

TRUSTEE Q&A

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TRUSTEE & CHAIR OF SING IRELAND

MUSICIAN & LECTURER



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Why did you decide to join a charity board?

Singing has not only been my passion but also my profession for many years. Having spent my career to date as an international soprano, professor of voice and performance psychology lecturer, I have been immersed in this wonderful art form. When I was approached to take on the role of Chair of Sing Ireland, I was both honoured and excited.

What have you learnt by being on a board?

I have learnt so much about how beneficial singing is to people's wellbeing and mental health. Being a solo performer for so long, I didn't always appreciate how much of an impact group and choir singing can have on people's lives. Sing Ireland has provided guidance and encouragement to groups and choirs all over the country in what must have been, and still is, the most challenging of times. To be working with such a committed and enthusiastic Board of Directors and Executive team is both exciting and very satisfying.

What challenges did you encounter whilst being on a board?

Having been chair of a charity board in the past, funding has always been a key issue and is a big challenge. Also, in the case of Sing Ireland, it is getting to know the wide scope of activities and possibilities for the charity as we work towards realising the ambitious strategic growth plans of the organisation into the future.

How have you found serving on a board remotely/virtually?

As I have only been in the role for five months, I have not yet had the pleasure of having in-person board meetings and have not met all my fellow board members. There is a different energy around meetings on zoom and while it has been an invaluable means of communication during a very challenging time, I look forward to our first in-person meeting.

How would you describe time management with respects to your day-job and voluntary board position?

I am fortunate that I can nearly always arrange my time management to fit in with meetings once I have enough advance notice.

How important is teamwork and collaboration in relation to board effectiveness?

Teamwork and collaboration are hugely important. The coming together of a broad range of skills and expertise, all with a common goal and purpose, can lead to well informed decisions and positive outcomes.

How has your board experience affected you personally?

It has given me an opportunity to give something back and has opened my eyes to the different aspects of singing and what it means to people to be part of this wonderful community.

What advice would you give to someone considering joining a charity board?

I would say to anyone thinking of joining a charity board to GO FOR IT! It will give you the opportunity to share your expertise and contribute in a meaningful way. You will learn so much from others and a lot about yourself too. If you are feeling unsure, check out the various courses run by Boardmatch which are excellent.

Get to know as much as you possibly can about the organisation, do your homework and prepare for board meetings. Take time to get to know the other directors and the people on the ground like the executive team, volunteers and anyone else involved in the charity.

Give it your all, it will be both rewarding and exciting.