NORWICH
City Council

Application for Twinning Committee Grant

The aims of the Twinning Committee are to "promote and foster Civic links and exchange activities of all kinds with Rouen, Novi Sad and Koblenz and any other towns and cities abroad with which friendly associations are, from time to time, established". The policy of the Committee is to concentrate on making grants to assist visits by young people (excluding regular school exchanges), an initial visit to set up a new link and in cases of particular financial hardship.

1. Name and Address of Organisation/group applying for the grant

The Triorca Trust (registered charity no. 1150633) Dr. Peter Schutte MB ChB FRCP (Chair) House on the Hill, Morleyfield Lane MORLEY ST. BOTOLPH Norfolk NR18 9QN

2. Name and address and contact details of individual applying for the grant

Robert Rickard BA MA PGCE FRSA (Trustee, International Relations) [redacted] Contact daytime phone number or mobile [redacted]

3. Position held within the organisation or group (please delete those not applicable)

		Trustee: volunteer, with responsibility for International Relations

4. Please describe fully why you are applying for a grant and which city or town you are forming links with.

Twinning for a new generation

We hope the Twinning Committee will wish to assist this important link work, since *Triorca* is the only Norwich organisation actively supporting an increasingly scarce form of cultural education: international orchestral exchanges for our most talented young musicians. The opportunities we create are certainly not available via any statutory authority, yet they are invaluable to those who benefit - in terms of unparalleled playing experience and confidence-building, both vital for those pursuing music beyond 18, and/or to work in the increasingly competitive music industry.

As importantly, these experiences also inculcate a lasting appreciation of their European peers, their lives and cities.

Triorca *is* then a form of twinning for the next generation. Our youth orchestra was founded by volunteers in 2008, specifically to encourage young talented musicians to meet their counterparts in our twinned city/regions (Novi Sad/Vojvodina, Koblenz/Rheinland-Pfalz and Norwich/Norfolk), to learn and play together, by convening annually in each other's cities, and so improve their musical abilities.

This has proved to be an exciting means for reviving the whole notion of twinning for the most switched-on representatives of these younger generations. To date, over 340 have so far participated from France, Serbia, Germany and Norfolk, with combined audiences of c. 400,000 (including public and live broadcasts). *Triorca* ran hugely successfully, until (inter)national events – Brexit, Ukraine and COVID - curtailed the work, between 2019-23. Exhaustive efforts were then made to revive the orchestra in 2024, leading to a combined orchestra of 65 playing with great acclaim in Norwich and Cambridge.

Thanks in large part to our twinning organisations both sides of the Channel, 2025's summer tour to Rouen was a huge success. Although run on extremely tight timescales and budget, four countries were represented for the first time, playing to acclaim in front a large audience in the Cathedral. The participation of ten Germany students reignited the idea of returning to Koblenz, and our trust paid for a reconnoitre visit took place earlier this year.

Now, with the help of the Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association, Koblenz City Council, the University of Koblenz, the director of the regional youth orchestra (Rheinland-Pfalz Landesjugendorcheter), and enthusiastic individuals in both cities, we have succeeded in securing prestigious accommodation and venues at a fraction of their normal commercial rates. (Nevertheless, the TRUE total cost would be prohibitive to many talented young musicians, and hence the intensive fund-raising campaign currently underway.)

A project for the long term

These links, fostered over two decades, have ensured teacher and professional support in promoting and supporting the most talented young musicians from all four cities to join this tour: thirty-plus have registered already for this July. Experience over many years has told us that once these young players overcome this first act of faith they bring their friends next time, and in much bigger numbers: the many returning 'Triorcans' bear this out.

