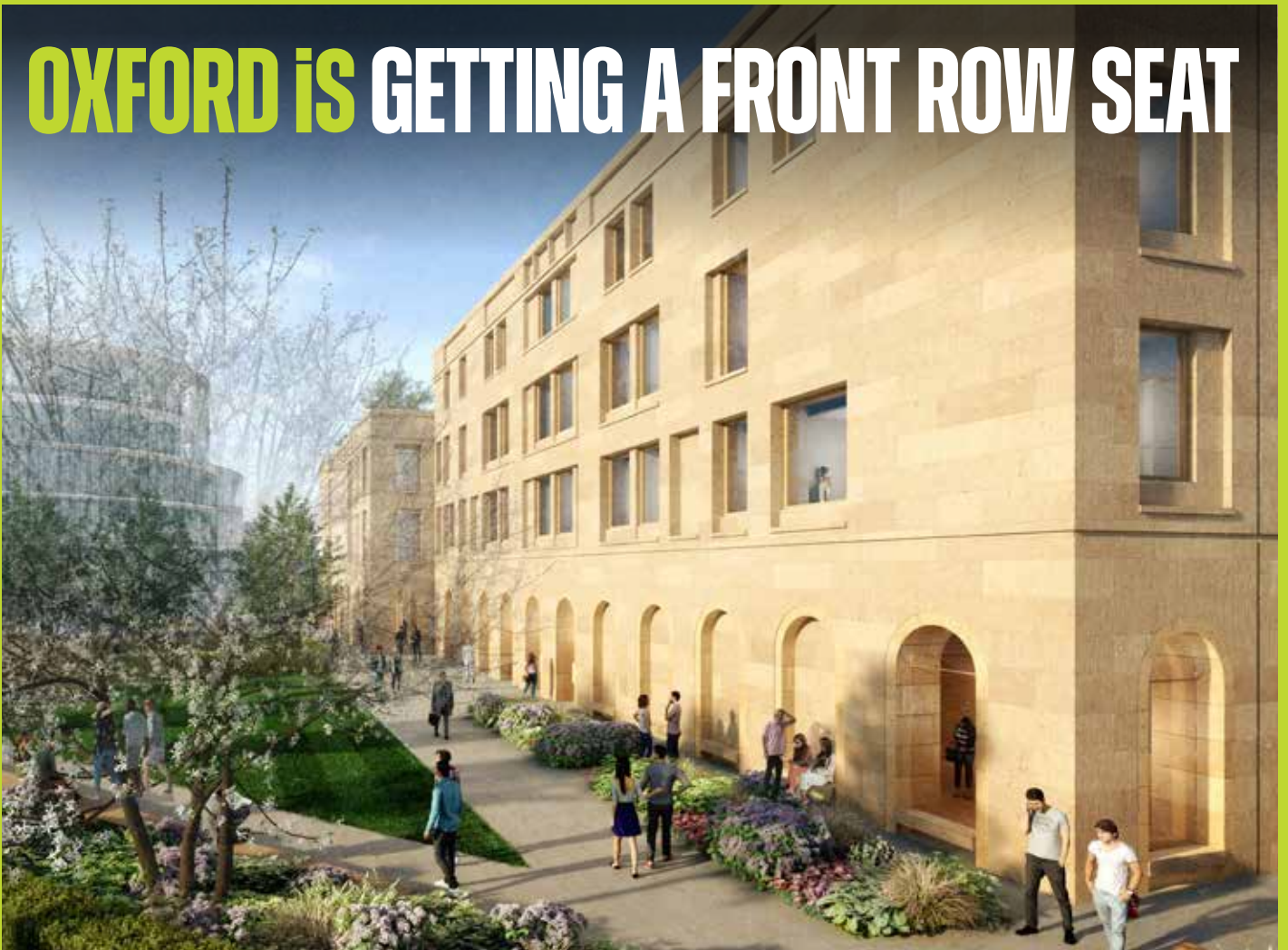


HUMANITIES DIVISION, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Cultural Programme

STEERING GROUP RECRUITMENT PACK

OXFORD is GETTING A FRONT ROW SEAT



Oi OXFORD IS
EXTRAORDINARY
EVENTS FOR ALL

PRODUCED BY THE
**Cultural
Programme**



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1 WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in the Cultural Programme Steering Group. This is an exciting time in the development of the programme with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform the cultural and artistic life of the University, the city and beyond.

