MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1004122

Details

Other names	M M F
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02590621
Registered	1991-09-11
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Merton Abbey Primary School High Path London SW19 2JY
Phone	02086405446
Email	admin@mmf.org.uk
Website	www.mmf.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE MUSICAL EDUCATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ARTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON AND ELSEWHERE

Activities: The principal object of the Merton Music Foundation is to "advance musical education within the framework of the arts for the benefit of the public in the London Borough of Merton and elsewhere". Our mission is to encourage participation, enjoyment and achievement by providing the highest quality learning opportunities in music and the performing arts.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON AND ELSEWHERE
- Croydon
- Hounslow
- Kingston Upon Thames
- Merton
- Richmond Upon Thames
- Sutton
- Wandsworth

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£1,678,580	£1,640,144	£250,230	27
2024-08-31	£1,818,300	£1,831,629	£211,793	43
2023-08-31	£1,475,558	£1,475,011	£226,640	40
2022-08-31	£1,273,215	£1,248,172	£239,692	34
2021-08-31	£1,071,130	£1,065,725	£214,649	28
2020-08-31	£1,190,297	£1,149,388	£209,244	31

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Kenisha Fuller		2024-11-25
Kingsley Green		2022-10-03
Manish Solanki		2022-10-03
Mia Liyanage		2022-10-03
Prrajesh Varathan		2024-11-25
Rowena Louise Maybury		2016-02-08
Sebastian Jones		2022-10-03

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MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1004122

Accounts

Company registration number 02590621 (England and Wales)

Charity registration number 1004122 (England and Wales)

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

Annual report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Rowena Maybury	
	Sebastian Jones	
	Manish Solanki	
	Kingsley Green	
	Mia Liyanage	
	Kenisha Fuller	(Appointed 25 November 2024)
	Prrajesh Varathan	(Appointed 25 November 2024)
Secretary	Mr L Meechan	
Country of incorporation	United Kingdom (England and Wales)	02590621
Charity registration	England and Wales	1004122
Registered office	c/o Merton Abbey School High Path London SW19 2JY	
Auditor	WSM Advisors Limited Connect House 133-137 Alexandra Road Wimbledon London SW19 7JY	

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

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MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Chair's Introduction

This past year has been a period of significant change for Merton Music Foundation (MMF), with (among other things, but of particular note) the retirement of the CEO and the Chair of Trustees, both of whom were longstanding and contributed significantly during their time to the growth and ethos of MMF.

MMF has been in the privileged position to be able to fill both of these roles with internal candidates, which has helped to ensure continuity and consistency.

In respect of its new CEO, the Board appointed David Rees, the then-COO who had been with MMF for a number of years and already been the engineer behind a number of important changes, from amongst a strong field of applicants. Alongside other staffing changes, including another internal promotion, MMF has also been able to reorganise its middle leadership structure, which has increased capacity and enabled the development of two new roles: an Ensembles & Tuition Leader and a Communities & Partnership Leader. The positive impact of this new staffing structure was felt throughout the latter half of the year, with all signs pointing to engagement and reach continuing to grow in 2025-26 as a result.

As to performance generally, the Board is delighted that participation and engagement in instrumental learning rose approximately 3% during this time compared to the previous year, whilst a range of significant new activities and special projects were delivered – including MMF's first SEND-inclusive ensemble.

MMF has settled into its new role as a Local Delivery Partner and consortium member of the new Southwest London Music Hub and we continue to work closely with colleagues and counterparts in our geographic area to deliver the Local Plan for Music Education.

MMF also took the opportunity to further develop its identity as an independent charity through the development of a new regular giving and ambassadors programmes, linked to our TEMPO Fund (Training, Education, Musical Progression & Opportunity). The Fund has gradually grown and was able to support subsidised access to learning for a targeted group of pupils who would not otherwise have been eligible for means-tested support under the existing subsidy scheme. The Fund has also contributed towards the Resonance Ensemble pilot project, which demonstrated the viability of – and need for – an accessible ensemble as part of MMF's overall provision. We are delighted that the Resonance Ensemble will continue in 2025-26 with support from the London Music Fund, and we are excited to see how the Fund continues to grow and impact meaningfully on access and progression opportunities for young people locally.

In terms of performances and special projects, it has been another busy year. We were delighted to return to the Wimbledon Championships with our senior concert band and jazz orchestra to perform for visitors at the semi-finals, as has been a tradition for MMF for over two decades. Other highlights have included the expansion of our youth-led summer festival event, renamed "Lift Off", and coordinated most ably by members of our own Youth Council; welcoming back our friends from Jazz at Lincoln Centre in New York for a series of school workshops; and an outdoor performance at Morden Hall Park, in collaboration with the National Trust.

The Board would like specifically to call out the joyous close to the Mini Musicians pilot programme during our "Sing Out Your Story" Key Stage 1 festival in July. This inclusive project has been hugely successful in reaching almost 700 children across 10 primary and special schools in Merton. Researchers from the University of Roehampton are compiling a report on the impact of the programme on children's musical and wider academic attainment, and funding has already been secured for a one-year legacy programme in 2025-26. The legacy project will see four new schools join the programme for specialist-practitioner-led delivery, whilst six of the original pilot programme schools will continue on a newly developed professional learning model, led by a lead practitioner. The results of this programme and the resultant report from the University of Roehampton are likely to have a significant impact on how we view and approach music education.

In August 2025, MMF was the victim of a cyber-fraud event. Upon investigation, the consequences of the hack appear to have been solely financial with MMF losing approx. £8,000. MMF consulted with the appropriate authorities and regulatory bodies at the time, including the ICO and the Charities Commission. In response to the event, MMF has put in place significantly improved cyber-security measures and processes and feels confident that it has done what it can to prevent another such event. While it is of course unfortunate, MMF has been able to carry the financial loss without any impact in its delivery of its services to its beneficiaries.

It has been a strong year for the Foundation, financially. This is in part thanks to our diverse range of income streams and project work, alongside some savings made during a period of reduced headcount following the departure of the former CEO.

I would like to thank my fellow trustees for their support and dedication over the last year. Our board is dynamic, engaged and representative of the diverse community that we serve. I would also like to acknowledge the huge contribution of my predecessor and we all wish him well as he steps away from MMF.

Sebastian Jones

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.....

Sebastian Jones

Chairman

18 May 2026

Date: .....

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

For the year ended 31 August 2025

ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees are pleased to present their annual trustees report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 August 2025, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

The legal and administrative information set out within forms part of this report. The Foundation's trustees, both current and those who served during the year, are also noted as part of this document.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Merton Music Foundation (MMF)

Charitable Object

'To advance music education within a framework of the arts for the benefit of the public of the London Borough of Merton and elsewhere'.

Our Vision

A borough where music resonates along the corridors of every school and echoes throughout the community. A place of aspiration where every child can find their first notes, make progress and flourish as a young musician.

We aim to be:

- A centre of learning and a musical launchpad, unlocking talent both now and in the future
- An asset to our community and an ambitious supporter of every child's creativity
- An inclusive cultural organisation - not just in what we say, but also in what we do

To achieve this, we must be DIVERSE:

Dynamic / Inquisitive / Values-Led / Effective / Resilient / Self-Accountable / Engaging

Our Values

- Commitment: We always aim for better. We encourage, challenge and support each other.
- Courage: We will be brave, persevere and take risks together.
- Joy: Music is for life - Music is life. Happiness should permeate everything we do.

