



OmniMusic Trustee Information Pack

Welcome to OmniMusic

We believe everyone has a human right to take part in cultural life and express themselves creatively.

Thank you for your interest in becoming a trustee for OmniMusic. We are an award-winning music and technology charity based in Stockport, Greater Manchester, dedicated to breaking down barriers to music-making for disabled individuals and those who support them. Our mission is to empower disabled people to explore their creative expression through high-quality music-making programmes.

About OmniMusic

Our participants are at the heart of everything we do. We work predominantly in specialist education and adult day care settings. Our work is person-centred and through our high-quality music making programmes, we empower disabled people to explore and express their musical talents. We're passionate about supporting the growth of disabled people as musicians, facilitators and advocates. With support from partners, staff, teachers and our practitioners, we encourage quality and excellence in the music that we make together.

To make this happen, we use Assistive Music Technology alongside traditional instruments in our sessions. Assistive Music Technology or AMT is technology which enables people with disabilities to have as much freedom in writing and performing their own music. We research and develop the technology that is used in our sessions so that everyone can be involved. We focus on our participant's ability, not disability.

We want music to be a part of everyone's life, not just in our sessions, so we offer training and resources to those who support disabled individuals so music making doesn't have to stop when our sessions do. We don't have all the answers, which is why we learn together. We listen with respect, openness and empathy to those with lived experiences of disability, so that we can deliver work that is relevant to our participants' needs and interests.

Our Story So Far...

For 20 years, OmniMusic has been a pioneer in the community music space, dedicated to breaking down barriers to music-making for disabled individuals. Founded by Doug Briggs in 2007 after his work with Drake Music, OmniMusic began with small inclusive workshops in special schools across Stockport. Our mission was to ensure every student could participate in music by embedding Assistive Music Technology (AMT) in educational settings.

Innovation has always driven us, leading to the creation of new tools and adapted instruments, and fostering research collaborations with the University of Huddersfield and the University of Tromsø. In 2017, we became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), expanding our reach to include high-quality music-making services for disabled adults.

In late 2022 the board appointed a new CEO, EJ Trivett. With a refreshed direction and vision, we launched holistic music programmes and refined our operating model to focus on impactful, year-round projects. Our inclusive Learning and Community Programmes, started in 2023, emphasising a person-centered approach and low-cost tech solutions. Our new direction has been successful in attracting revenue, strategic and multi-year funding, and growing our team and turnover by <300%.

In Summer 2024, OmniMusic was featured on BBC Radio and were proud winners of the Cultural Education Awards in the *Small but Mighty* category. Our vision and USP is becoming increasingly clear; we have identified where we add the best value and make the most impact, and we are excited to realise our ambitions for the future.

Today, OmniMusic stands on strong foundations, proud of our progress and excited for the future, continually evolving with inclusivity and our participants at the heart of everything we do.

For more information about our organisation, staff team and programmes, please take a look at:

>> [OmniMusic Website](#)

>> [2023-2024 Annual Report](#)

>> [Our Story: A Short Film](#)

Roles and Responsibilities of Charity Trustees

As a trustee of OmniMusic, you will play a crucial role in ensuring the charity is well-managed and operates within its legal and ethical framework. Here are the key responsibilities:

Governance and Leadership:

- + Ensure the charity is carrying out its purposes for public benefit.
- + Comply with the charity's governing document and the law.
- + Act in the charity's best interests.
- + Manage the charity's resources responsibly.

Strategic Oversight:

- + Contribute to and review the charity's strategic direction.
- + Monitor the performance of the charity against its objectives.
- + Ensure the charity's financial stability and sustainability.

Compliance and Accountability:

- + Ensure the charity complies with all legal and regulatory requirements.
- + Maintain proper financial records and prepare annual reports and accounts.
- + Ensure the charity is accountable to its beneficiaries, funders, and the public.

Risk Management:

- + Identify and manage risks to the charity's operations and reputation.
- + Ensure appropriate policies and procedures are in place to mitigate risks.

Priority Skills Areas

To strengthen our board and enhance our impact, we are particularly seeking trustees with some expertise in one, or more, of the following areas (below). However, we will also consider trustees who bring specialisms in other areas that are useful to the charity and its work, just let us know how you feel your experience can best help us to grow.

We recognise that valid and valuable contributions come from both lived and/or professional experience, and do not view either as more important than the other:

Music-making in a Disability Context:

- + Experience of music-making as, with or for disabled people.
- + Understanding of access and inclusion challenges for disabled people in music.
- + Strong network within the disability music community regionally or nationally.

Business Development:

- + Experience in identifying and securing new funding opportunities.
- + Ability to develop and implement strategies for unrestricted income generation.
- + Strong network within the business community.

Communications & Marketing:

- + Expertise in developing and executing marketing strategies.
- + Experience in maximising social marketing campaigns for fundraising and PR.
- + Ability to enhance the charity's visibility and public profile.

Arts & Health Strategy:

- + Knowledge of the intersection between arts and health.
- + Experience in developing programmes that use arts to improve wellbeing.

- + Ability to build partnerships with commissioners and, health and social care organisations.

What's Required

OmniMusic trustees meet four times a year at quarterly intervals, usually online, occasionally in person. Our Board Meetings, or Trustee Meetings as they are sometimes called, typically last for 90-120 mins (1.5-2 hours). From time to time, you may be asked to advise or guide on matters as they come up, to give your input on critical documents or time-sensitive decisions, and support the leadership team as a sounding board outside of these meetings.

We recognise that our diverse board of trustees make contributions from all different stages in their lives and careers; for this reason we always aim to holding Board Meetings on weekdays during the daytime to protect the time of those with caring responsibilities, and over lunchtimes, to support those who may be working during the day. Wherever possible we aim to avoid school and cultural holidays to try to make sure everyone can be included.

Being a trustee of a charity is a voluntary role, which means that you are not paid for the contribution of your time, but travel expenses can be covered if you are asked to travel to meetings.

Further detailed advice will be provided during induction. The Charity Commission and UK Government also provide this useful series of 5-minute guides:

>> [Being a Trustee Bitesize Guides](#)

Join Us

If you are passionate about our mission and have the skills, and experience, we are looking for, we would love to hear from you. Becoming a trustee of OmniMusic is a rewarding opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of disabled individuals and their communities.

If you would like to book an informal chat with either our Chief Executive, EJ Trivett, or one of our existing trustees, please contact ejtrivett@omnimusic.org.uk in the first instance to arrange the time and format that suits you best.

If you need this information in a different format, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

How to Apply

If you would like to apply to become a trustee, please **email us with a copy of your CV, OR a link to your up-to-date LinkedIn profile**, along with **a supporting letter of no more than 500 words, OR a short video of 5 minutes max**, responding to these questions:

Why would you like to become a trustee of OmniMusic?

What excites you about this opportunity specifically?

What impact do you feel you could make on OmniMusic at this point in our journey, and your career?

What Happens Next

If we feel that you are a good fit for OmniMusic, we aim to contact you within 2 weeks of your application to us. In this time, our team and trustees will review your CV and application letter/video and invite you to a meeting in-person or on a video call. This will be your chance to ask questions. If after that meeting we both feel we want to take the next steps together, then you will be invited to our next meeting to meet the rest of the trustees and who will vote you onto the board.

If we do not feel that this is the best match for us or you, then we will get in touch to let you know that too. We cannot always provide detailed reasons for declining your application, but we hope it does not discourage you from applying in the future.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support OmniMusic, we're excited to hear from you soon.