



Chair of Trustees, Music at Paxton

Could you help us continue to bring quality live music to the under-served Borders region? Would you like to play a key leadership role in supporting the future of a world-class chamber music festival?

Music at Paxton's mission is to bring top-quality music to the Scottish Borders and Northumberland. Since 2006 it has presented a world-class chamber music festival in and around the idyllic setting of Paxton House in the Scottish Borders, delivering exciting and diverse programmes of music performed by outstanding musicians. Outreach to young people is an important element of our mission, including family concerts and the development of projects with local schools.

We are currently open to applications for a new Chair to lead our Board of Trustees when our current Chair stands down in October 2025.

Previous governance experience is less essential than a passion for the Arts. Our key attributes for all appointments are also:

- The ability to think strategically, to help Music at Paxton grow sustainably;
- A willingness to work collaboratively as part of a team;
- A commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion;
- Strong personal skills, with the ability to bring out the best in other people.

We are particularly keen to hear from those with a connection to the Scottish Borders and/or Northumberland, to help us continue to strengthen our positive relationship with the local community.

About Music at Paxton

Our mission is to provide rewarding, inspiring and affordable musical experiences for audience and performers alike, bringing people together to share music that gives pleasure and broadens horizons. Classical music is at the heart of our activity, although we define 'chamber music' as a shared experience of great music in an intimate setting and informal ambience, and so proactively embrace folk, world and other musical styles in our programme.

A key component in Scotland's cultural calendar, Music at Paxton now enjoys national acclaim and attracts world-class musicians. The Festival draws a loyal regional following from both sides of the border and an increasing number of visitors from further afield in Scotland, as well as more distant areas of the UK and beyond.

Outreach events take place in community settings across the Scottish Borders during the summer months. We actively create opportunities for under-represented sections of the community to engage with us, and for young professionals to gain valuable performance experience. We have ambitions to expand this work over the coming years, with the assistance of a generous recent bequest.

Music at Paxton is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). The Board of Trustees works in partnership with the Festival's Artistic Director and General Manager, supporting them in their roles as required, with additional volunteers assisting with event stewarding.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for Music at Paxton's governance and strategy, and for ensuring the charity is administered effectively, including monitoring and controlling the charity's financial affairs. The Board meets three times a year, with a mix of online and in-person meetings. Sub-groups – for example the Finance Committee – will meet on Zoom between board meetings as required.

Appointments are unremunerated and for an initial term of four years, which may be renewed for one further term. We offer reasonable travel expenses to support Trustees in carrying out their duties.

How to apply

To apply, please email a short biography including any relevant experience (maximum two sides of A4) to: info@musicatpaxton.co.uk

If you are unable to apply by email, please contact Siobhan Staples, General Manager on 07594 224992 to discuss other options.

The deadline for applications is **Monday 2nd June, 2025**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview over the summer (date tbc) and will be expected to attend a first Board meeting in October, before commencement of a handover period with the Interim Chair. We would expect this handover period to be completed by the following Board meeting in February 2026, when the appointment of the new Chair will be formally voted on by the Trustees. Please let us know if you have any access requirements.

For an informal and confidential discussion about the role of Chair, please contact our Interim Chair of Trustees, David Seers on david.seers@btinternet.com. Alternatively you can contact our General Manager, Siobhan Staples, on info@musicatpaxton.co.uk / 07594 224992.