



# THE SUNDAY BOYS

**Board Director (external)**  
Role description



## **About The Sunday Boys**

**Do you have knowledge and experience in the music sector? Could you help to shape and support an organisation dedicated to celebrating the LGBTQ+ community and allies through songs and stories? If so, The Sunday Boys would like to hear from you.**

The Sunday Boys was formed by Michael Betteridge in January 2016 to give Manchester an inclusive LGBTQ+ choir for low voice singers in the city to learn to sing great music, perform and make friends.

We are a low-voiced LGBTQ+ choir, that's tenor and bass voices, based in the City of Manchester. We sing a wide variety of repertoire, with a mission to commission artists who are writing music to create and expand a queer choral canon that celebrates the lives of LGBTQ+ people.

As The Sunday Boys approach their tenth birthday in 2026 we are looking for at least two new external directors to join our board to help shape the future of our choir.

The following information provides further background about The Sunday Boys, external director roles and responsibilities, and how to express your interest.

## **Role of an External Director**

- Contribute actively to the Board of Directors' role in giving clear strategic direction to The Sunday Boys, setting overall policy, defining goals and priorities, setting outcomes and indicators, and evaluating performance against agreed outcomes.
- Ensure that The Sunday Boys pursues its community interest company objectives as defined in its governing document, and uses its resources exclusively to pursue these objectives.
- Ensure that The Sunday Boys complies with its governing document, company law and any other relevant legislation
- Safeguard the reputation and values of the community interest company
- Ensure the effective financial and operational administration of The Sunday Boys so that it is a stable, resilient organisation.
- Protect and manage the assets of the community interest company and to ensure the proper investment of the company's funds.
- Recruit external directors, appoint additional roles and oversee the overall Board performance.

### Other duties of external directors:

- Actively champion the vision and mission of The Sunday Boys, supporting the organisation to raise its profile and widen its reach and impact.
- Provide advice, guidance and support to The Sunday Boys organising team, particularly where External Directors bring specific skills and knowledge to the role.
- Support The Sunday Boys to develop networks and sustainable resources, including guiding delivery of the fundraising approach
- Stay informed about The Sunday Boys programmes and activities and issues that may affect the organisation, through scrutiny of board papers, participation in working groups and discussions and attending activities and events.
- Uphold best practice in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of everyone with protected characteristics, additional vulnerabilities and those living with the impacts of trauma.

## **What we are looking for**

We are looking for external directors who share our values and belief in the importance of building a space where any LGBTQ+ person or ally can celebrate and create music with meaning. We are particularly looking for:

- Knowledge and expertise in: the music sector (across any genre and area of practice); fundraising, sustainability, education, access and inclusion; and legal practice;
- Interested in developing the music sector with the capacity and contacts to help us achieve our mission and vision.
- People of Colour, trans & non-binary people, women and those who identify as disabled and/or neurodivergent as directors from these backgrounds are currently underrepresented in our organisation.

\*Trans is an umbrella & inclusive term used to describe people whose gender identity differs in some way from that which they were assigned at birth; including non-binary people, cross-dressers, and those who partially or incompletely identify with their sex assigned at birth, some or all of the time.

We are committed to developing greater representation at all levels of The Sunday Boys and you do not need to have prior experience of being an external director or trustee in order to be considered.

**“The Sunday Boys welcomed me to a LGBTQ+ community in Manchester both musically and socially, which gave me real confidence as a composer and as a young bisexual person.**

**I have huge admiration for their ethos as a choir that is open to all regardless of ability while tackling challenging and beautiful music from a variety of genres.**

**Composing for them was one of the most personally rewarding experiences for me in my career so far, as the choir members told me how much each song meant to them and that the music stayed with them at poignant times in their lives.” - Anna Appleby, Composer**

