



The Stables Theatre Trustees

Alex Aitken

Alex is a West End musical director and works nationally as a conductor, pianist, organist, writer and educationalist. He is the author of *Mastering A-level Music*, which is used in schools worldwide. He is also a musical director with the National Youth Music Theatre, the Assistant Musical Director at Milton Keynes Chorale, a coach with The Oxford and Cambridge Singing School and accompanist to The National Children's Choir of Great Britain, Oxford Pro Musica, CBSO Chorus and Youth Chorus, Sing for Pleasure and The Military Wives Choirs.

David Danskin*

David is a semi-retired solicitor, having specialised in property development work and has advised numerous clients in both the private and public sectors. He is also a trustee for NN Contemporary Arts.

Monica Ferguson

Monica is Chief Executive & Artistic Director of The Stables and founding Director of IF: Milton Keynes International Festival. A music and arts management graduate she has a background in arts marketing including Head of Marketing for The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry and Marketing Manager at Dergate, Northampton. Leadership roles have included Principal Arts Officer for Bedford Borough Council and Executive Director of Youth & Music and Vice President of Jeunesses Musicales International (Europe). She has been a guest lecturer at City University, London and the University of East Anglia, Cambridge and was made an Honorary Doctor of Arts by the University of Bedfordshire.

Donna Harrington*

Donna qualified as a chartered accountant with PwC and stayed with them for five years in a manager role post qualification. She took a short break to start a family and then began lecturing in accounting and audit for the training firm Kaplan, where she remained until 2018 when she left to take up the Finance Director role for the charity Bikeability Trust. Donna left this role in 2021. Donna heads up the Finance and Audit Risk Committee.

Steve Hasson*

Steve has been a trustee at The Stables for a number of years. Whilst live music is one of his passions, his background is in business. He is a former senior PwC partner international tax partner. The main focus of his tax work is now research into tax incentives and corporate behaviours. In addition to lecturing and writing on business related subjects he acts as an angel investor in a number of start-ups. He is also a founding partner in Talent Wizard LLP, a social enterprise aimed at providing career coaching particularly to school leavers and students. Apart from his work at The Stables he is a keen football fan and is currently training a search and rescue dog.

Dame Ann Limb DBE DL*

Ann is a British educationalist, business leader, charity chair and philanthropist. She is currently the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, Deputy Chair for The Kings Foundation and Chair for City & Guilds among many others. In addition to being a Trustee for The Stables, Ann is Chair of the IF: Milton Keynes International Festival Advisory Board. Ann has held several public and private sector non-executive directorships, including a Ministerial appointment at Homes England. She is a Founder and Vice President of the Helena Kennedy Foundation and in 2015 became the first woman Chair of The Scout Association.

Nicola Powell

Nicola is an experienced Project Manager and established archaeological finds specialist. She is the Training and Wellbeing Officer at the Open University Students Association and has worked for the Museum of London Archaeology and Portable Antiquities Scheme and as a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Leicester. She is also Director of the Woad Farm Project.

Jim Rice*

Jim is a qualified solicitor and was a partner at Linklaters, the international law firm, having started at the firm in 1980. Jim held a number of senior leadership roles at Linklaters and was a member of its Executive Committee as well as an active member of the firm's Corporate Responsibility Committee. Jim is also Chair of Trustees at Southwark Irish Pensioners Project and has held numerous other non-executive and trustee roles.

Kirsti Roberts

Professor Lynette Ryals OBE

Lynette is Pro-Vice-Chancellor at Cranfield University and CEO of MK:U. She was previously Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education and also Dean of Cranfield School of Management and was awarded the OBE in 2019 for services to higher education. She is a Non-Executive Director of East West Rail and of the Oxford-Cambridge Pan Regional Partnership and she is an Ambassador for Willen Hospice.

Lal Tawney*

Lal is a Director at Whitecap Consulting and is a senior strategist and marketer with expertise across the education and financial services sectors. He has over 30 years strategy, product and change management experience gained from working with a range of organisations including The Open University, British Council, London South Bank University, Barclays, Santander and KPMG. In addition, he was part of the management team of a financial services start up.

Dipesh Tosar*

A qualified solicitor, Dipesh is Deputy General Counsel at dentsu international, advising one of the largest global marketing and advertising networks in the world on a broad range of corporate and commercial specialties. He previously worked in the technology sector advising across various international markets, and also held a Governor position at a Primary Academy Trust.

Julia Upton MBE DL*

Julia Upton is passionate about the voluntary and community sector including arts organisations and their role in transforming people's lives and creating vibrant and successful communities. Professionally she worked in education and then led a philanthropic and grant-making charity. Julia is a Deputy Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire and is a trustee of MK YMCA and the Milton Keynes Rose Trust.

* also Wavendon Allmusic Plan Trustee

Festival Advisory Board**Dame Ann Limb DBE DL**

Biography as above

Michael Bracey

Michael is the Chief Executive of Milton Keynes City Council. He joined the Council in 2009. He was previously the Director for Children's and Adult services at the Council. Michael has worked in the voluntary sector, the NHS and also for Ofsted.

Will Cousins

Will has extensive experience of master planning and urban design on a wide range of projects in the UK, Scandinavia and in Australia. He has worked for the Milton Keynes Development Corporation and London Docklands Development Corporation. In 1990 Will joined David Lock Associates Planning and Urban Design Consultants and helped build the Company into an award-winning international consultancy. He was previously Chair of Milton Keynes Gallery and a Board Member for the Milton Keynes Development Partnership. Will is currently a Partner at Pooleyville a Milton Keynes-based Creative Agency working across Culture, Tech and Urbanism. Among its diverse portfolio of projects, it publishes the fortnightly windows on MK - City Mag.

Alex Darbyshire

Alex is Director of Business and Strategic Projects at Rambert. She has previously been Executive Director at Norfolk and Norwich Festival and Tamasha Theatre Company, Administrative Director at English Touring Opera and Vice President at Universal Pictures Visual Programming. Alex has been a Trustee at Nuffield Theatre and Tender.

Donna Harrington

Biography as above

Steve Hasson

Biography as above

Marian Livingstone

Ceri Rose

Gamiel Yafai

Gamiel is Founder and CEO of the multi-award winning EDI consultancy, Diversity Marketplace. He has worked on diversity and inclusion culture change initiatives at the highest levels with many public, private and voluntary sector organisations including The Victoria and Albert Museum, Imperial College London and Santander. He is the co-author of *Demystifying Diversity* and *Yemen Proud*. Gamiel founded and headed up the Diversity Practices for two of the UK's largest HR Resourcing Agencies before setting up Diversity Marketplace in 2005. He is a Trustee for Women Leaders UK, The Inclusivity Foundation and co-founder of Milton Keynes Ethnic Business Community.