



Volunteer Session Support Ensemble Unheard

Position title: Volunteer Session Support – Ensemble Unheard

Reports to: Social Purpose Producer

Location: Central London

Salary/Rate of pay: N/A – this is a voluntary position. Out of pocket expenses and travel to sessions will be covered. Volunteers have access to a limited number of free tickets to ASMF concerts.

Dates/times: Hours will vary depending on projects and will be arranged well in advance. Core sessions take place on Wednesday afternoons in 9-week terms throughout the year. Volunteers will usually be required from 13:30 – 17:00 on project days. We ask that volunteers are able to commit to at least six sessions per term to ensure consistency amongst the team.

About The Academy of St Martin in the Fields

The Academy of St Martin in the Fields is one of the world's finest orchestras, renowned for fresh, brilliant interpretations of the world's greatest orchestral music. Since 1999, ASMF has delivered creative music-making projects with people experiencing homelessness, principally at The Connection at St Martins. Over the last few years, the programme has significantly expanded, reaching a further 12 centres across London.

Launching in September 2026, **Ensemble Unheard** is a new musical community of people from all walks of life who come together to create and perform as an orchestra. Participants, including people experiencing homelessness and facing other life challenges, work alongside professional musicians in a space built on trust, curiosity, and creative risk. The group welcomes people picking up instruments for the first time and those reconnecting with music after years away. Through improvisation, shared responsibility, and joyful, vibrant performances, the group builds creative confidence and belonging.

Those involved in Ensemble Unheard, as staff or as participants, have the opportunity to connect with people from a range of backgrounds in a creative setting. Everyone has responsibility for ensuring the environment is safe, welcoming and creative for all those who want to be part of the group. We expect all those involved to take part actively in sessions, holding any responsibilities specific to their role alongside buying in to the overall spirit of the group.

We are looking for friendly, reliable and compassionate Volunteer Session Supporters to help create a safe, welcoming and positive environment during our music sessions for people experiencing homelessness. Volunteers are expected to take part in music-making sessions alongside participants, learning and creating music as part of the group and setting a positive example toward engagement. At times, you may be asked to help certain individuals with their instrumental learning. While not a requirement, we are interested to hear from people who have experience playing string, brass, guitar or percussion instruments.

This is a supportive participant-facing role where you will help people feel comfortable, encouraged, and included. You will play an important part in building an atmosphere where participants feel supported in engaging with music-making at their own pace. You will be expected to support a

positive group environment and encourage people in line with our behaviour policy, helping to create a safe environment by reporting any concerns.

Why volunteer on this programme?

Volunteering with Ensemble Unheard offers far more than supporting a music session: it's a chance to become part of a creative, generous and joyful musical community made up of people from all walks of life. As a Volunteer Session Supporter, you'll gain hands-on experience working alongside professional musicians, develop new musical skills, and contribute directly to a programme that builds confidence, connection and belonging for people facing challenges. You'll be welcomed into a supportive team, invited to training and development opportunities, and thanked with perks such as free tickets to Academy of St Martin in the Fields concerts throughout the year. Most importantly, you'll experience the unique reward of seeing participants grow in creativity and self-belief, knowing your presence helped make that possible.

We understand there are many reasons why someone may want to volunteer and are open to all. This role is also suitable for anyone looking to build experience in the social care or music sectors, or for those exploring volunteering as a pathway into future employment. It's a meaningful, practical way to grow your skills while making a real difference, and references can be provided to support future applications.

