

TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT PACK



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"You know, this project is pretty special. The talent, the approachability of people behind the scenes, all of it. It's nice coming from where we're coming from, the stigma and all that. The team are second to none,"

Former-prisoner participant on *Sounding Out*

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Trustee at the Irene Taylor Trust (ITT). ITT was founded in 1995 by late Lord Chief Justice Peter Taylor, in memory of his wife Irene, who had a strong interest in penal reform and the role of the arts in rehabilitation. ITT has become an internationally recognised leader in the prison arts sector for 29 years and counting, delivering creative music projects which transform the lives and aspirations of those often seen as on the fringes of society. The quality of our work was recently recognised with the Royal Philharmonic Society's 'Gamechanger' award.

Music has proved a powerful means of engaging prisoners who wish to change their lives, often encouraging them to continue into further education opportunities in prison and to use music to express themselves and reconnect with their families. From our original prison model, we have developed and expanded our work into three interconnected programmes: *Music in Prisons* with prisoners; *Sounding Out* with former prisoners; and *Making Tracks*, with young people not in education employment or training and/or engaging with community youth offending teams. All our work uses creative collaborative music-making to break down barriers and build up new confidence, whilst creating important transferable social skills and raising our participants' aspirations for the future.

In addition to our core activities, we run special projects which support our objectives, with a range of partners, including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra on the Lullaby Project (writing original lullabies with parents in challenging circumstances, including migrants and refugees), which is supported by Arts Council England. In the community we partner to deliver projects with youth offending teams and The Prince's Trust. Our valuable expertise in prisons is in demand in the UK and beyond; we were a founding member of the National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance; internationally we have been regularly commissioned for special training projects by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra since 2013 in the US.

We are very proud of the work we are doing at ITT and look forward to welcoming new Trustees who can help us to continue to develop and grow.

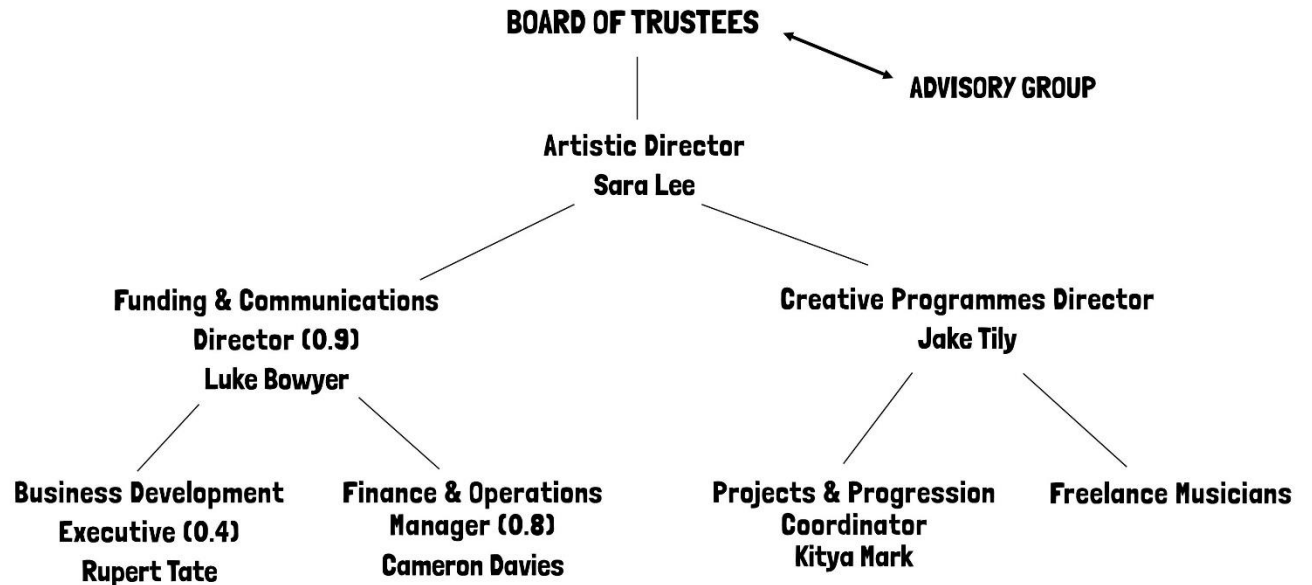
Yours sincerely,
Jane Anderson, Chair of Trustees

