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Seeking additional Trustees

Cantabrainers Therapeutic Choir Charitable Trust (CTCCT)

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. 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.

Our approach is research-based and includes participation in a therapeutic choir which meets weekly and is led by a registered Music Therapist and Speech Language Therapist. While the therapeutic benefits of music are at the centre of our work, participation also provides individual and whānau/family/carer support, improved advocacy, a sense of belonging and being valued, and outreach into the broader community.

The Trust Board is committed to ongoing research, ensuring the sustainability of the organisation and exploring extending the 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 three Trustees who meet formally 4 times a year with the therapists, choir reps, 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 Zoom 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. Going forward the trust will continue this great work and plan strategically for our next 5 years of operation and beyond.

The Ideal Candidates:

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

1. A robust understanding of financial practices, reporting, and management.
2. Strong communications networks with media and other key contacts.
3. Expertise or background in therapeutic practice.
4. Those with a lived experience of disability and/or links to disability service organisations.

Other qualities we are looking for:

- Ideally be based in Canterbury
- 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 they are willing to contribute these skills 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:

Gerald Johnstone (Trustee) ph: 027 481 2016 e: doctorgsj@gmail.com

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 choir began in 2012 when a need for such an organisation was recognised by a private group called Therapy Professionals. Their wisdom, commitment and generosity were invaluable but as the choir developed and expanded it became clear that this model was not going to be sustainable in the longer term.

In 2019, 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, Gerald Johnstone and Naomi van den Broek who have each been involved since the formation of the trust.

Our work now:

The trust now employs a part-time General Manager, MB Acres, 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 Choir is 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. This has been achieved by successfully securing additional grant funding, which has allowed us to conduct additional focused research to identify potential growth opportunities both to meet the needs of our current members but also to extend the current membership group. The exact format of these expansions is yet to be decided but options might include establishing a choir for those with dementia or extending the geographical scope for therapeutic choirs outside the city.

About Cantabrainers Choir:

Cantabrainers Choir is a therapeutic choir led by a registered Music Therapist (Kimberley Wade, Southern Music Therapy) and a registered Speech-Language Therapist (Angela Reimer, STAR). Cantabrainers 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.

Cantabrainers differs 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; the repertoire is chosen to target specific difficulties; it's not as challenging; and practice is in the morning when people are fresh.

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 trust has exciting plans to continue to deliver and develop our existing choir offerings including the weekly therapeutic sessions and performances. Beyond this we also want to work responsively to engage with our community partners on potential new collaborations, and better understand the growing needs in this area through funded research.