In this pack you will find information about the programme, the Humanities Division and The University of Oxford including what would be expected of you on joining the group, and more about the application process.

At this stage, we are looking for eight people from beyond the University of Oxford to join the Steering Group. These people will bring a passion for the positive role of arts & culture in the world and experience of either Oxford and its region or of the cultural sector. We will prioritise recruiting a group with a diverse range of perspectives.

The Cultural Programme will be housed in Schwarzman Centre due to open in 2025 creating a space where world-leading research takes place alongside arts and cultural activity of the highest quality. It will transform the way Oxford teaches, researches, and shares the humanities with the world.

At the heart of the vision for the new building is a suite of performance spaces, including a world-class concert hall, a theatre, a cinema, an exhibition space, and a black box space for immersive work. Together, these facilities will enrich Oxford's cultural landscape and foster interdisciplinary collaboration.

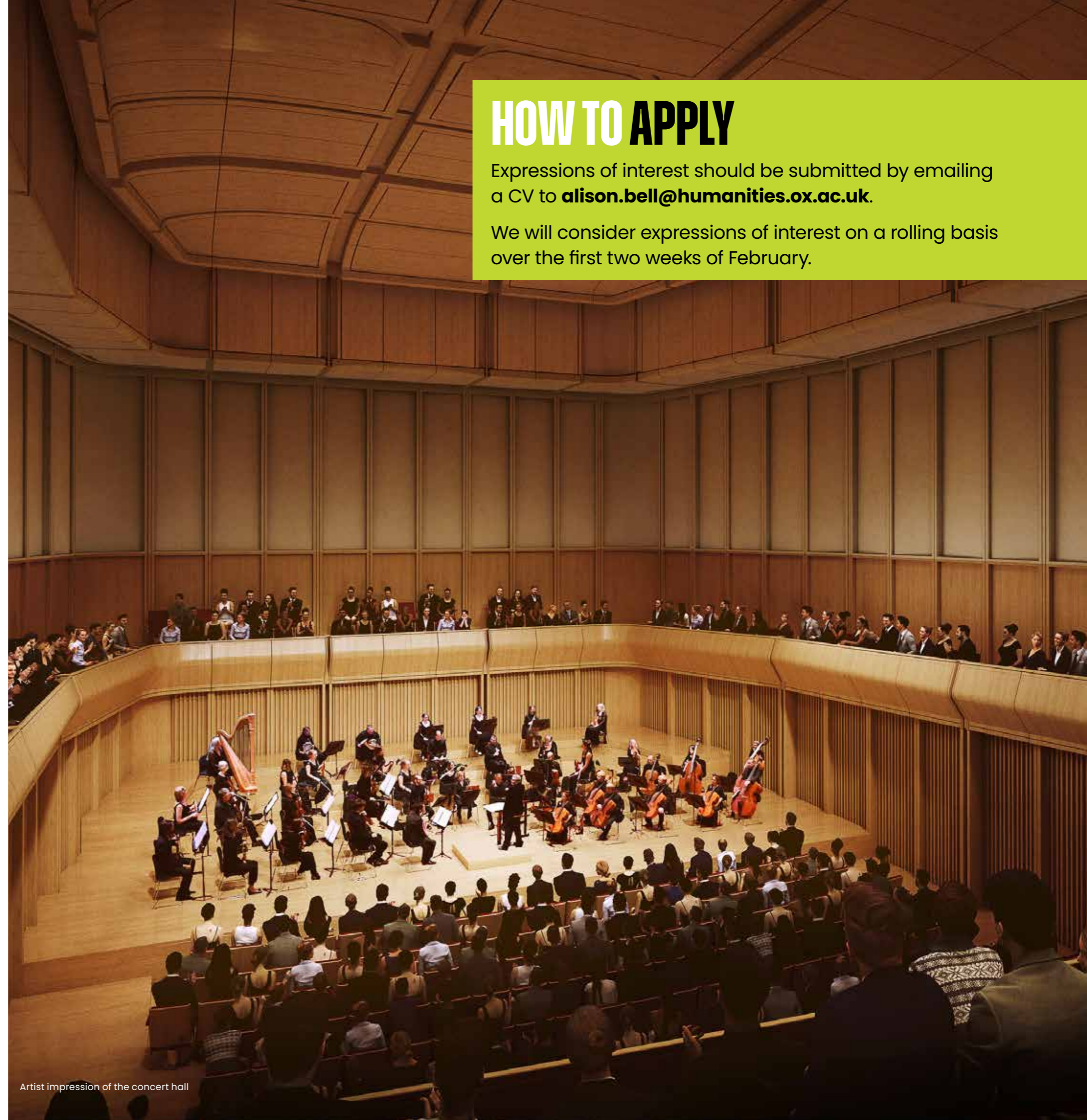
This is a significant moment for culture in Oxford and we are committed to ensuring everyone, from all backgrounds, can participate in the joy and power of the arts. I hope that you can join us.