Our Mission

Our mission is to encourage participation, enjoyment and achievement by providing the highest quality learning opportunities in music and the performing arts.

Music Hubs

Music Hubs (Hubs) are groups of organisations working together in partnership to deliver high-quality music provision for all children and young people. Hub partnerships are coordinated by a Hub Lead Organisation (HLO), that is responsible for supporting, delivering and enabling the work of the Hub.

Music Hubs play a critical role in fulfilling the vision and goals as set out in the National Plan for Music Education (NPME), a document originally published in 2011 following a thorough review of music education undertaken by Darren Henley and later re-published in 2022 under its new title: 'The Power of Music to Change Lives'. The Music Hub programme is paid for using Department for Education funding and overseen by Arts Council England (ACE).

Hub Lead Organisation (HLO) Restructure

Music Hubs in England underwent a process of reorganization, reducing from 117 hubs in the 2023-24 academic year to just 43 by September 2024. In anticipation of this change, Merton Music Foundation collaborated with the other existing HLOs in the new London Southwest hub area (Croydon Music & Arts, Hounslow Music, Kingston Music Service, Richmond Music Trust, Sutton Music Trust and Wandsworth Music) to establish a new special purpose vehicle called Southwest London Music Ltd ('SWL Music') (Company Number 15701650), to act as the HLO in the London South West region.

SWL Music is managed by a board of directors, however it has no employees. The day-to-day administration of SWL Music's liabilities under the head funding agreement with Arts Council England for the Music Hub programme is undertaken by the seven Heads of Service / Chief Executives of each of the consortium member organizations. Together this group of people functions as a non-voting Executive Leadership Team of SWL Music.

September 2024 – August 2025 was the first year that SWL Music adopted the role of HLO, with MMF assuming its role as a Local Delivery Partner and Consortium Member of the new Hub. MMF remains an active collaborator in the new hub programme, whilst also taking the opportunity of the newly reorganised hub structure to reflect on the charity's unique position locally as a music education provider, community asset and independent organisation.

National Plan for Music Education 2022 (NPME)

The NPME outlines three aims and five strategic functions of Music Hubs.

Aims:

- Support schools and other education settings to deliver high-quality music education
- Support young people to develop their musical interests and talent further, including into employment
- Support all children and young people to engage with a range of musical opportunities in and out of school

Strategic Functions:

- *Partnership: Take a leading role in building a sustainable, local infrastructure for high-quality music education and music-making, in partnership with schools, early years and other education providers, community music organisations, and other regional and national youth music organisations and industry. Capture this offer in a Local Plan for Music Education.*
- *Schools: Support all state-funded schools in their area through ongoing relationships to help them deliver high-quality music education, including a quality curriculum support offer, specialist tuition, instruments and ensembles; and a broad range of progression routes and musical experiences for all pupils.*
- *Progression and Musical Development: Support children and young people to develop and progress with music, indulging into national or specialist opportunities, higher education and employment, so that the chance to be involved in high-quality music-making is shared more widely in our society. Support children and young people to access the wiser world of music, including live performance and community music.*
- *Inclusion: Drive broad access to music education, so every child has the opportunity to participate irrespective of their circumstances, background, where they live or their SEND.*
- *Sustainability: Ensure the strategic, financial, and operational sustainability of the Music Hub by: (i) supporting a dynamic and well-trained workforce, (ii) leveraging DfE funding to develop wider investment into young people's music from a range of sources and revenue streams; (iii) being accountable and transparent by publishing plans, needs analysis and impact data; and (iv) considering and acting on the Hub's environmental responsibilities.*

2024-25 Partners

The overriding aims of our partnerships continue to be to broaden and increase the opportunities for music making for all children and young people in the region, regardless of their background or personal circumstances. Partnerships enable us to expand provision beyond the already broad skillset of the Foundation's skilled team of staff and practitioners. Partnership decisions are based on need and guided by an aspiration to raise standards of provision to the highest levels possible.

2024/25 Partners List:

- 5 Aside
- ABRSM
- All England Lawn Tennis Championships
- Amber Trust
- Arts Society Wimbledon
- Attic Theatre
- Black Lives in Music
- Blues and Roots Ensemble
- Canons House / Vestry Hall
- Clarion Housing
- Crown Lane Studio
- Croydon Music & Arts
- The Friends of Merton's Young Musicians
- Green Arts
- Hounslow Music
- Jazz at Lincoln Centre
- Kings College School
- Kingston Music Service
- Lantern Arts Centre
- London Music Fund
- Merton Abbey Primary School
- Merton Council
- Music Mark
- National Youth Choirs
- New Wimbledon Theatre
- One Stage
- Open Orchestras
- Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment
- pBone Music
- Polka Theatre
- RAM Productions
- Richmond Music Trust
- Royal Albert Hall
- Sing Up
- St John's Church
- St John's Church, High Path
- Sutton Music Centre
- Sutton Music Trust
- Technology in Music Education
- The Jack Lonergan Foundation
- The Sherwood School
- The University of Roehampton
- Trinity College London
- Trinity College London
- Wandsworth Music
- Wimbledon Bookfest
- Wimbledon Choral Society
- Wimbledon College
- Wimbledon Community Chorus
- Wimbledon International Music Festival

Delivery

Executive responsibility for delivery rests with the Chief Executive and the Senior Leadership Team. During 2024-25 the Foundation appointed a new Chief Executive following the retirement of the previous post-holder in December 2024. Since January 2025, the SLT has been made up of two full-time employees and one part-time employee of the Foundation to whom all other employees report either directly or indirectly.

Core team staff support the function of MMF through the curriculum & administration teams, stewards and middle leaders group. They all support the tutor workforce which numbers over 100 tutors from differing genres and instrumental families.

Volunteers

We continue to work closely with our parents' charity, the Friends of Merton's Young Musicians (FMYM). The Friends meet regularly to administer the affairs of their charity, to arrange fundraising events to support the work of Merton Music Foundation, and to help with concerts and other events provided by our charity.

During 2024-25 we further embedded our Duke of Edinburgh and work experience placement schemes. Four young people joined us during this year on placements for work experience: supporting us with logistics of preparing instruments for the new academic year, whilst also developing their skills and experience in the workplace.

We also appointed a volunteer member of the Core Team, supporting music library administration and other back-office tasks on an ad-hoc basis, the extra capacity has been greatly appreciated by the Foundation’s leadership.

Volunteers supported many of the Foundation’s concerts and events this year, notably by acting as Chaperones to comply with Child Performance Licensing requirements.

Delivering Our Charitable Purpose

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in deciding what activities the charity should undertake for the following financial year.

Senior and middle leaders regularly review the Foundation’s progress via its Self-Evaluation and Improvement framework. Twelve Strategic Priorities are agreed for the year, mapped against the three central aims of our Vision. These are then distilled into an Action Plan which is updated and re-published online regularly.

We also regularly review our aims, objectives and activities annually through contribution to the London Southwest Local Plan for Music Education via a Needs Analysis and regular reporting to Arts Council England via the HLO. The review examines our achievements and the outcomes of the Hub’s work over the past twelve months against a Performance Framework. It also looks at the success of each of the National Plan's Strategic Functions for Hubs and the benefits that have been brought to the various groups of people the Hub works with. The review helps us as an independent organisation to ensure that our aims, objectives and activities remain focused on our stated charitable purpose and support the wider objectives of the hub area.

Over the course of the year, we hold termly whole-staff reviews of our Organisational Priorities and self-improvement planning. This has enabled us to embed our Vision and Values and place that at the core of our charitable endeavours and with investment in our website, to make this more publicly transparent and visible.