Board

Jane Anderson – Chair
Jonathan Adams – Vice Chair
Lisa Birungi-Majithia
Zenildo Cassoneca
Sarah Davis
Ewan Grant
James Maloney
Perry Nelson
Helen Sychta
Carolyn Taylor

Staff

Artistic Director – Sara Lee
Funding & Communications Director – Luke Bowyer
Creative Programmes Director – Jake Tily
Business Development – Rupert Tate
Finance & Operations Manager – Cameron Davies
Projects & Progression Coordinator – Kitya Mark



Advisory Group

Current AG members: Conrad, Darren, Eileen, Leticia, Lucine, Muminah, Reggie

Subcommittees

Finance & Fundraising: Jonathan Adams, Luke Bowyer & Cameron Davies
EDI subcommittee: Recruitment in progress (stakeholders from Board, AG, staff team)
Ambassadors' Group: Recruitment in progress (stakeholders from Board, AG, staff team and Ambassadors)
Governance review: Jane Anderson, James Maloney, Carolyn Taylor
HR: Jane Anderson, Carolyn Taylor

Our history and vision

Established in 1995 by the late Lord Chief Justice Peter Taylor, the Irene Taylor Trust's objective is to inspire positive change in individuals in and on the fringes of the Criminal Justice System through creating music. Our programmes amplify the aspirations of prisoners, former-prisoners and young people.

ITT became a company limited by guarantee (No. 3637201), incorporated on 23 September 1998 and registered with the Charity Commission (No. 1073105) on 23 December 1998. The charitable company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established its objects and powers and it is governed under its Articles of Association. ITT is administered by a Board of Trustees who are also its Directors for the purposes of company law.

Building Skills for a Brighter Future

Creating original music collaboratively can make a powerful impact on people's lives, bringing them new confidence, important transferable skills (such as communication, team working, problem solving and perseverance) and raised aspirations for the future. Our programmes – *Making Tracks*, *Music in Prisons* and *Sounding Out* – support young people at risk, people of all ages in prisons and former-prisoners rebuilding their lives on release.

We work with some of the most disadvantaged and marginalised individuals in our society, who have faced a range of issues, such as abuse, violence, substance misuse, mental health problems, exclusion from school and homelessness.

Our projects empower participants by allowing them to create and perform the music themselves under the guidance of our exceptional team of professional musicians. In doing so, they are able to share their own musical and cultural influences, experiment with music that interests and excites them, and make their voices heard. The benefits of our projects are experienced not only by the individual participants, but also by their peers, friends, families and the wider community.

"What you do genuinely changes lives, you have brought a moment of happiness to a family who have struggled with an incredibly hard time."

Family member of *Music in Prisons* participant on receiving a CD of music created

Music in Prisons

Music in Prisons involves intensive projects for groups of around ten prisoners, leading to the creation of original music and performances as a band. *Music in Prisons* participants learn and work collaboratively, requiring the rapid development of team working, communication and negotiation skills to achieve a high-quality musical performance and recording.

In several prisons we support a *Musician in Residence*, who provides regular music sessions to complement and sustain the impact of the intensive projects.

“My interest in Music in Prisons is a hope that the beauty of music can make a difference in the lives of those who have had beauty stripped away; that music can be a messenger of hope and of new purpose.”
Stephen Hough CBE, pianist and patron

Sounding Out

Our *Sounding Out* programme offers a ‘through the gate’ progression route for people who have taken part in our *Music in Prisons* projects or attended sessions with our *Musician in Residence*. The programme supports former prisoners to get their lives back on track following release through a combination of live music performances, training opportunities and trainee placements shadowing the delivery team on our *Making Tracks* projects.