John Fulljames, Director

HOW TO APPLY

Expressions of interest should be submitted by emailing a CV to alison.bell@humanities.ox.ac.uk.

We will consider expressions of interest on a rolling basis over the first two weeks of February.



Artist impression of the concert hall



2 THE ROLE OF THE STEERING GROUP

The Cultural Programme Steering Group plays a vital role in supporting and advising the Cultural Programme Director and team on the strategy and development of the Cultural Programme.

Specifically, the role of the Group is to:

1. offer skilled input and oversight into strategy
2. monitor, evaluate and communicate performance against strategy
3. act as ambassadors and advocates for the Programme

The group is tasked to discuss artistic/cultural strategy, and evaluate the success of delivery of the strategy, but will not be responsible for specific programming decisions.

The group has no fiscal responsibility however financial documentation will be presented for context and information.

While some members of this steering group may have networks which are helpful for fundraising, we are not seeking to recruit members with the primary purpose to fulfill a fundraising role.

3 YOUR COMMITMENT

Members will need to commit to regular meetings and will meet as a group c. 5 times per year. Between the meetings, members will be available for conversations with the Cultural Programme Director and team. The new Steering Group will meet for the first time in the first part of 2024.

Steering Group members will be invited to serve for a three-year term (with the exception of the student members who will rotate annually), with the possibility of extension for a second term before mandatory retirement.

Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

4 BACKGROUND TO THE CULTURAL PROGRAMME

Mission

We will bring together local, university and global cultural communities in a physical and digital cultural offer, powered by the University of Oxford's research. Based in the performance and public spaces in the new Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities, we will promote broad engagement with the riches of the humanities by working with outstanding artists, writers and thinkers from around the world to create and present world-class arts and culture. Innovative and diverse, our programmes will be delivered in collaboration with university, local, national and international partners.



Based in the performance and public spaces in the new Stephen A Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities, the Cultural Programme will bring together local, university and global cultural communities in a physical and digital cultural offer, inspired by the University of Oxford's research.

The Schwarzman Centre will be a space where world-leading research takes place alongside arts and cultural activity of the highest quality. It will transform the way Oxford teaches, researches, and shares the humanities with the world. At the heart of the vision for the new building is a suite of performance spaces, including a world-class concert hall, a theatre, a cinema, an exhibition space, and a black box space for immersive work. Together, these facilities will enrich Oxford's cultural landscape and foster interdisciplinary collaboration.

Animating the new Schwarzman Centre will be an ambitious, wide-ranging and diverse

programme comprising performances, mini-festivals, workshops, exhibitions, screenings, talks and other public events. The Cultural Programme will create places and spaces for collaboration across all genres and disciplines and attract artists, audiences and visitors of all backgrounds from across the globe.

The Humanities Division

The Cultural Programme team sits with the Humanities Division at the University of Oxford, and works closely with the Torch and Knowledge Exchange teams. The Humanities Division is one of four academic divisions in the University of Oxford, bringing together nine faculties and the Ruskin School of Art. The divisions faculties are among the largest in the world, enabling Oxford to offer an education in Arts and Humanities unparalleled in its range of subjects, from music and fine art to ancient and modern languages. The Cultural Programme will establish multiple

collaborations locally, nationally, and internationally to develop an exceptional array of activities designed to engage new audiences – not merely as spectators but as partners in a lively, critical dialogue about the role and the value of the humanities, both in narrating our past and in shaping our future.

