College and CityLit.

I have been engaged in the voluntary sector all my life. I was a Community Service Volunteer and worked for Amnesty International. I was a Governor of the local infants' school and my professional work has included a project for the International Psychoanalytical Association. As a trustee of St Barnabas Dulwich PCC I manage the legacy endowments and also help run our drop-in facility for refugees.

I have a number of attributes gained through my professional career as a management consultant in financial services and central Government which I believe will be useful as a trustee of Making Music. My professional CV is available at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/davidtaylorocp/>

### **17) Valerie Taylor, Sweet Adelines UK, UK-wide (also Vocal Dimensions Chorus, South East)**

I have been on the Board of Making Music since 2015 and I have really appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Board. My experience as a privacy and technology lawyer allows me to provide strategic advice in areas such as website development (including the MM Platform service), data collection and management, information security and marketing. As a member of the Finance and Compliance Committee, I have provided oversight of the charity's financial position and compliance framework.

I direct a women's a cappella choir, so I bring a perspective from the front line of choral music, including the challenges of running a small amateur ensemble. I have strong contacts with other a cappella groups in the UK from my membership of "Barbershop in Harmony", a committee which forges links between the three UK barbershop organisations, and from my role as a music judge and coach.

Making Music has done amazing work during the pandemic in raising the profile of the leisure-time music sector and standing up for member groups. I am passionate about music and the difference it makes to our lives and I would love the opportunity to continue to serve.

### **18) Neil Weir, Edinburgh Bach Choir, Scotland**

Making Music has a vital role to play representing and supporting music making groups across the UK and I believe the way the Board of Directors is structured with representation from these groups is absolutely right. I would love to have the chance to contribute to Making Music's success and growth by joining the Board and believe I have something to offer.

I fit some of the criteria that you are looking for this year, being both male and representing a choir (Edinburgh Bach Choir) that I sing with and am a Trustee of.

I am a Chartered engineer and enjoyed a long career in industry as a senior project manager picking up a range of skills along the way.

I have been Chair of a music education and inclusion charity called Love Music for more than 3 years. Love Music is also a Making Music full member group ([lovemusic.org.uk](http://lovemusic.org.uk)).

I have also been Chair of a theatre company called Grid Iron for over 10 years ([gridiron.org.uk](http://gridiron.org.uk)).