Sounding Out allows participants to demonstrate on a very public platform the positivity, talent and creativity locked inside our prisons, challenging the often negative perceptions of people who have spent time in prison. The programme also gives participants the opportunity to make a fresh start, to voice their feelings and experiences, and to connect with audiences on a level as fellow human beings.

Participants receive pastoral support and bespoke guidance to further development opportunities from our Projects & Progression Coordinator.

“Being reformed and having a chance to creatively express myself outside is what it’s about for me. I see it as an opportunity to come out and get on with my life, but with the music relationships I had inside guiding me. It’s now going to be professional and with an audience!”
Sounding Out participant

Making Tracks

Making Tracks targets young people at risk of offending, including those on the fringes of the criminal justice system and those who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). Originally focussed on London, since 2012 *Making Tracks* has developed to also include delivery in Bristol, Kent, Manchester and Newcastle.

The programme is designed to expand the horizons of young people through an intensive workshop week, culminating in a live performance to the local community, followed by a series of music sessions over several weeks, through which participants can achieve an Arts Award qualification. The music is recorded, professionally mixed and bespoke artwork is designed for the CD distributed to participants and their families. As with *Sounding Out*, participants are also supported by our Projects & Progression Coordinator, including onto our own progression projects: *Young Producers* offers an opportunity for talented young people from *Making Tracks* to learn about and produce their own performance event as a first step towards developing a career in the music industry, and *Young Workshop Leaders* gives them the chance to train with our project team, experience co-facilitating projects and earn a Prince's Trust Award Personal Development & Employability Skills (PDE) qualification.

"Through music we gain confidence in ourselves, learn by working with others, learn to trust others."
Making Tracks participant

Special Projects

In addition, we work with partner organisations on a range of smaller projects which take our work to a wider range of beneficiaries and build on the experience and expertise we have developed. Over the years, partners have included Clean Break, Kestrel Theatre, Synergy, Drake Music and many more.

Current collaborations include the [Lullaby Project](#) in partnership with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, which enables a range of parents in challenging circumstances to write a personal lullaby for their children. Since 2013, we have been invited annually to share our expertise with the [Chicago Symphony Orchestra](#). We have also previously worked with prisons in Norway, and we are in the process of expanding our consultancy, training and delivery work in Europe and further afield.

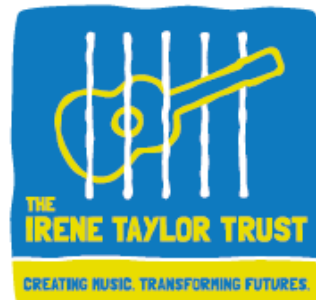
Looking ahead

We are proud of our achievements to date: our projects have reached over 7, 600 participants and audiences of almost 27,000. The impact of our work is clearly demonstrated by a number of [independent studies](#), including the 'Beats & Bars' evaluation of *Music in Prisons* by Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge, a 2019 evaluation of *Sounding Out* by the Institute for Community Research & Development, University of Wolverhampton, and evaluation of the pilot *Lullaby Project* by researcher Sara Ascenco in 2017. There are opportunities to expand our existing programmes to reach a wider audience and to grow our special projects into mainstream activities, in line with our **strategic objectives** (see page 10).

"Being able to look forward to something as well ... You think differently. I'm not taking all those mad risks I used to take, you get offers to do things and that, and I say no, no I'm in a band..."
Sounding Out Participant

THEORY OF CHANGE

HOW OUR PROGRAMMES AMPLIFY THE ASPIRATIONS OF PRISONERS, EX-PRISONERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE



MUSIC IN PRISONS

- Open to all prisoners
- Intensive projects
- And/or Musician in Residence weekly music sessions

SOUNDING OUT

- For ex-prisoners who have participated in Music in Prisons
- Two year training programme

MAKING TRACKS

- For 16-25 years olds not in education, employment or training
- Intensive week plus follow up sessions and personal development support

TAKING PART IN OUR PROJECTS LEADS TO...



OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS



LEARNING BY STEALTH



INCREASING SELF-EFFICACY & CONFIDENCE



NEW IDENTITY



NEW ASPIRATIONS

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

STARTING POINT FOR PARTICIPANTS...

- STIGMATISED INDIVIDUALS ON THE FRINGES OF SOCIETY
- NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES OF FORMAL EDUCATION
- LACKING IN SKILLS, SELF-CONFIDENCE AND ASPIRATIONS



OUR VALUES

QUALITY

Professionalism and excellence underpin every aspect of our work

DIVERSITY & EQUALITY

In both the programmes we deliver and in the range of people we engage with

HUMANITY

Showing compassion, empathy and understanding and promoting well-being

FAIRNESS

Promoting equality and mutual respect; working towards relationships that are inclusive, trusting and that encourage participation

FUN

Recognising the value of enjoyment in creating a friendly, positive and productive working environment

CREATIVITY

Encouraging a safe and supportive space for experimentation and innovation

DEVELOPMENT

Responding to the developmental needs of individuals, the organisation (via research, evaluation and CPD) and the sector (by sharing practice)

Work with professional musicians to write songs and learn instruments	Tap into emotions through song-writing	Provided with a safe and encouraging 'space' for development of skills	Share CD with friends and family	Supported by our team to find progression routes to further build skills
Form a band with peers	Share own life experiences through the music	Record music	Earn Arts Award (Making Tracks)	Trained to become Support Musicians (Sounding Out)
Feel able to express, explore and experiment	Learn to listen and communicate effectively	Perform at a gig to an audience	Change perceptions of others, showing talent, bravery, commitment and perseverance	Trained to become Young Producers (Making Tracks)
	Learn to share ideas, compromise, collaborate	Feel supported musically and emotionally	Improved relations with prison staff and case workers	Motivation to take part in other learning or training
		Increased confidence to work with others	Confidence boost to try new things	Refrain from offending or re-offending
			Emerging sense of identity as a musician	Embraced as part of community

OUR MISSION

To inspire positive change in individuals in and on the fringes of the Criminal Justice System through creating original music

OUR VISION

A safer and more just society

Outputs

What ITT enables participants to do

Outcomes

Changes participants experience as a result

CHANGED MINDSET, READY TO TAKE ON NEW CHALLENGES

INCREASED SKILLS (INTERPERSONAL & MUSICAL) & ASPIRATIONS

IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING

We're looking for a new Chair of the Trustee Board

Due to succession, we are looking for a new Chair to join and lead our welcoming and productive Trustee Board.

At the Irene Taylor Trust, we understand that diverse perspectives strengthen our work and help us better serve the communities we aim to uplift. We actively encourage applications from individuals who bring a wealth of different experiences, particularly those from Black, Asian, and other global majority backgrounds, LGBTQIA+ communities and neurodiverse individuals. We accept applications from those who may not have previous experience as a chair or board member of a charity. We are open to applications from people with a criminal conviction (and could help you to check your eligibility under the Charity Commission rules). We will deliver an induction and support working collectively as team.

Please note, our preference is that our Trustees are based in the UK.

Our terms of office are three years, renewable up to twice. The time commitment for Trustees includes attending quarterly meetings (in-person in London or online), attending our project performances when possible, and supporting the office team on emerging issues in areas of skills and interest. The Chair role time commitment will vary and be around one day a month.

The role of Chair

The Chair plays an important role as a figurehead and leader, ensuring we meet our objectives and governance requirements. Being Chair is a rewarding and varied role (see infographic from the Association of Chairs [here](#)).