2024-25 marked the beginning of a new one-year improvement planning cycle during a period of significant change for the organization. The appointment of a new Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees during this period alongside other Core Team appointments and staffing structure reorganization provided a context in which a one-year plan was preferable to trustees than the pre-existing three-year cycle. Self-evaluation scores demonstrated progress against all three core aims of MMF’s Vision and strong progress against the priorities outlined in our Action Plan.

Public Benefit

The Trustees of Merton Music Foundation have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees believe that the organisation conforms readily to the public benefit requirements of the Charity Commission.

The reasons for this belief are characterized by our charitable objective: *"To advance music education within a framework of the arts for the benefit of the public of the London Borough of Merton and elsewhere",* which clearly demonstrates public benefit in advancing and promoting the importance of music education.

The advocacy work that MMF does is of potential benefit to all individuals, schools and its partnership organisations, by helping to create a learning environment in which live music making can flourish and be available to participants and audiences in the local community that the charity serves.

The key focus for MMF's work: music education through a framework of the arts, are both defined within the Charities Act 2006 as charitable activities and as such both directly benefit the public.

The main activities of the charity, and those we try to help, are those for children and young people in and around the London Borough of Merton to whom we aim to provide musical opportunities of the highest standard.

All the Foundation's projects are centred on children and young people, many of whom are 'hard to reach', have additional needs, disadvantaged backgrounds or challenging circumstances.

Financial assistance is not just limited to students of families who qualify for assistance from the Free School Meals criteria. The Trustees recognise that there are many barriers young people face to participation, particularly young people from historically under-represented and marginalised groups. Medium/low-income families, above the threshold for income-based benefits are still contending with the rising cost of living, particularly in London. There is under-representation of people of Black Heritage, people that identify as LGBTQIA+, and people with additional learning needs in the wider music industry.

Building on MMF's 'Be More Charity' initiative, a key priority for 2024-25 was embedding the new TEMPO Fund (Training, Education, Musical Progression & Opportunity). TEMPO is the overarching name given to the Foundation's financial assistance programme and its growing programme of activity to address systemic barriers to participation and historic under-representation of targeted groups.

The Trustees have therefore satisfied themselves that Merton Music Foundation meets the public benefit requirements and they confirm that they have taken due regard of the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Partnerships

During 2024-25, MMF collaborated with its partners on a range of activity for the benefit of Merton children and young people, including:

- Working closely with The Jack Lonergan Foundation (TJLF), provision at Soundwave Music Centre in Mitcham continued to grow with the addition of a large group guitar continuation group for pupils that had participated in fully-funded Holiday and Food (HAF) course, delivered at Soundwave by TJLF. Free-to-access provision reached 33 pupils across 6 groups/provisions with an average attendance of 83%, showing high levels of engagement. Participants were on average 5 times more likely to be in receipt of Free School Meals than MMF's general population, more than twice as likely to speak English as an Additional Language and twice as likely to have additional learning needs. Furthermore, the music centre space was upgraded through partnership working with TJLF, creating a purposeful learning environment and space of community pride for the young people that access the centre. This dynamic partnership working has enabled the Foundation to deepen its reach within our most vulnerable and historically underrepresented communities in a geographical area of high levels of deprivation.
- We worked with Wimbledon International Music Festival to deliver 'Merton Music Presents' in November 2024 to c. 1,500 local primary children
- Merton Music Foundation continued to be an active participant in the Merton Arts Partnership network
- We established a new partnership agreement with Rocksteady Music, providing for sharing of aggregate engagement data locally and provision of free music projects for Merton schools where capacity allows
- We joined Amber Trust's Music Hub Partnership Programme and supported consultation on the development of the programme for other Hubs. This partnership enables access to a co-funding model between Amber and MMF's TEMPO Fund for blind and visually impaired Merton pupils to access instrumental learning

Schools

The Foundation maintains its excellent relationships with Merton's maintained schools, engaging with 96% of all schools via instrumental and/or whole-class teaching, CPD and/or project-work in 2024-25.

MMF delivered three Primary Music Coordinator Network Meetings (one per term) in 2024-25 and supported Secondary Heads of Department through peer support and regular contact. We delivered 'Sing Outside' workshops to children and staff in 8 primary schools, supporting teacher professional development and learning. Successful partnerships helped us to further reach large numbers of children through project work such as Jazz at Lincoln Centre workshops (c. 1,500 pupils) and Blues & Roots concert at New Wimbledon Theatre (c. 1,400 pupils) as part of the Wimbledon International Music Festival.

The Mini Musicians pilot programme culminated in Summer 2025 with a joyous Key Stage 1 festival for c. 500 Year 1 and 2 pupils. The project, which was funded by Merton Council and delivered in partnership with Roehampton University and Sing Up, enabled MMF to develop a progressive sequence of learning based on the Sounds of Intent inclusive framework of musical development. We plan to continue work in the coming year to disseminate this resource to support non-specialist delivery of outstanding music in the earliest years of school.

Working with SWL Music, we allocated £48,950 of DfE Capital Grant for Instruments funding to Merton schools for the purchase of new resources. A dedicated website was set up through our nominated supplier and a first tranche of schools placed orders for delivery in September 2026.

We continued to deliver a Service Level Agreement to Merton primary schools with 70% of maintained schools participating in the SLA.

Our In2Music first-access programme remained strong, reaching c. 3,000 pupils in 22 schools. We also continued to grow our strand of school-funded provision in Merton schools, supporting targeted intervention and KS4 performance preparation in Merton secondary schools.

Progression and Musical Development

Participation in instrumental/vocal lessons rose from 1,579 termly average bookings in Autumn to 1,609 in Summer Term (compared to 1,569 in Summer 2024). There were 1,474 unique active pupils on the Foundation's registers on 7 July 2025. Ensemble membership rose to 234 pupils, however we hope to see this number increase in the following academic year with the incentive of a Royal Albert Hall concert planned for March 2026. Engagement in large group / classes has steadily increased to 123 pupils overall and the Foundation also currently teaches 40 adult learners in its music centres.

Pupil attainment across the academic year (including leavers):

Attainment Level	Number of Pupils
a) Entry: Pre-level 1 RQF / Initial / Prep	883
b) Foundation: Level 1 RQF / Grade 1-3	546
c) Intermediate: Level 2 RQF / Grade 4-5	102
d) Advanced: Level 3 RQF / Grade 6 and above	61
e) Pupils for which the standard achieved is unknown	700
Total	2292

During the year, we supported around 200 pupils to be entered for an ABRSM music accreditation during two private visit examinations held at our South Wimbledon music centre.

We further developed our non-formal progression route and youth-leadership strand through a Youth Council organized 'Band Night' for youth-led acts in February 2025. During 2024-25, 'Amplify' rock and pop provision at Music Centre South Wimbledon also continued to grow steadily.

Our senior concert band and jazz orchestra returned to perform at the semi-finals of Wimbledon Tennis Championships, a tradition of over 25 years for the Foundation and a hugely valuable performance opportunity for our young people.

During 2024-25 we began development work on 'MMF Live', a new concept linked to fundraising for TEMPO Fund. MMF Live acts as a booking agency for MMF tutors and associated professional musicians as well as a growing register of youth-led acts, linked to our 'Lift Off' and 'Band Night' events. The Foundation receives numerous requests for youth performers for events locally, which historically we haven't always been able to accommodate due to complex rehearsal schedules, staffing considerations and child performance licensing requirements. MMF Live has allowed us to respond more flexibly to these requests, sometimes providing a professional acts and sometimes facilitating youth performers to develop real-world performance experience, whilst ensuring the necessary safeguarding procedures are in place. MMF Live has already begun generating some income from corporate events which in turn feeds in to our TEMPO Fund and enables greater access for the more vulnerable members of our community. We are excited to see how this initiative continues to develop in the coming years.

