

Highbury

Opera

Theatre

ABOUT

Highbury Opera Theatre (HOT) was founded in 2012 and is based in Highbury, Islington. It is a community-based charitable trust managed by a team of local professional musicians and committed volunteers.

HOT's mission is to produce performances of high-quality music theatre and inspire future generations of creators by bringing professionals to perform together with amateurs and people of all ages in particular young children.

HOT has presented seven large-scale productions in iconic London venues such as the Bloomsbury Theatre and Islington's Union Chapel with the support of local partner organisations and schools, local and national funders and a loyal and growing audience.

HOT promotes contemporary opera. British composers Jonathan Dove, James MacMillan, Scott Stroman and Benjamin Britten have benefitted from productions of their works and from the music's exposure to thousands of children through performances and workshops.

RECENT PRODUCTONS

In 2016 HOT produced the first fully-staged London performance of Kurt Weill's opera '*Lost in the Stars*'. Based on Alan Paton's book '*Cry The Beloved Country*' set in apartheid South Africa it is a powerful story about compassion and understanding instead of hatred and retaliation. It engaged a diverse mix of performers from different backgrounds and people from the local community

In 2018 HOT commissioned artistic director Scott Stroman along with librettist Tamsin Collison to compose '*Fever Pitch - The Opera*' based on local author Nick Hornby's book about being an obsessive Arsenal fan. '*Fever Pitch*' engaged over 80 performers of all ages and played to audiences of 2000 in addition to 1000 children in bespoke schools' performances. It received excellent press and media coverage, one critic writing that "projects like this create the future of opera".

HOT's most recent Sept 2021 production was a short, new, jazz infused opera '*The Weekend*' based on the play by Michael Palin. It was a small production composed again by Scott Stroman and Tamsin Collison working in collaboration with Michael Palin. The opera it was performed in conjunction with local Highbury choir Eclectic Voices in the Bloomsbury Theatre by a mix of amateur and professional singers and musicians in the Bloomsbury Theatre to critical acclaim.

NEXT PRODUCTION

Our production for 2022-2023 will be to create a cross-generational community opera exploring the theme of time in the past present and future. It will be devised by the community and facilitated by HOT's creative team.

WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

The current Trustee/Chair who has held this position for the last 3 years and steered HOT through the pandemic and its most recent production will be stepping down. We are therefore looking for someone who would be willing to become a Trustee and new Chair of the company.

This a great opportunity for someone who has a desire to be involved in community led projects. The key aim for the volunteer in their role as trustee and chair will be to lead and work together with the other Trustees in supporting the committee and HOT's creative team and guide the charity through its next creative phase by helping them in curating, developing and delivering the new production through to its conclusion, namely, the successful staging of the opera.

The volunteer we are looking for would ideally have the following qualities:-

- Management skills in context of small organisations or charities
- Ability to lead, motivate and work as part of a team
- Willingness to take collective responsibility for governance of the charity
- Passion for working on or participating in creative music projects, engaging with local communities, schools, partner organisations and people of all ages, cultures and ethnicities.
- Desire to assist in developing, curating and delivering a community opera production
- Have an appreciation of music and theatre

THE ROLE

The role for the volunteer will be to fulfil the responsibilities required of a Trustee and Chair in directing the affairs of the charity for it to be able to achieve its mission to produce performances of high-quality music theatre and inspire future generations of creators by bringing professionals together with amateurs and young people to create music and perform.

The volunteer will get experience of working in the arts and music sector for a charity whose ambition is to grow and develop by building a diverse audience base and providing the opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the thrill of performing and music making.

This is a part-time unpaid volunteer role which will entail the following:-

- Contributing to the running of the organisation
- Be involved in the curating and the development of each opera project
- Attending and chairing committee meetings (on average 5 per year max 1.5 hours each)
- Attending and chairing AGM's (1 per year max 1.5 hours)
- Attending and chairing Trustee meetings (on average 2 per year max 1 hour each)
- Liaising with Treasurer on financial matters
- Liaising with Secretary on governance matters
- Liaising with Patrons

Most meetings generally happen outside of normal working hours and are held virtually via Zoom. Smaller meeting sometimes happen face to face (COVID allowing)

HOW TO APPLY

We want to work with people with different experiences, skills and stories, as this is how we continue to learn, grow and thrive. We recognise the lack of representation with regards to race, ethnicity and disability in the arts and strive to be part of the solution. We are very open to explore adjustments to how this role is carried out, in order to remove any potential barriers to applicants.

For more information or to apply, please do so either through Reach Volunteering

<https://reachvolunteering.org.uk/org/highbury-opera-theatre>

Or by email to the chairperson Henry Busiakiewicz:

- henrybz1@virginmedia.com

Application deadline is Monday 29th April 2022