The Humanities Division is currently reviewing its governance structures and processes to ensure that, with the move to the Schwarzman Centre and the opportunities it presents, they support both strategic and operational developments. This review will build on the current structures to ensure that there are both the right operational structures, in terms of management committees (for example, the Cultural Programme Steering Group and a Building Operations Committee), and strategic oversight. In terms of the latter, it is proposed that a non-executive board is developed to advise the Division on the

strategic development and operation of the Centre, bringing together high-level, cross-sector experience of areas such as fundraising, creative industries and business engagement.

The CP also plays a role within the wider university supporting more joined-up and strategic working in the area of arts & culture; enabling coherence, evaluating impact and articulating value.

The CP reports to the Planning & Resource Committee of the Humanities Divisional Board (HPRC) within the university, so there is clear oversight and reporting on strategy, planning, finance and evaluation. This is the formal route for reporting and decision-making on all matters relating to risk and control; ensuring that decision-making processes are informed, rigorous and timely, and that effective delegation, control and risk-assessment systems are set up and monitored.

5 ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The University of Oxford has the aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford's researchers engage with academic, commercial and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts. We believe our strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, while providing all our staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that enables everyone to develop and do their best work.

Recognising that diversity is our strength, vital for innovation and creativity, we aspire to build a truly diverse community which values and respects every individual's unique contribution. While we have long traditions of scholarship, we are also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities and we rank first in the UK for university spin-outs, and in recent years we have spun out 15-20 new companies every year. We are also recognised as leaders in support for social enterprise.

Join us and you will find a unique, democratic and international community, a great range of staff benefits and access to a vibrant array of cultural activities in the beautiful city of Oxford. For more information, please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation.

Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities

Construction on the Stephen A. Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities is well underway and on track for completion in 2025. Located amid landscaped gardens on the university's historic Radcliffe Observatory Quarter in central Oxford and housed in a contemporary building designed by Hopkins Architects, whose previous work includes Glyndebourne Opera House, Kroon Hall at Yale University and Portcullis House in Westminster, the Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities will become a new home for the research and teaching of Oxford's humanities disciplines with state-of-the-art academic, exhibition and performance spaces. It will bring together seven faculties, the Institute for Ethics in AI, the Oxford Internet Institute, and a new humanities library. It has been made possible by gifts from philanthropist and businessman Stephen A. Schwarzman.

The Cultural Programme will come to life in – and bring to life – the Centre's outstanding performance venues. The landmark performing arts space will be the striking 500-seat concert hall, with seating for up to 60 musicians, and an orchestra pit and balcony seating for choral works. It will support a diverse range of artforms with music at the heart of the programme. State-of-the-art studio facilities will capture and record performances by acclaimed visiting artists, young professionals, and students and a digital strategy will reach new audiences both locally and internationally. The 250-seat auditorium/lecture theatre will support staged drama and the spoken word, and the 100-seat black box experimental performance lab with lighting rig and balcony offers

opportunities to create and innovate. The rehearsal hall will accommodate up to 100 people, and includes a semi sprung floor for dance. A 100-seat screening room will include facilities for 35mm projection and a high-quality sound system and there will also be an exhibition hall on the ground floor, and a dedicated space for school groups with separate access to the building adjacent to the university's remarkable Bate Collection of Musical Instruments.

The Centre will be open to the everyone, who might visit to attend our performances, or simply to walk in for a coffee or a drink which they can enjoy them in the building or one of the new green spaces outside. The building project is the largest ever undertaken by Oxford University and will become one of the biggest buildings to adhere to Passivhaus standards.



6 HOW TO APPLY

If you would like to learn more, we can arrange an initial informal chat with a senior member of the Cultural Programme team. Please email alison.bell@humanities.ox.ac.uk.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by emailing a CV to alison.bell@humanities.ox.ac.uk.

We will consider expressions of interest on a rolling basis over the first two weeks of February.

We are committed to a diverse and inclusive Steering Group and we actively encourage applications from groups underrepresented in sector leadership, particularly people from the global majority and people with disabilities.

