

NYJO



TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT

FOR 2026

THE NATIONAL YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA LTD
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

COMPANY NUMBER: **01334250**
CHARITY NUMBER: **274578**

Introduction

As we celebrate our 60th anniversary, the National Youth Jazz Orchestra (NYJO) is seeking passionate new trustees to join our board and help shape the next chapter of our story. With a new CEO, bold artistic ambitions and a growing national footprint, this is an exciting moment to join an evolving organisation committed to nurturing young talent, expanding opportunities and strengthening our impact across the UK.

About NYJO

Founded in 1965, NYJO has grown from a single jazz orchestra to a vibrant, varied organisation delivering engaging participation projects and impactful live performances for everyone. We exist to empower young jazz musicians and inspire audiences across the UK through our work.

We are committed to supporting and developing musicians of all styles and standards: whether you want to become the next emerging artist or simply play for fun – we're here for it. NYJO is dedicated to making jazz and creative music-making more accessible to early-career musicians, young people, and audiences across the country. Throughout our activity, we seek to create a meeting ground between the established and the experimental – the past, present, and future – to build bespoke programmes which cater to lifelong and new jazz fans.



Our work spans three core areas:

Emerging Professionals - We curate exciting performance projects for audiences and emerging professional musicians aged 18-25, underpinned by a programme of Professional Development.

NYJO Learning - We create accessible learning programmes for all, providing young people with impactful tools for personal growth through creative music-making.

Community Outreach - We are passionate about responding to and representing our communities, both locally and nationally, in physical and digital spaces.

We work in close collaboration with likeminded partners to deliver projects that respond to local community needs and create an inclusive learning environment which centres the voices of young people.

In 2021 we became a Resident Artistic Company at Woolwich Works, a creative arts centre in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. We are a registered charity with a turnover of c.£750,000 annually and are proud to be an Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Organisation, working towards delivering ACE's 'Let's Create' strategy to make the arts sector more inclusive and reflective of modern Britain.



Our Board

NYJO's current Board consists of seven Trustees with expertise spanning digital communications, governance, HR, jazz industry knowledge, music education, finance, and fundraising. We are pleased to have diversified our board significantly in recent years, knowing that diverse boards make better decisions. Ensuring that our board is representative of the communities in which we work and the young people that we serve remains a priority.

Board Responsibilities

NYJO Trustees are expected to play a full role as a board director and trustee in accordance with charity and company regulations, and governance best practice. Responsibilities include:

- Providing strategic direction, setting overall policy, defining goals, setting targets, and evaluating performance against agreed targets
- Maintaining a collaborative and supportive relationship with senior staff and fellow trustees
- Proactively advocating for our work, championing the transformative power of jazz education and the many benefits that young people derive from creative music-making
- Safeguarding the financial stability, reputation and values of the charity
- Protecting the interest of donors and current and future beneficiaries, acting as guardians of NYJO's assets and taking due care over their security, deployment and proper application
- Ensuring that NYJO complies with its Articles and Objects, charity and company law, and any other relevant legislation or regulations

"I don't think I would be at music college without NYJO. That's what gave me the ensemble experience to play and interact with other musicians. It really helped me strengthen my skills. I think that's one of the things that got me here. (...) it also gave me confidence to perform. I got used to playing in front of people. It's given me confidence that I'm good at something."

What We're Looking For

We are keen to recruit Trustees who:

- Are committed to NYJO's mission and will advocate for our work
- Bring strategic judgement, vision and creative thinking to the charity
- Can provide sound, independent reasoning and constructive challenge to our management team
- Are numerate, with the ability to understand budgets and charity finance
- Are willing to devote the necessary time and effort to be a Trustee, and to undertake relevant training and appraisal
- Demonstrate an understanding of good governance of charities
- Demonstrate the intellectual capacity to grasp issues outside personal experience and communicate opinions effectively

We are keen for our trustees to represent a broad mix of skills, experience and backgrounds, helping us to broaden our thinking and provide constructive challenge. At this time, our priority is to appoint an individual with *professional experience as a UK based jazz musician*, as this perspective will complement our current board's existing expertise and help ensure our leadership reflects the communities and artists we support.

We are committed to broadening the diversity of perspectives on our Board. We particularly encourage applications from women, younger people, and individuals from groups that are currently underrepresented at board level. All appointments will be made on merit.

You do not need to have prior trustee experience. Where needed, we will provide guidance and support to help first-time trustees thrive in the role.

In addition to professional jazz music experience, we would also be interested in candidates with demonstrable experience in *music law or marketing*, particularly digital marketing and social media. There is no expectation that applicants must meet more than one of these areas of expertise.

Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

We are committed to providing an environment where every trustee is able to contribute confidently. We will offer appropriate onboarding and ongoing support to ensure all trustees can engage fully with their responsibilities.

Time Commitment

Trustees are expected to attend all board meetings (four per year) and an annual strategic planning session. Additionally, you may be invited to join working groups according to your areas of expertise and interest and will always be welcome to attend our performances and education events.

We will always be respectful of your time and provide maximum possible notice of any meetings and events.



Application Process

To apply, please send:

- A cover letter (maximum two pages) outlining why you would like to become a NYJO trustee and how your skills, experience and perspective would support the charity; and
- Your CV

Please submit your application by midnight on Sunday, 18th January 2026 to Hannah@nyjo.org.uk

Candidates are welcome to arrange an informal telephone discussion prior to applying if they wish, by emailing the above address. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview.

<i>Recruitment Schedule</i>	
Application Deadline	Midnight 18th January 2026
Stage 1 Interviews (online)	w/c 26th January 2026
Stage 2 Interviews (in person)	w/c 2nd February 2026



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National Youth Jazz Orchestra

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