



THE COMPANY OF MERCHANT ADVENTURERS OF THE CITY OF YORK
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Clerk to the Company: BRIGADIER J E RICHARDSON MBE

Dr Delma Tomlin MBE
Immediate Past Governor 2023-24

Married to Terry Suthers MBE, FMA, DL - a retired museum and heritage management professional.

Delma Tomlin MBE DUniv is the founder of the York based National Centre for Early Music, working with the UK Arts Council and internationally to share appreciation of music from the 13th – 18th centuries. She is also an acknowledged expert in the promotion of the Medieval York Mystery Plays.

After attending Manning Grammar School for Girls, Nottingham, Delma embarked on her studies as a classical singer at Trinity College of Music. Working for various high-profile music organisations, she came north to run the 1984 York Festival & Mystery Plays. Since then, she has built up a highly successful business model supporting the cultural development of the region, with clients including Sheffield Chamber Music Festival, English Heritage, National Trust, and the Yorkshire & Humberside Museums Council. Career highlights include the restoration of the Plays to the streets of York, the award-winning millennium production set in York Minster and the restoration of the medieval church of St Margaret's leading to the creation of the NCEM in 2000.

Delma is a board member of the European Early Music Network, the East Riding of Yorkshire Music Hub and has been a member of Court of the University of York since 2001. Delma has previously been a governor to both Leeds College of Music and York College. She has a particular interest in mentoring the careers of emerging professional musicians – nationally and internationally.

Delma was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of York in 2000 for her work in the city, and an MBE for *Services to the Arts in Yorkshire & Humberside* in 2008. In 2018, she was appointed Cultural Champion for York and in 2020 was elected an Honorary Freeman of the City.

Delma was the first female Governor of the Company – established in 1357.

Delma enjoys a wide range of cultural activities and loves to travel with her husband, not least to Australia to see their grandchildren.