We need someone who is inspired by our mission and wants to make a difference; someone who is interested in people, likes making connections and creates the environment in which people can achieve their best. You must be able to see the importance of and understand both the 'bigger picture' and finer detail; to lead decision making when crises and issues arise. You will need leadership and management skills; you could have gained these in the voluntary sector, private or public sector.

As well as chairing quarterly board meetings, you will connect regularly with the Artistic Director who leads our work, and with other Trustees and staff members when needed. Challenges and opportunities arise which will need your leadership and input. We can support you to develop as a Trustee and Chair and link you with organisations who offer learning and support.

This role would suit someone with the following particular skills and attributes:

- Experience of chairing, or attending, a board or a leadership/ management committee, at work or elsewhere
- An inclusive, supportive, positive leadership style and a commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion
- An enthusiasm for networking, making connections and galvanising support
- Resilience and decisiveness in leading when things get difficult
- An understanding of the importance of rules and regulations and the need to 'do things properly'
- An enjoyment of investigating, learning and getting informed on issues pertinent to our work, strategy and governance
- Some experience of big picture thinking and working through issues

How to apply

Please complete the form, which you can download [here](#).

OR if you prefer, you are welcome to instead send a CV and a covering letter (500 words maximum) telling us why you would like to get involved, about yourself and how you would like to contribute.

If you'd find it useful before making an application, one of the Trustees of ITT would be delighted to talk to you to tell you more about our work and organisation. Please email Artistic Director Sara Lee to organise this: sara@irenetaylortrust.com

Please send the either the completed form OR your CV and covering letter to info@irenetaylortrust.com by noon on 10th March 2025. This is with a view to us interviewing during March.

Trustee responsibilities and time commitments

The Trustees of the Irene Taylor Trust are responsible for ensuring the charitable company delivers its mission, guided by its current strategic plan. In partnership with the Chair and Artistic Director, the Board is responsible for ensuring that ITT achieves these strategic objectives. This is a non-executive position with a duty to promote the long-term future of ITT

ITT's strategic objectives for 2024–2027 are:

1. To meet the needs of more people in and on the fringes of the Criminal Justice System and those whose lives have been impacted by challenging circumstances
2. To embed and celebrate Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and amplify the voices of everyone we work with
3. To strengthen our profile (locally, nationally and internationally)
4. To share and develop our experience, knowledge, and evidence to promote the wider use of music in facilitating positive life changes
5. Development: to innovate and collaborate artistically, develop our projects, approach and team
6. To maintain a healthy mixed-funding model and grow our activities sustainably

Trustees are responsible to:

- The Chair of the Board
- All stakeholders, including the Charity Commission, registrar of Companies, funders and other interested parties

Term of office:

- 3 years, with the option to renew twice (maximum term 9 years)

Time commitment:

- Quarterly board meetings; meetings are held in the evenings, usually 5:30 - 7:30pm, in central London locations; online participation via Microsoft Teams can also be arranged
- Trustees are encouraged to attend ITT events and performances whenever possible (ideally at least 2 or 3 annually)
- Trustees should be available on an ad hoc basis to support ITT's staff on issues relevant to their skills/experience when requested
- Trustees will need to familiarise themselves with ITT's policies and undertake safeguarding training (run by the Creative Programmes Director)
- The Chair role includes additional responsibilities and time commitments, including regular meetings with the Artistic Director (see page 9)

What you will need to sign up to on becoming a Trustee

The Irene Taylor Trust's approach to governance:

An effective Board will provide governance and leadership by:

1. Understanding its role
2. Ensuring delivery of the organisations vision and purpose
3. Working effectively both with individuals and as a team
4. Exercising effective and appropriate control
5. Behaving with integrity
6. Being open and accountable

1. Understanding its role:

- All Trustees will understand the extent and boundaries of their role as non-executive directors
- They will understand the strategic role of the Board and not engage in operational matters
- They will safeguard the vision and values of ITT
- The Board will act in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association and other relevant governance regulations