Inclusion

During 2024-25, much work was undertaken to further develop the Foundation's inclusion strategy, focussing on front-line delivery access for pupils with additional learning needs and those from historically underrepresented backgrounds. Staff / tutor training and development focussed on SEND support, including a presentation on 'Being an Autistic Teacher' by a member of our Tutor Panel and sessions providing insight into more accessible exam accreditation routes including the Trinity ACMD and Music Medals from ABRSM.

We worked with inclusion partners including The Amber Trust, Sounds of Intent Charity, Sound Without Sight and Technology in Music Education (TiME) on the development of 'Resonance Ensemble'; MMF's first fully accessible ensemble. The group was piloted in Summer Term utilising funding from the Arts Society Wimbledon and MMF's own TEMPO Fund. A huge amount of work went into considering the practicalities of being a truly inclusive ensemble, whilst ensuring musical relevance to young people. A range of digital adaptive instruments were purchased for the project using DfE Capital Grant for Musical Instruments funding. To ensure accessibility, we worked with Amber Trust to test a new prototype adapted digital instrument called the MUGO and commissioned a local joiner to build a resonance board (which enables deaf and hard of hearing participants to feel vibrations of sound). The project resulted in a new piece of music which was composed by the group and recorded. We have secured funding to continue the project in 2025/26.

The Foundation's Youth Council continued going from strength to strength this year. The young people further developed our Sustainability Strategy and led on the delivery of 'Lift Off', a youth-led Summer music festival at our South Wimbledon Music Centre in July. Members of the Youth Council presented admirably to the Board of Trustees at our Summer meeting to highlight recent successes and provide challenge and accountability for the implementation of our shared sustainability aspirations. During the year, the Youth Council were nominated for 'Youth Initiative of the Year' at the upcoming Music Mark awards and a presentation about the Council during Music Mark's Spring Summit secured a donation of £500 from pBone Music towards the Council's sustainability initiatives. We are incredibly proud of this group of young people and look forward to working with them to recruit new members from a wider range of MMF's provision in the coming year.

During 2024-25 we piloted a new Access & Progression scheme under the TEMPO Fund. The scheme enables targeted subsidies of up to 100% providing access to MMF provision to pupils that face barriers and who may otherwise not be eligible for means-tested support via the TEMPO Fund Discount Scheme. The scheme supported four pupils in 2024/25 and supported a recently arrived to tutor from Ukraine with costs related to establishing their self-employed practice in the UK. During this time we have been developing processes for application, assessment and ongoing monitoring of pupils to the scheme, which is still in its infancy. So far, recipients of the scheme have been identified from within MMF's existing provision, but we hope to open the scheme to wider application in the near future, assuming suitable funding can continue to be secured.

As part of the Mini Musicians project, c. 250 Year 2 children from both mainstream and SEND settings were put forward for a Trinity Awards and Certificates in Musical Development. These new inclusive exams are built on the Sounds of Intent framework and are suitable for use in Profound & Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD) environments. This is the largest cohort ever to be put forward for these awards.

Sustainability

We launched the '1991 Campaign' during this year, focussed on establishing a group of regular givers to the Foundation's TEMPO Fund. An initial cohort of c. 8 regular givers has been established with plans to develop this further in future, ensuring the longer term financial stability of the Fund and allowing for greater strategic planning of projects and intervention.

We continued to develop our workforce through regular training and CPD, including our annual Tutor Conference, termly Peer Learning Meetings and Core Team INSET Days. Much attention was given to supporting learners with SEND, as well as developing a greater awareness of mental health first aid within the Core Team.

Our Sustainability Action Plan was developed and reviewed by our Youth Council and shared with Middle and Senior Leaders for follow up and further input. The Plan continues to develop as our sustainability awareness and aspirations grow. Our Chief Executive undertook Carbon Literacy Training with plans to roll this out more widely within our team in future.

Upon review of potential deficiencies to information technology systems, updated policies and enhancements to these systems have been implemented.

Induction and support of our newly appointed CEO, Chair of Trustees and Core Team members has been ongoing to ensure continuity and legacy planning.

Future Planning

2025/26 will feature our biennial *Music is for Life* Royal Albert Hall schools concert in March. Planning has begun and much work will be completed in Autumn and Spring Terms 2025/26 towards this wonderful event. After an unsuccessful first bid, we have secured funding from National Lottery Project Grants for the commissioning of a new suite of music, inspired by NASA's Artemis programme.

Resonance Ensemble will continue as a stand-alone project in 2025/26, with funding from London Music Fund. We hope to record two original compositions to be played over the PA at the Royal Albert Hall concert as well as compiling a set of original and learned material for a showcase concert in July 2026.

We expect the final report on the Mini Musicians project back from Roehampton University, drawing on over 500 hours of video data compiled in the study – which looks at children's musical development throughout the programme and potential impact of this on their wider academic attainment. We have secured a 1-year extension on Mini Musicians funding in 2025/26 whilst we await the outcome of the report.

Our databasing provider is releasing a new platform and we will need to upgrade to this at some point in the near future. We will monitor this closely and make a decision as to when to migrate, based on the new system's readiness and operational need.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income & Expenditure

Merton Music Foundation enjoyed another successful year with a continued increase in instrumental/vocal lessons, large group/class participation and ensemble membership numbers. As there was no Royal Albert Hall event during the year ended 31st August 2025 and also due to a change in staffing arrangements for the Mini Musicians programme, total turnover fell to £1,678,581 from £1,818,300 achieved in FY 2024. In line with the fall in turnover, expenditure fell to £1,640,145 from £1,831,629 in the previous year. There was a surplus of £39,312 for the financial year, excluding use of restricted reserves.

During the year, there was an additional small cost arising from an isolated incident of external fraud affecting the charity.

Financial Position at Year-End

The net assets of the charity increased to a healthy £250,230 at the 31st August 2025. This is a significant increase of £38,437 from the previous year's figure of £211,793. The current net assets stand at £218,981 (2024: £185,009). Cash balances stand at £478,585 at the year-end, a huge increase from the previous year of £302,589. The financial position as at 31 August 2025 remains strong.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

Merton Music Foundation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 12 March 1991 and registered as a charity on 11 September 1991. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The trustees, who are also directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Edward Hickman (resigned on 14 July 2025)

Emma Trevelyan (resigned on 25 November 2025)

Ian Bond (resigned on 27 April 2026)

Kenisha Fuller

Kingsley Green

Manish Solanki

Mia Liyanage

Prrajesh Varathan

Rowena Maybury

Sebastian Jones

Trustee Induction and Training

New trustee induction includes briefing them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making process, the London Southwest Hub Local Plan for Music Education and recent financial performance of the charity. During the induction process, they meet key employees and the other trustees. All trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events to develop their understand of their roles as trustees and must complete regular Child Protection & Safeguarding training. New trustees are also given relevant documentation including recent important documentation on music education, management financial reports, meeting minutes and copies of the charity's annual Reports and financial statements.

