In 1988 and then a senior at the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, Tamsin Defriez took what might have seemed an unexpected path when she chose to go to Princeton. Among the reasons for her choice was “the warm and welcoming community” of the Houston regional alumni association at its “accepted students” event. Perhaps not a coincidence that, when she settled in London ten years later, her first foray into volunteering for Princeton was to join the Princeton Association United Kingdom (PAUK) and then to sign up to help with events.

And when reflecting on some of the highlights of her student years at Princeton, Tamsin cites participating in the first orchestra tour under Michael Pratt, which “brought the musicians together, forming both musical bonds and long-term friendships.” Again, no surprise that after her first ten years in London, when she became the president of PAUK and when Michael Pratt brought the orchestra to London in 2008, Tamsin pitched in and found more than 30 alums in central London who hosted more than 70 musicians, helping to insure that another generation of Princeton students could form both musical bonds and long-term friendships.

Tamsin served as president of PAUK for five years. In 2013, she immediately followed that stint with a three-year term on the Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees (CTNAT), serving as chair during the 2015-16 year. “Of all the boards and committees I have joined,” she comments, “it is one of the hardest working and most rewarding. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve with my fellow committee members and to get to know the extraordinary people I’ve met as potential trustee candidates.” She goes on to note that her work on CTNAT was “a different kind of engagement.” She gained “a deep appreciation for how Princeton as an institution is constantly considering its role in and impact on the world and at the same time is shaping itself for the future. The alumni trustee elections, supported by the work of CTNAT, are central to ensuring Princeton has the best board to guide it forward.”

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Tamsin Todd Defriez ’92
Chair, Committee to Nominate Alumni Trustees

c. 1990