2. Ensuring delivery of the organisation's vision and purpose:

- All Trustees will ensure, through a variety of means, that ITT is acting in line with its vision and purpose.
- The Trustees will receive regular and timely information from the staff
- The Trustees will ensure that ITT has appropriate procedures and systems for monitoring the outputs, outcomes and impact of its work
- The Trustees will ensure key stakeholders are involved, as appropriate, in ITT's planning and decision making

3. Working effectively both as individuals and a team:

- All Trustees will understand their duties and have appropriate documentation defining their roles
- The Trustees will ensure that they receive appropriate advice (internal or external) in their decision-making processes as appropriate
- The Board as a whole will include the appropriate range of skills, experience, understanding and backgrounds to run ITT effectively

- The Trustees will undertake induction and other relevant training as required
- The Trustees will ensure that they have appropriate performance management systems and processes in place to monitor the Artistic Director and the performance of the organisation as a whole
- All Trustees will ensure the Board as a whole monitors its own performance and ensures it has appropriate strategy for its renewal and development
- All Board recruitment should be open and transparent in line with the principals of public office
- All Trustees will act in accordance with ITT governing documents and relevant legislative and regulatory requirements

4. Exercising effective and appropriate control:

- All Trustees will ensure that ITT has an appropriate system of internal controls and that these are regularly monitored
- The Trustees will ensure the assets and property of ITT are appropriately protected
- The Trustees will ensure they understand the levels of risk involved in undertaking the work of ITT and that these are appropriately monitored and mitigated
- Any Trustees undertaking a specific role, such as Treasurer or Chair, will have a defined statement of the role and responsibilities
- The Trustees will ensure that clear terms of reference are set out for any subcommittees, advisory groups etc. and that their work is regularly monitored
- The Trustees will take appropriate professional advice before making key decisions that may impact on the future on ITT

5. Behaving with integrity:

- All Trustees will ensure that ITT's values and ethos are enshrined in its policies and its practices
- The Trustees will ensure that the Board as a whole fosters a working environment that encourages constructive challenge and respects different perspectives
- The Trustees will act honestly in all matters and declare potential conflicts of interest even if their relevance or impact is unclear
- The Trustees will ensure that no single stakeholder will exercise undue influence
- Where Trustees are in positions of representing ITT they will ensure that there is no confusion between their personal views and those of the organisation
- The Trustees will ensure there is a clear policy and procedure for whistle-blowing
- All Trustees will uphold the confidentiality of their meetings and the internal activities of ITT as appropriate

6. Being open and accountable:

- All Trustees will ensure there is a strategy for the regular and effective communication with all stakeholders

- The Trustees will engage in a process that ensures ITT learns from its past successes and mistakes and ensure external perspectives are taken into account where appropriate
- The Trustees will ensure that ITT upholds the principals of equality and diversity, ensuring it is fair and open to all section of its communities
- The Trustees will ensure that ITT engages in its responsibilities towards its wider communities, society and the environment

The Charity Commission's guidance:

- **'The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do' - read [here](#)**
- **On disqualification from being a trustee:**

The Charity Commission states: You must be at least 18 years old to be a charity trustee (16 if your charity is a company or charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)).

Some people are disqualified by law from acting as charity trustees. Subject to waiver provisions, this includes anyone who:

- has an unspent conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or deception
- is currently declared bankrupt (or is subject to bankruptcy restrictions or an interim order) or has an individual voluntary agreement (IVA) with creditors
- is [disqualified from being a company director](#)
- has previously been removed as a trustee by either the commission or the High Court due to misconduct or mismanagement

Full info from the Charity Commission about disqualification is [here](#).

More information about the Irene Taylor Trust, including full academic evaluations and the original music created on our projects, is on our website: www.irenetaylortrust.com

The Irene Taylor Trust is a registered charity in England & Wales (no. 1073105) and company limited by guarantee (no. 3637201). Our registered office is: The Irene Taylor Trust, Rich Mix 2nd Floor, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA. Email info@irenetaylortrust.com