Key Responsibilities

Participant Engagement & Pastoral Support

- Offer a warm, friendly welcome to participants as they arrive
- Help create a safe, inclusive and non-judgemental environment
- Build positive, respectful relationships with participants over time
- Provide encouragement and informal support to help participants feel comfortable joining in
- Be attentive to participants' wellbeing and flag any concerns to staff where appropriate

Session Support

- Take an active part in music sessions, modelling engagement and positivity
- Support participants to engage with instruments and activities where appropriate
- Help maintain a calm, supportive atmosphere, particularly during moments of uncertainty and challenge, or in the lead-up to performances
- Follow the lead of facilitators and staff at all times

Practical Support

- Assist with basic set-up and pack-down of sessions (e.g. moving light equipment, arranging chairs, laying out and clearing refreshments)
- Help ensure the space remains welcoming, organised and safe
- Support with simple tasks such as distributing materials or helping clean instruments after use

Following Procedures

- Follow all safeguarding, behaviour and health & safety procedures as outlined by staff
- Respect appropriate boundaries with participants
- Raise any concerns with the Participant Support Manager or project staff
- Attend volunteer briefings and follow instructions given at the start of each session

Person Specification

Essential

- Over 18 years of age
- Friendly, approachable and comfortable working with a wide range of people
- Empathetic and non-judgemental attitude, with an interest in supporting people experiencing homelessness
- Reliable and able to commit to agreed sessions
- Willingness to take part in group activities, including music-making
- Able to follow guidance and work as part of a team
- Interest in or enthusiasm for music and creative activity

Desirable (but not essential)

- Experience playing a musical instrument, alone or with others
- Experience volunteering or working in a community or support setting
- Understanding of challenges relating to homelessness

Additional Information

- We welcome applications from people with lived experience of homelessness
- Volunteers will be required to hold or undertake an enhanced DBS check
- Training will be provided, including safeguarding and session preparation
- Ongoing support will be available from the project team

To apply

Interested applicants should submit a CV with covering letter to Esme Sullivan, Performance & Projects Assistant socialpurpose@asmf.org. Please ensure you use the word **Volunteer** in the subject line of the email when applying. While not essential, we would appreciate you indicating as part of your application if you have any experience playing musical instruments.

For a confidential conversation about the role ahead of applying, please contact socialpurpose@asmf.org and a member of the team will be in touch.

Closing date: 10am, Friday 7 August

Interviews: Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th August, in-person

Please indicate availability for interviews in your application.

About the Academy of St Martin in The Fields

Founded in 1958 by Sir Neville Marriner, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields has evolved into a musical powerhouse, an orchestra renowned across the world for its commitment to the musical freedom of its players and the sharing of joyful, inspiring performances. Our player-led approach empowers every member of the orchestra. This creates a direct line and electrifying connection between the orchestra and our audiences, resulting in ambitious and collaborative performances that transcend a more traditional conductor-led model.

Beyond the concert hall, our commitment to a social purpose manifests in impactful projects that harness the power of music to empower people. We have a longstanding history of work which connects with people experiencing homelessness, and our education projects encourage autonomy and creativity among emerging musicians worldwide. Our collective artistic responsibility fosters enduring collaborations with world-renowned soloists, exemplified by our 15-year partnership with Music Director and virtuoso violinist Joshua Bell. These collaborations showcase the benefits of trust and true artistic collaboration developed over time.

Building on its rich global legacy, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields remains one of the world's most-recorded orchestras, igniting a love for classical music in people around the world through live performance and digital initiatives. Today, we continue a busy international touring programme alongside a significant presence in the UK – making us one of the country's most celebrated cultural exports.

About our company culture

We believe that we get the best results by involving our musicians in the planning and delivery of our work, and by being open and transparent about the opportunities and challenges faced by the orchestra. Our office team is agile, committed and friendly - we believe in ensuring that people have the opportunities to develop their skills and grow in their roles. The culture is non-hierarchical, and we encourage everyone to share ideas and suggestions for the future of the orchestra. We trust the individuals in our team to deliver their work and to shape their working days in the way that best suits them, with a genuinely flexible approach to office vs home working. We believe that working in our industry should be rewarding and enjoyable, and work hard to ensure our working practices empower our team members so that they can do great work in an environment that is genuinely supportive and fulfilling.