

**Return completed forms to:**  
Music in the Round  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sheffield Central Library  
Surrey Street  
Sheffield S1 1XZ

## Volunteer Pack

### About Us

Music in the Round is the largest promoter of small-scale classical music outside London and delivers high-quality chamber music in its home city of Sheffield, as well as further afield in South Yorkshire and around the country. We work to engage new audiences whilst staying true to the original Music in the Round vision of unique, informal and inspiring small-scale, or chamber music, concerts. Our Music in the Community programme of events engages children as young as two to adults.

Excellence and access are central to all we do; our concerts are, wherever possible, played in the round, they feature lively spoken introductions, sometimes pre-concert talks and post-concert opportunities to meet musicians as well as informative and interesting programme notes.

Our resident group, Ensemble 360, performs in our Sheffield, South Yorkshire and touring concert series and Music in the Community work. We also welcome many different guest artists to perform in our home, the Crucible Studio Theatre, and on our touring programme.

### Our History

Set up in 1984 by Peter Cropper, leader of The Lindsay String Quartet, and Tony Thornton, Chairman of Sheffield Theatres, the Sheffield Chamber Music Festival was a bold and visionary festival, bringing world-class chamber music to a city with a limited offer of classical concerts. The Sheffield Chamber Music Festival was re-named Music in the Round in 1996, after the in-the-round layout of its home performance space, the Crucible Studio Theatre. With Peter Cropper as Artistic Director, the original May Festival grew into a year-round season of around sixty performances by musicians of the highest calibre.

When The Lindsays retired in 2005, Ensemble 360, a group of eleven extraordinarily talented chamber musicians, was recruited as our ensemble in residence, bringing the ethos of our organisation to life in many different ways.



Image credits: Left: Andrew Stepan. Top centre: Benjamin Ealovega. Bottom centre and right: David Shapiro

## **Why volunteer for Music in the Round?**

“I feel privileged to volunteer to help during the festival by sitting behind the table of the Festival Shop. Friends and new members of the audience come up for a browse and a chat...”

We already have a group of people who regularly offer their help and support, and get a great deal out of it, so we'd like to offer that opportunity to more people.

We know that people volunteer for all sorts of reasons; these are some of the benefits of volunteering:

- Volunteering for us will provide you with an exciting insight into our work
- You will help us continue to deliver high quality chamber music to people of all ages
- Volunteering can provide you with valuable work experience and an opportunity to learn new skills
- You will work as part of a team with people who share your interests
- We hope you will feel like an important part of our organisation
- You will receive a free ticket voucher for our concert series in return for every session of volunteering you do

## **What can you do to help?**

Our volunteering opportunities cover a wide range of activities from selling merchandise, to providing accommodation for our visiting artists, to helping us to engage children in classical music. A list of ways you can help us is detailed below:

**Merchandise-selling** – Merchandise-sellers are responsible for selling merchandise, including programmes, at the concerts.

**Box office** – Box office volunteers are responsible for the selling and collection of tickets at venues outside of Sheffield Theatres.

**Brochure distribution** – We are keen to get our brochures seen by as many people in South Yorkshire as possible. Brochure distributors liaise with MitR's Marketing Manager on distributing our brochures in shops, cafes and other venues that are convenient for you. Please note this does not include drops to households.

**Data input** – Occasionally we require help inputting data onto spreadsheets and our mailing list. Volunteers should have a good knowledge of Microsoft Excel. This volunteering can either be done during work hours at the MitR office or at home.

**Page-turning** – These volunteers are asked to page-turn music for Ensemble 360's Tim Horton and visiting pianists in our concerts. Volunteers wishing to do this should be able to read music on two staves and have good sight-reading skills. They should preferably be a pianist themselves, but this is not obligatory.

**Hosting** – Many of our visiting artists travel to Sheffield from elsewhere and require overnight accommodation. Hosts provide private accommodation for one or more artists in their own home.

**Event assistance** – This covers a variety of different roles including helping Front of House, event management assistance and helping to lead Music in the Community activity. When helping Front of House at concerts, volunteers are often a first port of call for audience members and event participants. When helping to manage an event, volunteers help the concert manager to run the concert smoothly, helping to set up the stage, looking after the musicians and helping with packing up. It may also involve running activities in the foyer of our children's concerts and they may occasionally help workshop leaders and musicians in providing guidance to and encouraging young participants at Music in the Community events, who may be as young as three years old.

**Office assistance** – Our Music in the Community events (and sometimes other events) often require preparation of materials to use at different events, from colouring sheets to costumes. This may also include helping with marketing and data input. This role takes place in office hours at the MitR office.

## **How Music in the Round will support you in your role**

**We will:**

- Provide you with the necessary information in advance
- Provide a full briefing on arrival at your volunteering session
- Answer any questions you may have
- Provide tea, coffee and other soft drinks where possible and appropriate

**What we need from you:**

- Commitment
- Enthusiasm
- Professionalism
- Politeness, especially when interacting with the public on our behalf
- Willingness to listen and learn

## **What to do next**

If you are interested in volunteering for Music in the Round please complete an application form, which can be downloaded from our website, [www.musicintheround.co.uk](http://www.musicintheround.co.uk), or collected from a member of MitR staff at any of our concerts.

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