Related Parties and Co-operation with Other Organisations

MMF works closely with the Friends of Merton's Young Musicians (FMYM) (Charity No. 274493). FMYM is the parents' association for our Music Centre activities, which are based at Merton Abbey Primary School. The Chief Executive serves in an ex-officio non-voting capacity on the management committee of FMYM.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees meets termly to manage the affairs of the charity. The Board consisted of ten directors, from a variety of professional backgrounds, who are responsible for the overall strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Chief Executive manages the day-to-day operations of the charity, and as a delegated authority, within the terms of delegation approved by the trustee body, for operational matters including finance, employment and artistic related activity.

Risk Management

The Trustees have a risk management policy, which comprises an annual review of the risks the charity may face and establishes systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified.

Child Protection & Safeguarding

Safeguarding of children and young people is one of the Board's primary concerns. Merton Music Foundation adopts the current Safeguarding requirements as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) and other relevant policy documentation, in-line with best practice adopted by Merton schools. This is achieved via the Foundation's Safeguarding Policy, which is updated at least annually in accordance with national and local guidance.

The Foundation implements a rigorous Safer Recruitment policy and procedure which ensures appropriate vetting of all staff that will undertake Regulated Activity in relation to children and those that may work in an administrative capacity from a Designated Premises, such as a school. This includes obtaining proof of identity, address and residence status/right to work; a full employment and education history from age 18; all personal details including any previous a names; two satisfactory references; verification of any qualifications, as appropriate to the role; and a criminal history declaration. Applicants are asked relevant questions to ascertain their physical and mental suitability to work in schools; online searches; and an Overseas Police Check, if appropriate.

Health and Safety

Ensuring the health and safety of staff, students, volunteers and visitors is also a priority for trustees. Core Staff undertake First Aid (including paediatric first aid and anaphylaxis), Mental Health First Aid and Fire Marshall training and are subject to a health and safety briefing upon induction alongside regular reminders / top-ups. All staff are made aware of their own duties and responsibilities for health and safety issues via the Staff Handbook and all regular and one-off activity is risk assessed under the Foundation's Health and Safety Policy.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that WSM Advisors Limited be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

KEY TERMINOLOGY

ACE – Arts Council England

DfE – Department for Education

HLO – Hub Lead Organisation

Hub – Music Hub / Music Education Hub

LDP – Local Delivery Partner

MMF – Merton Music Foundation

NPME – National Plan for Music Education

SEIP - Self-Evaluation and Improvement Plan

SEND – Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Sebastian Jones

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Sebastian Jones

Trustee

Dated: 18 May 2026

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

For the year ended 31 August 2025

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Merton Music Foundation for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Merton Music Foundation (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The impact of macro-economic uncertainties on our audit

Our audit of the financial statements requires us to obtain an understanding of all relevant uncertainties, including those arising as a consequence of the effects of macro-economic uncertainties. All audits assess and challenge the reasonableness of estimates made by the trustees and the related disclosures and the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements. All of these depend on assessments of the future economic environment and the company's future prospects and performance.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to management bias in accounting estimates and posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate the fair value of the company's assets.

Our tests included agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation where relevant, review of Directors meeting minutes, enquiries with management as to the risks of non-compliance and any instances thereof, challenging assumptions and judgments made by management, and identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations. Our audit procedures also focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Companies Act 2006.
Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less like we are to become aware of it.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

WSM Advisors Limited

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Michael Spink ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of WSM Advisors Limited, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Connect House
133-137 Alexandra Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 7JY 18 May 2026
Date: .....

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	**3**	10,885	-	10,885	8,687
Charitable activities	**4**	1,419,483	242,275	1,661,758	1,802,158
Investments		5,937	-	5,937	7,455
Total income		1,436,305	242,275	1,678,580	1,818,300
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	**5**	1,640,144	-	1,640,144	1,831,629
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(203,839)	242,275	38,436	(13,329)
Gross transfers between funds		243,151	(243,151)	-	-
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds		39,312	(876)	38,436	(13,329)
Fund balances at 1 September 2024		210,918	876	211,793	225,122
Fund balances at 31 August 2025		250,230	-	250,230	211,793

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 August 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**9**		31,249		26,784
Current assets					
Debtors	**10**	53,649		31,564	
Cash at bank and in hand		478,585		302,589	
		532,234		334,153	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**11**	(313,253)		(149,144)	
Net current assets			218,981		185,009
Total assets less current liabilities			250,230		211,793
The funds of the charitable company					
Restricted income funds	**13**		-		876
Unrestricted funds	**14**		250,230		210,917
			250,230		211,793

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 18 May 2026

Sebastian Jones

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Sebastian Jones
Trustee

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	**21**		184,941		(63,238)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(14,882)		(6,019)	
Interest received		5,937		7,455	
Net cash (used in)/generated from investing activities			(8,945)		1,436
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			175,996		(61,802)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			302,589		364,391
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			478,585		302,589

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Merton Music Foundation is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is c/o Merton Abbey School, High Path, London, SW19 2JY.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charitable company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Incoming resources

Incoming resources represents tuition fees, income from concerts, tours, hire of instruments, music centre subscription and other fees rendered in the year.

Income is recognised when the charitable company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charitable company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to membership received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the receipt.

1.4 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Expenditure for charitable purposes

Direct charitable expenditure includes all expenditure directly related to the objectives of the charitable company and comprises the costs of providing instrumental tuition, concert performances, tours, and education and community projects undertaken by the charitable company and is accounted for when payable.

Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on the basis of an estimate of the proportion of time spent by staff on those activities.

Governance costs

Governance costs represent expenditure incurred in the management of the charitable company's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Musical instruments	25% on reducing balance basis
Computer equipment	25% on reducing balance basis
Office equipment	25% on reducing balance basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.6 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charitable company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charitable company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charitable company's balance sheet when the charitable company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets
Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.9 Fund Accounting
The funds held by the charitable company are either:

Restricted funds - these are funds that can be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charitable company. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular purposes.

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes.

The funds received in the year are transferred to the general fund to be set off against expenses in the year that relate to the agreed activities with Arts Council England.

Peter Wooding's bursary fund
These funds have been designated by the charitable company to support exceptional young musicians at the request of Peter Wooding's family. The fund was established with donations made to' 'the charitable company. The charitable company held sufficient cash balances at the year end to allow the funds to be applied as intended.

Arts Council England Funding
The charitable company received a grant in the year from the Arts Council England. According to the Funding Agreement, the use of the grant is restricted to the agreed activities with the Arts Council. The grant is recognised in the accounts when they are received and applied to the period it relates to

TEMPO Fund
The charitable company deferred some income received via individual and corporate givers to support the development of a new charitable initiative known publicly as 'TEMPO Fund' (Training, Education, Musical Progression & Opportunity). Senior Leaders will meet regularly to review TEMPO and allocate future spending in-line with the Foundation's charitable objectives.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charitable company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations and gifts	10,885	8,687

4 Charitable activities

	Tuition fees	Hire of instruments	Music centre subscriptions	Concert and tour receipts	Fees - inset	Grants receivable	Other income	Total 2025	Total 2024
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sale of goods	1,269,313	24,211	58,980	48,279	18,466	-	234	1,419,483	1,559,516
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	242,275	-	242,275	242,642
	1,269,313	24,211	58,980	48,279	18,466	242,275	234	1,661,758	1,802,158
Analysis by fund									
Unrestricted funds	1,269,313	24,211	58,980	48,279	18,466	-	234	1,419,483	1,559,516
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	242,275	-	242,275	242,642
	1,269,313	24,211	58,980	48,279	18,466	242,275	234	1,661,758	1,802,158
For the year ended 31 August 2024									
Unrestricted funds	1,248,781	28,995	61,033	202,841	15,700	-	2,166		1,559,516
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	242,642	-		242,642
	1,248,781	28,995	61,033	202,841	15,700	242,642	2,166		1,802,158

