

Ramesh Narayanan

Personal Information

I am 73 years old and retired. My wife, now a retired secondary school teacher, and I moved to Leeds from Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1975, and we have lived in the North Leeds area since. We have two grown up children, one who moved to Germany and the other to Bristol. We have five grandchildren who are always a delight to us, when we get the chance to see them.

Experience/Qualifications

After gaining a degree in Chemistry from the University of London (Queen Mary College) in 1971, I worked initially in the pharmaceutical industry before moving to the food industry where I specialised in Supply Chain and Logistics Management; my last job was being the European Supply Chain Executive for the largest private company in the world, Cargill, where I was responsible for an annual budget of £100 million and a team of over 120 people.

I left 'corporate' work in 2002 to set up my own supply chain consultancy and then a transport company. This gave me the opportunity to travel and work extensively in Europe as well as Brazil, Thailand, and N America. I sold the transport company in 2012 and finally stopped consulting work in 2018 when I turned 70. Since then, I have, without charging fees, helped various companies as a 'non-executive'.

I studied for an 'A' level in music in 2002 and then gained a BA in Music from Leeds University in 2010 (studying part-time). I finished my music studies with an MA from Leeds in 2017.

I started playing the saxophone in 1992 and have managed to achieve Grade 8 (Jazz) from both the Associated Board and the Guildhall School; I still don't know how!!

Other relevant information

I have worked with Artforms for many years starting in 2006 when I helped to organise, and travel with, the Leeds Youth Jazz Rock Orchestra's (LYJRO) trip to Durban in South Africa. There have been two further trips to Durban which I also helped with, in 2010 and 2014. This involved fund raising, setting up gigs and workshops in township schools, and helping with the health and safety of a party of over 30 people. The lasting legacy of these trips was to set up a trust fund for a music student from Durban University to teach in a township primary school; the student had his/her fees paid directly to the university and the student taught music to hundreds of children who would not have been exposed to any kind of music. This was paid for by LYJRO raising about £2000 per year through gigs and other fundraisers like bag packing at supermarkets.

I know the benefit that music can bring to people with special needs, and I would be honoured to help Yamsen in any way I can. I hope that you will look favourably on my 'application' to be a trustee.

Ramesh Narayanan