



**THE LEEDS
INTERNATIONAL
PIANO COMPETITION**

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Role Description & Person Specification

Role Purpose

The Chair of Trustees provides strategic leadership and governance of the Leeds International Piano Competition (The Leeds), ensuring the organisation fulfils its ambition to harness the power of artistic excellence as a force for good.

In upholding the Competition's mission, the Chair will:

- Support the discovery, nurturing and launching of exceptional pianists
 - Help create inclusive opportunities for talent to flourish
 - Inspire global audiences, local communities and the next generation through the transformative impact of music
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Responsibilities of the Chair

Strategy & Governance

- Lead the Board in effective consideration, development and approval of strategy proposed by the CEO, ensuring alignment with the charity's mission and values.
- Ensure the organisation operates efficiently and effectively to fulfil its objectives.
- Provide leadership, with the Board and CEO, in overseeing and safeguarding the financial sustainability of the Charity.
- Ensure high standards of governance, risk management and compliance with relevant charity and company legislation.
- Ensure the Board is as diverse as possible and provides the range of knowledge, skills and experience necessary to deliver the charity's aims.



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- Commit to regular reviews of Board performance, including succession planning and managing Trustee retirements and appointments.
- Lead Board meetings, encouraging inclusive discussion, summarising key points, and ensuring decisions are clear and implemented.

Guidance and Support to the CEO

- Act as line manager to the CEO, providing support, constructive challenge and guidance.
- Maintain a close, open and effective working relationship with the CEO, supporting delivery of the strategic plan.
- Offer counsel on operations, personnel and organisational development.

Fundraising & External Profile

- Support fundraising and development through ambassadorial activity, advocacy and network-building.
- Use personal and professional networks to help the CEO and fundraising team develop access to potential donors, partners and supporters.
- Provide advice and assistance in raising and maintaining the charity's profile.
- Attend events and functions on behalf of the organisation, including participation in the Development Committee.
- Act as a figurehead for the organisation where necessary, confidently representing its mission, vision and objectives across cultural, philanthropic, educational and civic sectors.

Financial Oversight

- Work with the Board and Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee to ensure sound financial planning, oversight and reporting.
- Oversee and approve the annual budget and ensure high standards of financial management.

Board Culture

- Foster a constructive and inclusive Board culture that supports effective decision-making.
- Uphold the highest standards of integrity and accountability.



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- Ensure the organisation remains accountable and transparent in all its activities.
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Person Specification

We are particularly keen to hear from candidates from a wide range of backgrounds, perspectives and lived experiences. If you meet some, but not all, of these essential criteria, but feel you could contribute meaningfully to our work, we would be very interested to hear from you.

Leadership & Governance

- Proven experience of chairing boards or senior committees in the arts, education, charitable or related sectors.
- Strong understanding of charity governance, law and trustee responsibilities.
- Ability to lead strategic discussions and build consensus.

Strategic Vision

- Demonstrated ability to think strategically and contribute to long-term planning and sustainability alongside the executive team.
- Experience in overseeing organisational growth and development.

Advocacy & Ambassadorship

- Recognised and respected leader, able to represent the organisation credibly on national and international stages.
- Excellent networking skills with the ability to strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones.

Fundraising & Development

- Experience in supporting and contributing to fundraising, sponsorship and donor engagement.
- Confidence in engaging with high-net-worth individuals, corporate partners, trusts/ foundations and funding bodies.



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Commitment to Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

- Strong commitment to advancing equality, diversity and inclusion across all aspects of organisational life.
- Sensitivity to the global nature of the Competition and awareness of cultural differences.

Personal Attributes

- Integrity, independence, fairness and sound judgement.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Inclusive, collaborative instincts with the ability to guide and challenge constructively.
- Passion for the piano and classical music, with a belief in the transformative power of the arts.
- Availability to commit sufficient time and energy to the role, including attending key events and meetings.

Term

- **Term of office:** Three years, renewable once (maximum of six years).

Governance Structure

Subcommittees include:

- Finance and Risk
- Fundraising and Partnerships
- Nominations and Appointments
- Creative Learning and Engagement

[View Our Charity Commission Profile](#)



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Application

To express interest in the role of Chair of Trustees, please email...

Chair of the Recruitment Panel, Edward Appleyard

edward.appleyard@thackraymuseum.org

...with a short statement outlining your interest in the role and a CV or link to your professional profile.

We actively encourage applications from people of all backgrounds, particularly those currently underrepresented in leadership within the arts and classical music sectors, and those whose lived experience reflects the communities we serve – in Leeds, across Yorkshire, and internationally.

We are committed to inclusive recruitment and welcome applications in alternative formats. If you would find an informal conversation helpful before applying, or have specific access needs, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you!