



BENEDETTI
FOUNDATION



Chair of the Board of Trustees

Candidate Information Pack



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Welcome from Nicola Benedetti Artistic Director

Thank you so much for your interest in the role of Chair of The Benedetti Foundation. I'm genuinely delighted that you are taking the time to learn more about our work and to consider joining us at such an important and exciting moment in our journey.

Over recent years, the Foundation has grown enormously in ambition, reach and impact. What began with a belief in the power of music to connect, inspire and transform lives has developed into a national organisation working with thousands of children, teachers, young people and adult learners across the UK and beyond. Alongside a strengthened executive team and an increasingly ambitious programme of work, we are now entering a new phase, one focused on deepening our impact, strengthening our long-term sustainability and continuing to advocate for the essential role of music education in society.

At the heart of everything we do is a belief that access to high-quality music education should never be determined by background, circumstance or geography. Music has the power to build confidence, connection, creativity and joy, and I have seen first-hand the extraordinary difference it can make in people's lives. We are looking for a Chair who shares that belief and who will help us lead the Foundation with warmth, integrity, clarity and ambition.

This is a hugely important role within the organisation. Our new Chair will work closely with me, our Chief Executive and our Board of Trustees to support and constructively challenge the organisation as it continues to evolve. We are looking for someone who brings thoughtful and inclusive leadership, strong strategic judgement and a genuine commitment to collaboration and openness. As Chair, you will help ensure strong governance and clear purpose, while also acting as an ambassador for the Foundation and helping us build relationships and support across the sector and beyond.

Most importantly, I hope this role will appeal to someone who believes deeply in people — in young people, in teachers, in communities, and in what can happen when we create spaces where everyone feels encouraged to participate, express themselves and grow.

This is an opportunity to play a meaningful role in shaping the future of an organisation that is ambitious, values-driven and full of possibility. You would be joining a passionate and committed team, working alongside engaged trustees and supporters, and helping us continue to build a future where music education is accessible to all.

Thank you again for your interest in our work. I very much hope you will consider applying.

Warm wishes,

Nicola Benedetti
Artistic Director
The Benedetti Foundation





About The Benedetti Foundation

The Benedetti Foundation is a music education charity with a simple but powerful aim: to ensure that everyone has access to high-quality music-making, regardless of background or circumstance.

We design and deliver inspirational programmes that bring participants together with outstanding professional musicians. These experiences are rooted in collaboration, creativity and high expectations, enabling individuals to develop musically, personally and socially.

Our work is wide-ranging and includes:

- **The Benedetti Sessions** – large-scale, intensive orchestral experiences bringing together hundreds of participants
- **Residencies** – place-based programmes working in partnership with local music services and schools
- **Ambassador programme** – nurturing the next generation of music educators and leaders
- **Adult String Workshops** – our one-day workshops for non-professional adult string players
- **Benedetti Digital** – online resources, workshops and community building projects to increase reach and inclusion and to support our in-person programmes.

We are particularly committed to working in areas of socio-economic disadvantage and with those who face barriers to accessing the arts. Our approach combines artistic excellence with a strong social purpose, ensuring that participants experience both high-quality music-making and a sense of belonging and achievement.

Background and Context

Since its founding, the Benedetti Foundation has grown rapidly in scale, reach and ambition. What began as a series of intensive sessions has evolved into a national organisation with a diverse portfolio of programmes and partnerships.

Recent years have seen significant development, including:

- Expansion of programmes across the UK
- Growth in participation numbers and geographic reach
- Strengthening of partnerships with music services, schools and cultural organisations
- Increased investment in teacher development and legacy activity
- Research into how we can support teachers more deeply



In 2025, the Foundation appointed its first Chief Executive, marking a step-change in organisational maturity and leadership capacity. Alongside this, a refreshed strategic framework has been developed to guide the organisation through the next phase.

The current period is one of development and focus ensuring that programmes are delivered to the highest standard, that systems and processes are robust, and that the organisation is financially sustainable.

At the same time, the Foundation is developing an ambitious advocacy role, seeking to influence the wider landscape of music education and champion equitable access across the UK.

This is a pivotal moment to join as Chair.

Finances and Sustainability

The Foundation is committed to building a resilient and sustainable financial model to support its ambitions.

Income is drawn from a mix of:

- Trusts and foundations
- Public funding (including multi-year funding support)
- Individual giving and philanthropy
- Events and fundraising activity
- Programme-related income

Key priorities include:

- Growing unrestricted income, particularly through individual giving
- Strengthening relationships with trusts and foundations
- Ensuring robust financial controls and reporting
- Aligning programme ambition with sustainable income

The Chair will play an important role in supporting financial oversight, helping to build confidence among funders and partners and will have the network to introduce the foundation to new individuals with the capacity to offer significant support to the work we do.





Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

A world transformed by the joy and power of music education

Mission

We unite, inspire and educate through joyful, high-quality music education for all.

Values

Community, Creativity, Equity, Joy



We are working towards a future in which every young person experiences the joy, creativity and connection that high-quality music education brings, transforming lives, communities and society.

Through our programmes, partnerships and advocacy, we will empower teachers, inspire learners, and strengthen the role of music in education and society.

By 2030, we aim to help build a national movement for joyful, equitable and transformative music education, ensuring music is woven into daily school life and accessible to every child.

We work collaboratively across the UK to create powerful musical experiences that empower teachers, inspire young people, and transforms music education for everyone.

Our values guide how we work, how we collaborate, and how we serve the communities at the heart of our mission.





Community, Creativity, Equity Joy

Our values guide how we work, how we collaborate, and how we serve the communities at the heart of our mission.

Community

We unite people through respect, collaboration and shared purpose.

We build strong relationships with partners, teachers, families and learners, creating spaces where everyone belongs.

Creativity

We embrace imagination, curiosity and originality.

We approach challenges with openness and innovation, and we champion the creative spirit that defines great teaching and music-making.

Equity

We remove barriers and champion music education as a fundamental right.

We prioritise inclusion, fairness and access, ensuring every person can participate, progress and thrive.

Joy

We bring energy, positivity and celebration to everything we do.

We believe that joy is essential to high-quality learning and transformative experiences.





The Role

The Chair will provide leadership to the Board of Trustees and, working closely with the Chief Executive and Artistic Director, support and guide the organisation through its next phase of development.

Key Responsibilities

Strategic Leadership

- Provide leadership to the Board, ensuring clarity of vision, mission and strategic direction
- Support and constructively challenge the executive team in delivering the organisation's strategy
- Ensure alignment between the Foundation's artistic, educational and organisational ambitions
- Oversee the identification and management of key risks and opportunities

Governance

- Ensure the highest standards of charity governance and regulatory compliance
- Maintain robust financial oversight in the interests of short- and long-term viability
- Chair Board meetings effectively, enabling inclusive, well-informed decision-making
- Oversee and prioritise robust and current safeguarding and child protection protocols and a safeguarding culture of accountability and responsibility by the executive
- Ensure that Trustees fulfil their duties and contribute fully to the Board's work
- Lead Board development, including recruitment, appraisal and succession planning



Relationship with the Executive

- Build a strong, supportive and constructive relationship with the Chief Executive
- Maintain close engagement with the Artistic Director
- Provide guidance, support and appropriate challenge
- Lead on performance review and objective-setting for the Chief Executive
- Support the development and wellbeing of the senior team

External Relations and Advocacy

- Act as an ambassador for the Foundation
- Support the development of relationships with funders, partners and stakeholders
- Advocate for the importance of music education and the Foundation's role within the wider cultural sector
- Contribute to fundraising efforts where appropriate





The Person

We are seeking a Chair who brings a combination of strategic leadership, strong governance experience, and a genuine commitment to the Foundation's mission.

Personal Qualities

- A strong belief in the power of music education to transform lives
- A values-driven, collaborative and inclusive leadership style
- High levels of integrity, sound judgement and emotional intelligence
- The ability to inspire confidence and build trust
- A commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion

Skills and Experience

- Experience of operating at a senior strategic level
- Proven experience of Board leadership (ideally as Chair) or readiness to step into a Chair role
- Strong understanding of governance and fiduciary responsibility
- Financial awareness and the ability to oversee organisational sustainability
- Experience of stakeholder engagement and relationship-building
- Excellent communication and facilitation skills

Desirable

- Experience in the arts, education or charitable sectors
- Understanding of the UK music education landscape
- Experience of fundraising or philanthropy
- Knowledge of the policy and funding environment

Terms of Appointment

- The Chair will serve an initial term of three years, with an extension of three further years.
- The role is unremunerated, but reasonable expenses will be reimbursed
- The time commitment is expected to include:
 - Four Board meetings per year
 - One Board development day per year
 - Committee meetings as required
 - Regular engagement with the Chief Executive
 - Attendance at key events and programmes



How to Apply

Please send a short expression of interest outlining your interest in the role and how your experience meets the requirements.

Applications should be addressed to Helen Sprott, Managing Director at AEM International Ltd and sent via email to applications@aeminternational.co.uk

Deadline: Midday, Friday 10th July

First Interviews: w/c 20th July (online)

Second Interviews: Monday 7th September (in person, London)

If you would like an informal conversation about the role, please email Helen Sprott, Managing Director with AEM International: hsprott@aeminternational.co.uk

We are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and actively encourage applications from individuals from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. If you require any adjustments to the recruitment process, please let us know. Please fill in our equalities monitoring form:

[The Benedetti Foundation Equalities Monitoring Form – Fill in form](#)





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