5 Charitable activities

	Staff costs	Depreciation	Direct Costs	Allocated costs	Total 2025	Total 2024
	2025	2025	2025	2025		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Instrumental tuition	180,680	-	666,033	36,769	883,482	933,070
Youth music programme	140,079	-	268,925	9,192	418,196	441,665
Tours and Concerts	50,283	-	62,115	9,192	121,590	297,090
Professional advice and support	12,259	-	-	4,596	16,855	11,590
CPD training	11,064	-	-	4,596	15,660	11,067
Project development	78,348	-	700	9,192	88,240	76,886
Instrument repair and hire	9,026	-	1,867	9,192	20,085	9,900
	481,739	-	999,640	82,729	1,564,108	1,781,268
Share of support costs (see note 6)	33,347	10,417	814	17,298	61,876	33,753
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	-	-	14,160	-	14,160	16,608
	515,086	10,417	1,014,614	100,027	1,640,144	1,831,629

6 Support costs

	Support cost	Other costs	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Salaries	32,466	-	32,466	15,440
Pension costs	880	-	880	944
Bank charges	815	-	815	829
Depreciation	10,418	-	10,418	8,218
Allocated support	9,191	-	9,191	8,321
Audit and accountancy fee	-	14,160	14,160	16,608
One-off losses	-	8,106	8,106	-
	53,770	22,266	76,036	50,360

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £14,160 (2024: £16,608) for audit fees.
One-off losses comprise a financial loss incurred during the year, arising from an unauthorised transaction. Remedial actions have since been taken to strengthen internal controls and reduce the risk of recurrence.

With the exception of the one-off costs, these costs are wholly attributable to charitable activities and are allocated based on the trustees' estimate of the appropriate proportion attributable to each activity.

7 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Number of employees	27	29

	£	£
Wages and salaries	591,433	592,605
Social security costs	46,009	49,382
Other pension costs	27,207	73,941
	664,649	715,928

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
£60,000 to £70,000	2	1
£80,000 to £90,000	-	1
£90,000 to £100,000	-	1

Those employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 (2024: 3 employees) also have retirement benefits accruing under defined contribution pension schemes. A total of £4,993 (2024: £49,794) was paid to Scottish Equitable in the year for these employees.

Key management personnel

Key management personnel includes all directors and a number of senior staff who together have authority for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Charitable Company. The total compensation paid to key management personnel for these services was £67,909 (2024: £93,437).

8 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Musical instruments	Computer equipment	Office equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 September 2024	231,660	55,756	34,852	322,268
Additions	4,549	7,882	2,451	14,882
At 31 August 2025	236,209	63,638	37,303	337,150
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 September 2024	216,258	47,090	32,136	295,484
Depreciation charged in the year	4,988	4,137	1,292	10,417
At 31 August 2025	221,246	51,227	33,428	305,901
Carrying amount				
At 31 August 2025	14,963	12,411	3,875	31,249
At 31 August 2024	15,401	8,666	2,717	26,784

10 Debtors

	2025	2024
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	1,749	3,950
Other debtors	619	27,134
Prepayments and accrued income	50,281	480
	52,649	31,564

	2025	2024
Amounts falling due after more than one year:	£	£
Other debtors	1,000	-
Total debtors	53,649	31,564

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

		2025	2024
		£	£
Other taxation and social security		14,919	12,293
Deferred income	12	221,554	82,998
Trade creditors		26,576	32,897
Other creditors		1,289	1,391
Accruals		48,915	19,565
		313,253	149,144

Deferred income relates to deposits and fees paid in advance for the following year.

12 Deferred income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Arising from other deferred income	221,554	82,998

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	221,554	82,998
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	82,998	116,517
Released from previous periods	(82,998)	(116,517)
Resources deferred in the year	221,554	82,998
Deferred income at 31 August 2025	221,554	82,998

Other deferred income relates to deposits and fees paid in advance for the following year.

13 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charitable company include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 September 2023	Resources expended	Balance at 1 September 2024	Resources expended	Balance at 31 August 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Dorothy Taylor Bequest	1,838	(963)	875	(875)	-

Arts Council England (ACE) made a grant available to the charitable company during the year. The use of the grant has no specific restrictions; however the funding is subject to the charitable company delivering the agreed activities within the core roles and extension roles of the National Plan for Music Education as highlighted within the Trustees' Report. The funds received in the year, totalling £242,275, have been transferred to the general fund to be set off against expenses in the year that relate to the agreed activities with ACE.

14 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 September 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 August 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Peter Woodings Bursary	2,426	-	-	-	2,426
General funds	208,492	1,436,305	(1,640,144)	243,151	247,804
	210,918	1,436,305	(1,640,144)	243,151	250,230

Previous year:	At 1 September 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Peter Woodings Bursary	2,980	-	(554)	-	2,426
General funds	221,266	1,575,658	(1,831,075)	242,642	208,491
	224,246	1,575,658	(1,831,629)	242,642	210,917

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2025	Total 2025	Restricted funds 2024	Unrestricted funds 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	££	£		£
Fund balances at 31 August 2025 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	-	31,249	31,249	-	26,784	26,784
Current assets/(liabilities)	-	218,981	218,981	876	184,133	185,009
	-	250,230	250,230	876	210,917	211,793

16 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

The liability of the members is limited. Every member undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company, in the event of the company being wound up whilst they are a member, or within one year after ceasing to be a member, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before ceasing to be a member.

17 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charitable company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	18,000	18,000
Between two and five years	-	18,000
	18,000	36,000

18 Related party transactions

During the year, a negligible sum of £40 was recharged for legitimate charitable expenses. These were costs contributed towards a parting gift for the former CEO after over 10 years of service.

19 Defined contribution scheme

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. A total of £27,207 was charged to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently administered fund.

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charitable company had no material debt during the year.

21 Cash generated from operations

	2025	2024
	£	£
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	38,436	(13,329)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(5,937)	(7,455)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	10,417	8,218
Movement in designated restricted funds	-	(963)
Movement in designated unrestricted funds	-	(554)
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in debtors	(22,084)	(16,878)
Increase in creditors	25,553	1,242
Increase/(decrease) in deferred income	138,556	(33,519)
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	184,941	(63,238)