## **Time commitment:**

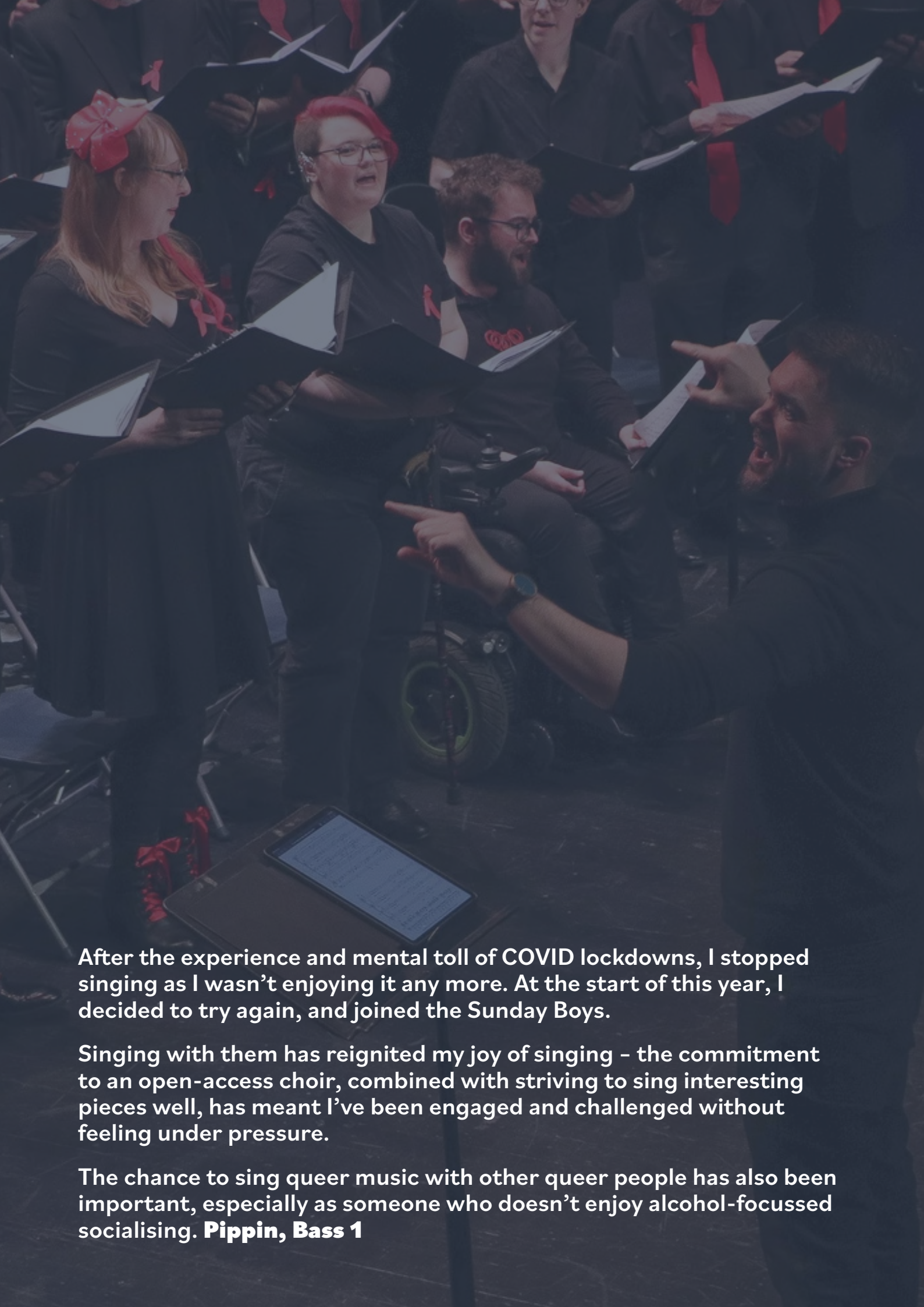
The Sunday Boys has between four and six ordinary directors meeting each year held every two to three months. These take place as a mixture of online and in person in Manchester. We ensure that all in person meetings are also hybrid. Depending upon the agenda, these meetings last around two hours during the early evening. One of the meetings incorporates our Annual General Meeting. External directors should be present at no less than three meetings each year.

Outside of director meetings, external directors may be asked to be part of subcommittees or working groups, or be asked to contribute advice and support on an ad hoc basis. We hold an annual away day to spend focussed time on longer term strategy and broader planning.

## **Upcoming Plans**

We are coming up to our tenth anniversary in 2026 and we are looking at undertaking some ambitious projects including:

- Club music inspired gig in which queer electronic artists across Greater Manchester will reimagine some of our existing repertoire for live voices and track, but also create brand new companion pieces representing the wide range of queer voices in club music in the North today. This work will be presented both as a gig, but also be shared as part of a club night celebrating the range of queer nightlife that made Manchester what it is.
- Collaboration with Melo'Men - a Paris based gay male voice choir - as they travel to Manchester for the first time.
- New choral works to celebrate George House Trust's 40th anniversary based on the charity's history and archives.
- 10th anniversary concert with a significant choral commission: a 45-minute cantata celebrating LGBTQ+ history in Manchester for low voices and small ensemble. We will also invite past members to join us on stage for a massed singalong of some of our most important pieces of music.
- Looking to answer the question, "does our name and brand reflect us as an organisation?" and carrying out extensive consultation with our members to help answer this question, before looking to update and refresh the wider brand.
- Our first fundraising event, looking to identify and engage high net worth individuals and corporate sponsors.



