

Trusts and Foundations Manager, Wild Arts

£12,000 project fee for the first year

Equating to an average of roughly 2 days per week.

Possibility to work from home or from our London office in Shoreditch, or a mixture of both

The charity

Wild Arts is a music and arts charity taking world class performances to new places and audiences in the UK and Europe in a sustainable, one-planet living way, with our Young Artists Programme and working with schools at the centre of our cultural mission.

In just three years the company has gained a series of five star reviews and press accolades, was a 2024 International Opera Award finalist, and has enjoyed audience acclaim for its wide range of performances.

Wild Arts re-imagines works for modern ears, bringing to life great music and drama of the last 400 years, performing in English with communication, drama, storytelling and musicianship as the wellspring for each performance.

Wild Arts has enjoyed startling growth over three seasons and now performs regularly in over 40 UK and European festivals, theatres and found venues.

Each year Wild Arts creates a new opera production for a UK summer tour, a smaller-scale Opera Evening, a chamber music festival in the autumn, a dramatised Messiah each winter, a dramatised St John Passion each spring, and further recording and concert projects.

Our vision is that great music and opera should be accessible to everyone. We re-invent opera in fresh and vibrant productions with quality at their core; work with schools and young artists to foster future talent; and aim to demonstrate how the performing arts can be environmentally sustainable.

Longer term (over the next two decades), our dream is to build a sustainable performance and education building - an opera house set in a bio-diverse, regenerative landscape or urban context. It will be a beacon of hope in a challenging cultural landscape, showing how we can continue to create world-class cultural experiences with the resources that our one planet gives us. It will be a trailblazing, radical building fusing the latest technology with traditional craftsmanship, and above all inspiring to enter and create work in; fit for the 21st century and beyond, and accessible to all. Wild Arts is building profile and reputation over the next few years in preparation for making initial steps towards realising the dream.

The role

The Trusts and Foundations Manager will report to the Managing Director and will manage our part-time Development Assistant. They will be responsible for scoping and researching Trusts and Foundations and statutory funding including Arts Council England; and organising, preparing and submitting applications.

We are in the middle of the last few applications for funding towards the 2025 programme of work including an Arts Council project grant. The post-holder will need to start preparing and organising applications for the 2025 - 2026 season (starting with the Messiah in December and finishing with the summer tour 2026) and beyond. The charity forecasts organic growth over the next few years, with a Trusts, Foundations and ACE target of £175k within 3 years.

The post-holder will be responsible for managing the whole process, from identifying prospects and developing relationships, to writing compelling applications and reports.

We are looking for someone who:

- Has good fundraising experience in the performing arts trusts and foundations sector, ideally with an good knowledge of opera
- is capable of articulating the organisation's vision and projects compellingly
- Has a track record of successfully securing funding from Arts Council England and similar bodies, and has a good understanding of ACE and other funders' funding criteria and processes.
- Can manage a complex workload and meet strict deadlines.
- Can communicate effectively and authentically at all levels to build strong and productive relationships.
- Knows how to carry out effective research for fundraising purposes.
- Understands that the world faces a deepening planetary emergency, having already over-stepped six of nine scientifically-identified planetary boundaries.

Key Responsibilities:

- Identify and research potential trust and foundation prospects that align with the charity's mission and funding needs.
- Write compelling grant applications to statutory entities like Arts Council England (ACE) and trusts and foundations, creatively articulating the impact of our work to inspire support from trusts and foundations.
- Develop and manage a robust grants application schedule to ensure timely submissions and maximise funding opportunities.
- Oversee the grants management process, ensuring that all funding requirements are met and that reporting is timely and of high quality.
- Cultivate and maintain strong relationships with existing and potential funders, acting as a key point of contact.
- Attend events aimed at cultivating relationships with trusts and foundations.
- Collaborate with the finance and programme teams to gather information necessary for reporting and to ensure compliance with grant conditions.
- Keep abreast of funding trends in the classical music, opera, and theatre sectors to inform fundraising strategies.

Qualifications:

- Proven experience in performing arts fundraising, especially in working with trusts and foundations.
- Excellent writing skills, with the ability to craft clear, persuasive, and tailored funding applications. .
- Detail-oriented with strong project management skills, able to oversee multiple applications and reporting deadlines.
- Knowledge of the opera, classical music, and theatre sectors, and a passion for the arts.

What we offer

- The opportunity to work within a small team dedicated to taking top quality work to new audiences, and supporting young talent.
- A supportive and collaborative work environment.
- Subsequent remuneration, recruitment of development team, and amount of work will depend on the post-holder and trajectory of the organisation

The Wild Arts team

Full-time	Tim Jackson-Waite Orlando Jopling Max Parfitt	Managing Director Artistic Director Content, casting, producer
Part-time	Kirsty Hopkins Rebecca Moffatt To be appointed Jessica Chapman Will McGahon Glerren Bangalan	Project manager, Messiah & Das Lied von der Erde Company tour manager, summer tour 2025 Head of Education Producer, Roman River Festival Fixer for players Development Assistant

In order to achieve the fundraising targets, the following will be relevant:

- Our Young Artists Programme, developing young talent. 4 Young Artists in 2023, 5 in 2024 and 6 in 2025. Potential to extend the programme to include assistant conductor, designer, stage management and players.
- Our schools programme, until now based around the Essex Summer Opera Festival, now entering its third year. Potential to extend the programme to primary schools within reach of our regular venues in Dorset, Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Lincolnshire, and more.
- Bringing opera, music and dramatised performances to new audiences and areas. 36% of our audience have not been to an opera before.
- Touring sustainably. Wild Arts is an Advanced Certificate Theatre Green Book company. All our tickets are sold via Ticket Tailor – a carbon neutral B Corp who donate 1p from every ticket sold towards climate causes.
- Commissioning new translations, collaborating with the creators of existing translations, and commissioning new orchestrations to make opera fresh, light on its feet, and accessible and open to everyone, while never compromising on quality
- Creating productions which are relevant to our world today, while never compromising on quality
- Our registered office is in rural Essex and almost all of our work is outside London, often in areas of low cultural provision, redressing the balance of cultural opportunity. A 2024 project grant from Arts Council England enabled us to take our main opera production this summer to some new locations of cultural under-provision

We are an equal opportunities employer and believe that diversity strengthens and enriches us. We positively encourage applications from suitably qualified and eligible candidates of all ages and from all backgrounds.

To apply, please send your CV with a covering letter to tim@wildarts.org.uk