After Koblenz in 2026, the further opportunity to participate in the 2027 Normandy celebrations has now been enthusiastically taken up – involving us attending meetings and making presentations in London, including in front of the President of Normandy, as a longer-term focus for generating the kind of impetus and tradition *Triorca* has developed with its current partners. Our indefatigable Director, Andrew Weeks, has now submitted a major proposal to the Normandy Government to support a longer tour there. We would then hope to return to Novi Sad in Serbia in 2028, once political challenges are overcome there – and indeed as part of the healing process the young musicians of *Triorca* symbolically and actually represent. Then in 2029 – all being well – we perform once again in Norwich, welcoming all interested parties and supporters to join us in *Triorca*'s English gala concerts.

5. If the grant is to help towards the cost of a visit, please answer the following questions:	
a) How many people will be in the group making the visit?	*c.*80+
b) How many are under 18 years old?	*c.* 50%

c) *How many in your organisation/group live in the Norwich City Council area*	90%

d) *We need to establish if there is any particular financial hardship, please say if any members of the visiting group are unemployed or receiving other benefit support?*

Virtually all the players in Triorca are still in full-time school or college education; nearly all will be stretched to justify paying the true cost of participating in a musical (and cultural) activity of this standard (£1,000+), and our aim is ALWAYS to ensure the most talented young players can participate, *regardless of means*. For all these reasons, the maximum course fee is about half of this sum – and includes all accommodation, food, music, tuition, rehearsal, performances, venues, transportation around Rheinland-Pfalz, and in England.

In addition, ANY participant can declare a hardship need, which further attracts reductions (up to 100%) according to family income.

We are therefore asking the Twinning Committee for £1,500, as a relatively modest, yet vital, symbolic and actual contribution to this daunting figure; all of it will be specifically used to offset the costs of those young musicians who could not otherwise participate.

e) *Has your organisation/group received any previous group received any previous grant from the Twinning Committee? If yes, please state how much and when.*

Support for 2025 Rouen new link and tour £1.5k

f) *What is the cost of the visit*	c.£60,000
g) *How much grant are you applying for*	£1,500
h) *Are you applying to any other organisation or business for grants? If you are please state who and for how much:* Anguish & Freemans' charity Cultural Bridge Koblenz City Council Chivers Trust & 12+ other charitable foundations	c.£30,000 total

i) *How will your organisation/group be paying for the visit*

Combination of the above, significant in-kind support (venues, accommodation, volunteer labour during and before the tour) and musician contribution.

6. *It is a condition of the grant that your travel arrangements are made with a bonded travel company, which is a member of ABTA. Please confirm this requirement and give the name of your travel company.*

All transport will be with ABTA-recognised ferry and local coach tour companies: P&O, DFDS / ICT, Sanders etc.

7. *If the grant is for another purpose other than a visit, please give as much detail as you can by answering the following questions.*

Please describe your project or activity and explain how it will further the aims of the Twinning Committee:

This July, up to ten volunteers and our hard-working director and tutors, are running a large-scale orchestral music tour to Koblenz, city twinned with Norwich . This will involve up to 80

young musicians, mostly from Norwich and greater Norwich, playing alongside their talented peers from the Norwich-twinned cities of Novi Sad in Serbia, Rouen in France, and – for the first time since 2016 - Koblenz in Germany.

They will live, rehearse socialise and perform some of the most exciting - and challenging - classical and popular music, and the tour will include first-ever concerts in the Jesu Kirche in the centre of the city, and in the famous concert hall in Bad Ems, just outside (where Wagner, Offenbach, Brahms, Liszt and many others had works performed for the first time.

As noted above, *Triorca* is reviving strong musical links across all our twinned cities – Koblenz's case, for the first time in 10 years.

Because we operate entirely independently, and on considerable voluntary effort and goodwill, any external support is vital – not just welcome - to our running at all. We of course understand the financial difficulties that all local governments are having, but would hope that Norwich might be minded to make a generous financial contribution to this very special visit using the Twinning fund.

The July 2026 visit is all the more vital in further cementing links and opportunities for young people who would otherwise be almost completely cut off from them.

If you need any help, have any questions about completing the application or require the application in another format or language please contact Democratic Services DemocraticServices@norwich.gov.uk.