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Seeking two Trustees (one as chair)

Are you passionate about the power of music to make a meaningful difference in people’s lives? Our Canterbury-based charitable trust is seeking to appoint up to two new Trustees to our board this year, one of whom as the Trust’s successor Chair. If you support our mission to positively impact the lives of those with neurological conditions through participation in therapeutic choirs, and have the appropriate skills to bring to the mix, we would love to hear from you.

The Cantabrainers Therapeutic Choir Charitable Trust (CTCCT) is a registered charitable organisation. It is focused on making a real difference to the lives of those with acquired brain injuries and neurological conditions, utilising choral music and specialist therapy.

We have three therapeutic choirs: two Cantabrainers Choirs (one in Christchurch and one in Woodend)) serving those with neurological conditions such as Parkinsons, traumatic brain injury and stroke led by a music therapist and a speech language therapist; and one Connections Choir (at Braintree Wellness Centre) for those with dementia led by a music therapist. While the therapeutic benefits of music are at the centre of our work, participation also provides individual and whānau/carer support, improved advocacy, a sense of belonging and being valued, and outreach into the broader community.

The Trust Board is committed to ensuring the sustainability of the choirs and exploring and extending opportunities to work with other groups. The trust employs a part-time General Manager who alongside our contracted therapists, Trustees and volunteers and of course our choir members, works to realise our vision.

We are excited about what the future holds, and to grow our work alongside careful governance and planning. Now is the right time to grow our governance team both in numbers and diversifying our skill set, and we are looking forward to welcoming new members to the Board.

Position Description: Trustee

Trustees of the CTCCT Trustees give their time, wisdom, energy, and expertise on a voluntary basis to our organisation. Our focus is centred on our members and the amazing people we work with, and our work is supported by our 7 Pillars: Participation, Community, People, Research, Education, Sustainability, and Smart Systems.

Currently the Board consists of four Trustees who meet formally 4 times a year with the therapists, and the General Manager. Agenda items include operations, health and safety, and financial management - as well as goal-setting and working towards our strategic priorities. In between these meetings, Trustees spend time contributing to ongoing policy development, strategic planning, and providing general support to the team on the ground delivering our programmes. Trustees may hold informal meetings as required either in real time, via Teams or on a conference phone call as appropriate. From time to time Trustees are also invited to represent the Choir at a variety of events and networking opportunities, and attend key choir events as board members.

Our Trustees have established a strong, sustainable, and growing organisation with a track record for delivering quality programmes that make a difference. After 6 years of steering the Trust, the founding Chair is retiring to focus on family. Going forward the continuing trustees (three) will continue the great work and plan strategically for our next 5 years of operation and beyond together with two new trustees (one of whom is intended to be the successor chair). A brief cross-over period between the incoming and outgoing chair is intended to create a smooth succession.

The Ideal Candidates:

Could offer skills in at least one of our **priority recruitment areas:**

1. Chairing a not-for-profit organization, ideally with a background in law or business.
2. Strong networks for funding purposes and/or particular experience in diversifying revenue streams for a NFP.
3. Expertise or background in therapeutic practice and/ or a clinical background
4. Those with a lived experience of disability and/or links to disability service organisations.

Other qualities we are looking for:

- Understand and support the work we do
- Believe in the philosophy of kindness, non-judgement, patience and support inclusivity and diversity while maintaining a clear business head
- Be enthusiastic about the benefits of a therapeutic choir



- Have skills you are willing to contribute to the Trust
- Be prepared to devote the necessary time to this role
- Be prepared to contribute your voice to the established team
- Have a good sense of humour and enjoy working with a lively team

There is no expectation of detailed musical knowledge or practical musical skills but these would be warmly welcomed.

We welcome applications from all walks of life and particularly encourage diverse voices to apply.

How to apply:

You can download our information pack from our website:

www.cantabrainerschoir.nz/trust

Please apply by forwarding your CV and a cover letter detailing your relevant experience to cantabrainerschoir@gmail.com

Should you wish to discuss the role, our work, or your application further, please contact our trustees:

Trent Hamilton (Trustee) ph: 021 147 0832 e: me@trent.nz

Clare Murray (Chairperson) ph: 021 448 318 e: clare.murray@murrays.co.nz



About our Organisation:

History of the trust:

Cantabrainers Therapeutic Choir Charitable Trust is a non-profit organisation working 'to connect, enable and enrich the lives of choir members, their carers and families as well as the wider community'. The original choir began in 2012 when a need for such an organisation was recognised by a private group called Therapy Professionals. Their commitment and generosity were invaluable but as the choir developed and expanded it became clear that this model was not going to be financially sustainable in the longer term.

In 2018, the Cantabrainers Therapeutic Choir Charitable Trust was formed to take over the running and funding of the Choir. The trust works passionately in support of the meaningful impacts of choir activities to enable participation, connection and enrichment of the lives of choir members, their carers and families, as well as the wider community. Current trustees are Clare Murray (Chair; legal, financial and governance expertise), Tracey Tyler (financial management expertise), Trent Hamilton (digital operations) and Graham Sattler (community music sector and funding expertise).

Our work now:

The trust now has a part-time General Manager, Tarsha Triplow, who alongside our therapy team, trustees, and volunteers works to further our mission. This is done through working strategically in seven key areas ('Seven Pillars') which underpin our work: Participation, Community, People, Research, Education, Sustainability, and Smart Systems.

After significant planning and work, the Choirs are currently in excellent shape both financially and in terms of the overall wellbeing of the choir. Recently the Trust has entered a period of exciting growth (from one choir to three choirs in the last 2 years). This has been achieved by successfully securing additional grant funding. We now need to further diversify our income sources from 2025. There is plenty of time to plan in 2024.

About Cantabrainers Choir:

Cantabrainers Choir (Central) is a therapeutic choir led by a registered Music Therapist and a registered Speech-Language Therapist. Cantabrainers (Central) and Cantabrainers Choir (North, in Rangiora) offers a therapeutic protocol catering to people with neurological conditions such as stroke, Parkinson's disease, multiple



sclerosis, and brain injury, helping them to improve their voice and communication through singing and socialising. Building on the success of a pilot programme in 2022 for a choir catering to individuals in Canterbury with Dementia, the Trust formalised its partnership with Dementia Canterbury, and the Connections Choir now meets twice a month through the year at the BrainTree Wellness Centre. The effectiveness, consistency and positive impact of this choir have led to it also reaching full capacity, with a waitlist of potential new members.

Cantabrainers Choirs and Connections Choir differ from other community choirs in that you don't have to be a 'singer'. It's about learning to use the voice effectively, in a fun way. It suits a wide range of abilities; the pace is slower and the repertoire is chosen to target specific difficulties.

For the Cantabrainers Choirs, while the Music Therapist leads and accompanies the choir, the Speech Language Therapist focuses on clients who require individual support during the session. Together, their combined skills provide the members with not only obvious clinical improvements, but also the framework for strong social interactions between all, leading to increased confidence, enjoyment and energy. These sessions use a variety of elements of music and speech therapy (rhythm, pace, pitch and volume), and enable those who have difficulty with vocal expression and communication caused by neurological conditions to see meaningful changes. The Connections Choir for those with Dementia uses music therapists only and works with support from Dementia Canterbury.