After the experience and mental toll of COVID lockdowns, I stopped singing as I wasn't enjoying it any more. At the start of this year, I decided to try again, and joined the Sunday Boys.

Singing with them has reignited my joy of singing – the commitment to an open-access choir, combined with striving to sing interesting pieces well, has meant I've been engaged and challenged without feeling under pressure.

The chance to sing queer music with other queer people has also been important, especially as someone who doesn't enjoy alcohol-focussed socialising. **Pippin, Bass 1**

## **Governance**

The Sunday Boys Productions Ltd is a Community Interest Company registered in England and Wales and runs the choir. The Sunday Boys is governed by an elected board of seven internal or member directors and two external directors. There is opportunity to increase the number of external directors providing this number does not meet or exceed the number of internal directors. Elections for all board members are held annually, with the exception of the Executive Director and the Finance Director who have to be re-elected every three years. In addition to the Executive Director and the Finance Director, there is a Deputy Executive Director, a Membership Director and three Nominee Directors. The nominee directors may focus on a particular area such as Marketing & Comms, or may choose to take on certain projects and responsibilities for the choir in addition to their responsibilities as a director. The Artistic Director of the choir also sits on the board as a non-voting member.

The board also directs the work of a wider group of appointed (rather than elected) volunteers from within the choir known together with the internal board members as the Organising Team. These individuals look after specific operational areas including library & permissions, comms and access & inclusion. Roles on the organising team can be added and amended as necessary.

We first recruited external directors in 2021 following the recognition of an opportunity to grow and improve through the support of those not involved in the activity of the choir who are experts in their fields. This has proved invaluable to us and this support is something we are eager to expand.

Our current external board members are:

- Susan Clarke, creative producer, Executive Director of Stoke Creates, a culture compact and Founding Director of B arts in Stoke-on-Trent.
- Maria Bota, arts director and consultant who we were lucky enough to initially work with on the Corridor of Light festival

Maria is now standing down as a director after two and a half years with us while Susan is continuing in her role.

## **Mission**

We bring together a community of members, artists and supporters to perform music with purpose.

## **Vision**

Our vision is a space where any LGBTQ+ person or ally can celebrate and create music with meaning - as a member, artist or supporter. Together we'll create a bold new canon of queer choral work, putting queer stories front and centre: challenging perceptions, raising questions, and celebrating the lived LGBTQ+ experience in the 21st century. A repertoire forged in Greater Manchester, yet with an international reach.

## **Values**

### **Inclusive**

We are an open-access choir and welcome anyone and everyone who wants to sing in the tenor-to-bass range.

### **Ambitious**

We are bold. We strive for quality and innovation, challenging our members, artists and supporters.

### **Nurturing**

We foster a supportive community for our members and collaborators, enabling them to be the best they can be.

### **Collaborative**

We seek partnerships with individuals and organisations to support our mission. We invite different perspectives and experiences to shape the work we do.

### **Together**

We use music to bring people together. We celebrate what we can achieve collectively for our community.

**I was diagnosed with Meniere's Disease and as a singer that's terrifying and I stopped singing.**

**Since finding The Sunday Boys I've never looked back. I was made to feel welcome and accepted for my disabilities and it has given me the confidence I lost.**

**I have found my voice again. **Alix, Tenor 2****



## **Financial Summary**

The Sunday Boys aims to operate its core functions through membership subscription fees. Each member pays £24 per month. Members can pay more to support the organisation, whilst subsidies are available for anyone not able to pay. This is something we are incredibly committed to.

Membership fees currently cover rehearsal space, musical direction, accompaniment, music permissions and printing. We also run a cafe at rehearsal each week selling tea, coffee and cake. We hold sufficient reserves to cover at least three months of core operating costs. Last year we introduced financial management software to closely monitor our finances.

We have managed to attract funding for numerous projects over the last seven years from funders including Arts Council England, The Performing Right Society Foundation and Diaphonique. It is this funding that has allowed us to do new and exciting things, take risks and commission over twenty pieces of new music by LGBTQ+ artists including Phil Venables, Anna Appleby and Finn Anderson. While we are grateful for these opportunities, we are aware that we cannot be over reliant on external funding in order to achieve our key aims and we are eager to further develop our ability to attract more individual and corporate support.

## **Contact/to express interest**

In the first instance, please email Executive Director Matt Saint on **chair@thesundayboys.com** to express interest or discuss the role in more detail. We can happily arrange a video or telephone call with the directors best placed to answer your questions should you wish.

**Interviews will take place in August 2024**

**info@thesundayboys.com**  
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