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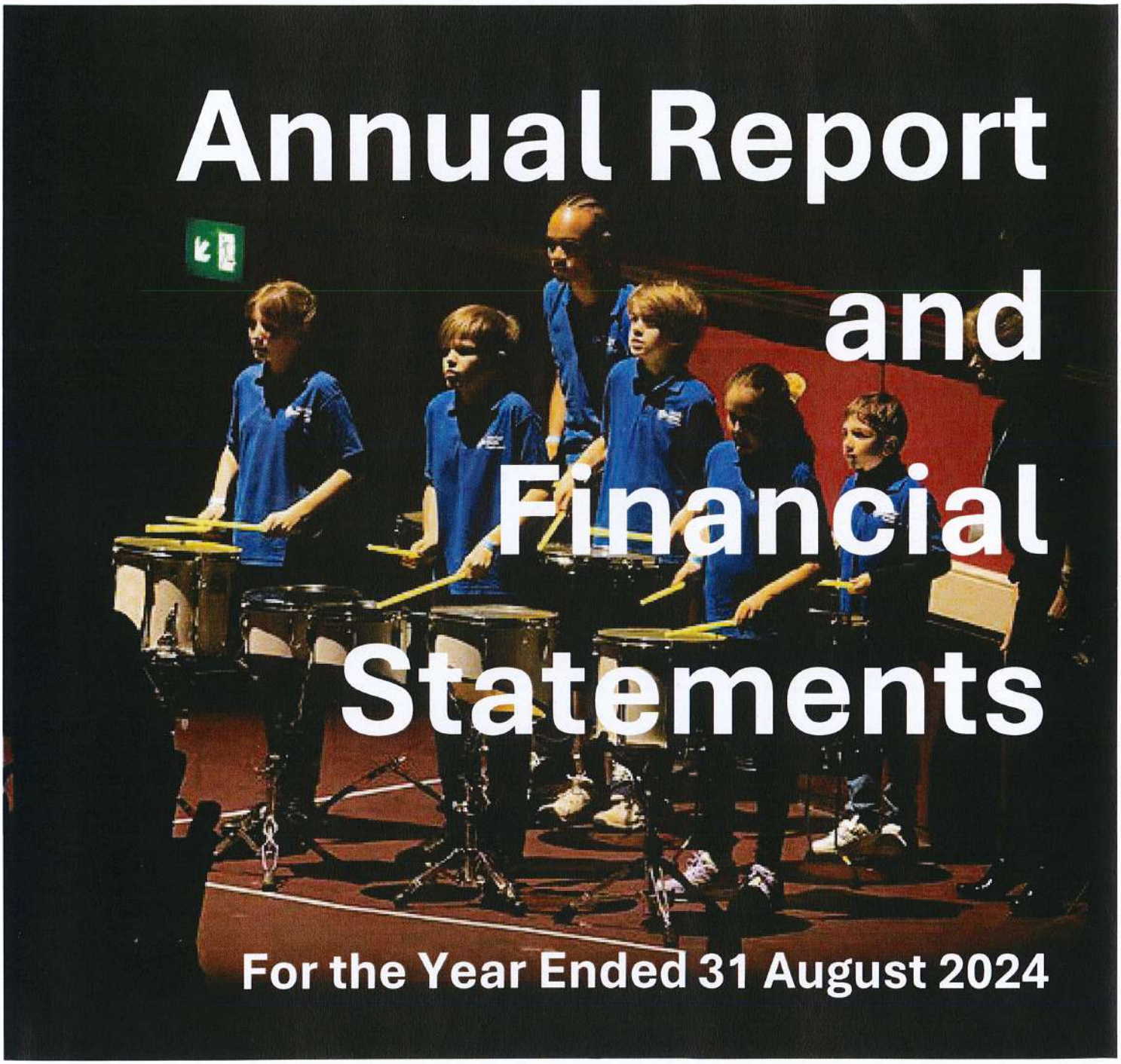
MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1004122

Accounts

Merton Music Foundation



Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Charity registration number: 1004122

Company registration number: 02590621 (England and Wales)

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CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

September 2023 – August 2024

This past year was a period of intense planning and development for Merton Music Foundation (MMF), in the context of significant change in the music education sector through the Hub Lead Organisation re-tendering process. Throughout this time, MMF continued to deliver an increasingly impactful and diverse programme of high-quality regular activity, special projects and events in schools and music centres across Merton. The Foundation's far reaching and inclusive provision was exemplified in March 2024 by a triumphant return to performing at the Royal Albert Hall for our biennial 'Music is for Life' concert with c. 1500 Merton children.

This year also saw the conclusion of a three-year improvement cycle, centred around the Foundation's Self-Evaluation and Improvement Plan (SEIP) 2021-2024. Trustees were pleased to review the final outcomes of this thorough process, which demonstrated a significant development towards the Foundation's aims, particularly in relation to being 'an inclusive cultural organisation'. Trustees have approved a one-year SEIP to be implemented between September 2024 – August 2025 in the context of a changing national landscape and the planned appointment of a new Chief Executive from January 2025.

It was another busy year of performances and special projects. We were delighted to return to the Wimbledon Championships with our senior concert band and jazz orchestra to perform for visitors at the semi-finals, as has been a tradition for the organisation for over two decades. Other highlights included our first youth-led summer festival event, 'Summer of Songs', coordinated ably by members of our Youth Council and a hugely successful tour to the Loire Valley in France for members of our guitar & string ensembles, choirs, concert bands and jazz orchestras.

We successfully adapted to new reporting requirements following the implementation of the new National Plan for Music Education, with positive feedback from Arts Council England in relation to the Foundation's performance. We were also pleased to begin delivery of 'Mini Musicians', an ambitious £250k two-year KS1 music partnership programme, founded on best inclusive principles and practice. The organisation responded quickly and adaptably to the national hub restructure, working closely in partnership with the six other existing HLO's in London Southwest to form a new entity, SWL Music, in order to navigate this transition whilst protecting funding for frontline provision with children and young people.

Looking ahead to 2024/25, more change is on the horizon as we adapt to a new national Music Hub structure and appoint a new Chief Executive, only the third person to hold this position in the Foundation's 34-year history. I am confident that MMF will continue to adapt and thrive, supporting children and young people locally to find their first notes and flourish as young musicians for many years to come.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for their support and input over these last 12 months. In recent years, we have successfully diversified our board membership in line with our efforts to be an inclusive cultural organisation and it is notable how much more insightful (and interesting) our board meetings have become since adding the new voices.

Signed: Edward Hickman

Edward Hickman

Chair of Trustees

Dated: 23 June 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

Trustees

Edward Hickman
Emma Trevelyan
Ian Bond
Kenisha Fuller (appointed 25 Nov 2024)
Kingsley Green
Manish Solanki
Mia Liyanage
Prrajesh Varathan (appointed 25 Nov 2024)
Rowena Maybury
Sebastian Jones

Secretary Mr L Meechan

Charity Number 1004122

Company Number 02590621

Registered Office c/o Merton Abbey School
High Path
London
SW19 2JY

Auditor WSM Advisors Limited
Connect House
133-137 Alexandra Road
Wimbledon, London
SW19 7JY

TRUSTEES' REPORT

(INCLUDING DIRECTOR'S REPORT)

ANNUAL REPORT

The trustees are pleased to present their annual trustees report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 August 2024, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

The legal and administrative information set out on Page 3 forms part of this report. The Foundation's trustees, both current and those who served during the year, are noted on Page 3.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Object

'To advance music education within a framework of the arts for the benefit of the public of the London Borough of Merton and elsewhere'.

Our Vision

A borough where music resonates along the corridors of every school and echoes throughout the community. A place of aspiration where every child can find their first notes, make progress and flourish as a young musician.

We aim to be:

- A centre of learning and a musical launchpad, unlocking talent both now and in the future
- An asset to our community and an ambitious supporter of every child's creativity
- An inclusive cultural organisation - not just in what we say, but also in what we do

To achieve this, we must be DIVERSE:

Dynamic / Inquisitive / Values-Led / Effective / Resilient / Self-Accountable / Engaging

Our Values

- Commitment: We always aim for better. We encourage, challenge and support each other.
- Courage: We will be brave, persevere and take risks together.
- Joy: Music is for life - Music is life. Happiness should permeate everything we do.

Our Mission

Our mission is to encourage participation, enjoyment and achievement by providing the highest quality learning opportunities in music and the performing arts.

