

The Founding Trustees:

Apart from Lady Munster who herself sat on the panel of Trustees until her death in 1979, the first Trustees included friends of Lady Munster, from the worlds of finance and music. They were:-

Gerald Coke, CBE – 1958-1979 Founder of the Trust and its first Chairman. Chairman of the Glyndebourne Arts Trust and of the Governors of King Edward’s School, Witley, his directorships included Rio Tinto–Zinc and the Royal Academy of Music. All these appointments were of considerable significance to the Trust. Other directorships included S.G. Warburg & Co. and the Royal Opera House. He was a serious collector of Handel memorabilia, which is now housed in the Foundling Museum in Bloomsbury. He retired as Chairman of the Trust in 1978 but remained a Trustee until the following February.

Leopold de Rothschild, CBE – 1958-2005 Replaced Gerald Coke as Chairman in 1978. His appointments included Chairman of the Council of the Royal College of Music, of the English Chamber Orchestra and the Bach Choir. His directorships included the National Museum of Science and Industry, Sadler’s Wells (now English National Opera), the Glyndebourne Arts Trust, the Bank of England and his family’s bank, N.M. Rothschild & Sons Ltd.

These two men, who devoted so much time and energy to the Trust and to the young artists who benefitted therefrom, have been the major influences in the Trust’s history; both from the financial world, both possessed of a great and enduring love of music.

Sir Thomas Armstrong – 1958-1971 Educated at Keble College, Oxford, and at the Royal College of Music, he became organist at Christ Church, Oxford, from 1935-1955, and Principal of the Royal Academy of Music from 1955. He gave valuable support to Gerald Coke and Hilary Munster in setting up the Trust. He retired as a trustee in 1971.

Sir Malcolm Sargent – 1958-1967 Eminent conductor and close friend of Hilary Munster; he was Chief Conductor of the Proms from 1948 until his death in 1967 and of the BBC Symphony Orchestra from 1950-1957. He championed Gilbert & Sullivan opera and contemporary British composers. His debonair appearance and fondness for the social life belied his skill as a musician. Despite his busy schedule, he was a regular and valuable attendee at Trust meetings.

Flora Neilsen – 1960-1976 Mezzo Soprano, whose real name was Sybil Crawley, and who was a close friend of Hilary Munster. She specialised in Lieder and gave invaluable advice on assessing vocal candidates.

These founding Trustees were later joined by:-

Sir Keith Falkner	1962-1975
Sir George Christie, CH	1967-2007
Raymond Leppard, CBE	1968-1977
Sir Anthony Lewis	1968-1982
The Hon. Mrs. David Erskine	1975-1998
Sir David Willcocks, CBE, MC	1975-1994
Dame Janet Baker	1976-2008
Sir Charles Groves	1976-1992
Joseph Cooper	1977-1980
Jacqueline du Pré	1979-1980
Jack Brymer, OBE	1980-1995
Anne Cantacuzino	1980-2000
Jean Stewart	1980-1981

Bernard Richards	1981-1996
Primrose Arnander	1985-2017
Sir David Lumsden	1985-1994
Michael Gough Matthews	1985-1994
Sir John Manduell, CBE	1989-2004
Dr. Jane Glover, CBE	1993-2014
Dame Janet Ritterman	1994-present
Ian Horsbrugh	1994-2002
Philip Jones, CBE	1995-2000
Hugh Bean, CBE	1997-2003
The Viscount Chandos	1999-2015
Antony Pay	2000-2019
Louise Williams	2001-present
Nicholas Berwin (succeeded Leopold de Rothschild as Chairman in 2006)	2001-2015
John Wallace, OBE	2002-2008
Imogen Cooper, CBE	2005-present
Peter Cropper	2006-2015
Elaine Padmore, OBE	2006-present
Professor George Caird	2007-present
John Fraser	2007-present
Dame Anne Evans	2009-present
Professor Jonathan Freeman-Attwood,CBE	2009-present
Simon Purcell	2013-2019
Sir Richard Armstrong, CBE	2014-present
Roger Gray	2015-present
Charles Alexander (succeeded Nicholas Berwin as Chairman in 2015)	2015-present
Alasdair Tait	2018-present
Emily Beynon	2019-present