Music Hubs

Music Hubs (Hubs) are groups of organisations working together in partnership to deliver high-quality music provision for all children and young people. Hub partnerships are coordinated by a Hub Lead Organisation (HLO), that is responsible for supporting, delivering and enabling the work of the Hub.

Music Hubs play a critical role in fulfilling the vision and goals as set out in the National Plan for Music Education (NPME), a document originally published in 2011 following a thorough review of music education undertaken by Darren Henley and later re-published in 2022 under its new title: 'The Power of Music to Change Lives'. The Music Hub programme is paid for using Department for Education funding and overseen by Arts Council England (ACE).

Hub Lead Organisation (HLO) Restructure

During 2023-2024, Music Hubs in England underwent a process of reorganization reducing from 117 Hubs in 2023 to just 43 by September 2024 via a competitive process. In June 2023, DfE announced the revised Music Hub geographical areas, which included the creation of a new 'London Southwest' Hub encompassing the boroughs of Croydon, Hounslow, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth.

During the year ended 31 Aug 2024, MMF collaborated with existing HLOs across the seven SW London boroughs to jointly bid to lead the London Southwest Music Hub. The seven services agreed to create a new company 'SWL Music' to act as the HLO to ensure a flat structure of leadership in which each organisation retains its sovereignty. Doing so limited the potential impact of the retendering process on resources available to the front-line via top-slicing of funding. SWL Music was incorporated and a Board of Directors appointed, with the Head of Service / Chief Executive of each of the seven consortium member organisations functioning as the non-voting Executive Leadership Team. 2023-24 was therefore the last year that MMF functioned as a Hub Lead Organisation, from September 2024 it will be a Local Delivery Partner and Consortium Member of the new Hub.

Performance Framework 2023-24

During 2023-24, MMF undertook a self-evaluation against a new Performance Framework for Music Hubs devised by Arts Council England as part of its ongoing Funding Agreement requirements. The new framework identified seven Performance Areas. Each area was to be scored against the progressive ratings: 'Developing', 'Emerging', 'Engaging' and 'Stretching'.

Performance Areas (and MMF self-assessment, Sept 2023)

- Programme of Activity (Stretching)
- Quality (Engaging)
- Partnerships (Engaging)
- Schools (Engaging)
- Progression and Musical Development (Engaging)
- Inclusion (Stretching)
- Sustainability (Engaging)

MMF's self-evaluation scores were all approved by ACE with no amends. The Performance Framework will be reviewed and re-published for use by new HLOs in 2024-25.

National Plan for Music Education 2022 (NPME)

The NPME introduces three aims and five strategic functions of Hubs, effective from Sept 2023.

Aims:

- Support schools and other education settings to deliver high-quality music education
- Support young people to develop their musical interests and talent further, including into employment
- Support all children and young people to engage with a range of musical opportunities in and out of school

Strategic Functions:

- *Partnership: Take a leading role in building a sustainable, local infrastructure for high-quality music education and music-making, in partnership with schools, early years and other education providers, community music organisations, and other regional and national youth music organisations and industry. Capture this offer in a Local Plan for Music Education.*
- *Schools: Support all state-funded schools in their area through ongoing relationships to help them deliver high-quality music education, including a quality curriculum support offer, specialist tuition, instruments and ensembles; and a broad range of progression routes and musical experiences for all pupils.*
- *Progression and Musical Development: Support children and young people to develop and progress with music, indulging into national or specialist opportunities, higher education and employment, so that the chance to be involved in high-quality music-making is shared more widely in our society. Support children and young people to access the wiser world of music, including live performance and community music.*
- *Inclusion: Drive broad access to music education, so every child has the opportunity to participate irrespective of their circumstances, background, where they live or their SEND.*
- *Sustainability: Ensure the strategic, financial, and operational sustainability of the Music Hub by: (i) supporting a dynamic and well-trained workforce, (ii) leveraging DfE funding to develop wider investment into young people's music from a range of sources and revenue streams; (iii) being accountable and transparent by publishing plans, needs analysis and impact data; and (iv) considering and acting on the Hub's environmental responsibilities.*

2023-24 Partners

The overriding aims of our partnerships continue to be to broaden and increase the opportunities for music making for all children and young people in the region, regardless of their background or personal circumstances; to make decisions on the basis of need and raise standards of provision to the highest levels possible.

2023/24 Partners List:

5 Aside
ABRSM
All England Lawn Tennis Championships
Attic Theatre
Black Lives in Music
Blues and Roots Ensemble
Canons House / Vestry Hall
Clarion Housing
Crown Lane Studio
Green Arts
Jazz at Lincoln Centre
Kings College School
Lantern Arts Centre
London Music Fund
Merton Abbey Primary School
Merton Council
Music Mark
National Youth Choirs
New Wimbledon Theatre
Open Orchestras
Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment
Polka Theatre
RAM Productions
Royal Albert Hall
Sing Up
St John's Church
Sutton Music Centre
The Jack Lonergan Foundation
The Sherwood School
The University of Roehampton
Trinity College London
Wimbledon Bookfest
Wimbledon Choral Society
Wimbledon College
Wimbledon International Music Festival
Wimbledon Community Chorus

Delivery

Executive responsibility for delivery rests with the Chief Executive and the Senior Leadership Team, which during 2023-24 was made up of three full-time employees and one part-time employee of the Foundation and to whom all other employees report either directly or indirectly.

Core team staff support the function of MMF through the administration team, stewards and middle leaders group. They all support the tutor workforce which numbers over 90 tutors from differing genres and instrumental families.

Volunteers

We continue to work closely with our parents' charity the Friends of Merton's Young Musicians (FMYM). The Friends meet regularly to administer the affairs of their charity, to arrange fundraising events to support the work of Merton Music Foundation, and to help with concerts and other events provided by our charity.

During 2023-24 we further developed how MMF works with volunteers by embedding a Duke of Edinburgh scheme at our Saturday Music Centre, South Wimbledon and implementing a work experience placement scheme. Two young people joined us during this year on placements for work experience: supporting us with logistics of preparing instruments for the new academic year, whilst also developing their skills and experience in the workplace.

Volunteers supported many of the Foundation's concerts and events this year, notably by acting as Chaperones to comply with Child Performance Licensing requirements.

Delivering Our Charitable Purpose

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in deciding what activities the charity should undertake for the following financial year.

Senior and middle leaders regularly review the Foundation's progress via its Self-Evaluation and Improvement framework. Twelve Strategic Priorities (SMART Objectives) are agreed for the year, mapped against the three central aims of our Vision. These are then distilled into an Action Plan which is updated and re-published online regularly.

We also regularly review our aims, objectives and activities annually through our Local Plan for Music Education via a Needs Analysis and regular reporting to Arts Council England. The review examines our achievements and the outcomes of our work over the past twelve months against a Performance Framework. It also looks at the success of each of the National Plan's Strategic Functions for Hubs and the benefits that have been brought to the various groups of people we work with. The review helps us ensure that our aims, objectives and activities remain focused on our stated charitable purpose.

Over the course of the year, we have had termly whole staff reviews across the organisation of our SMART Objectives and three-year self-improvement planning. This has enabled us to embed our Vision and Values and place that at the core of our charitable endeavors and with investment in our website, to make this more publicly transparent and visible.

2023-24 marked the end of a three-year improvement planning cycle. Self-evaluation scores demonstrated progress against all three core aims of MMF's Vision, with the most significant progress against the objective of being 'an inclusive cultural organization – not just in what we say, but also in what we do'. The averaged overall self-evaluation score rose from '6/10' in April 2021 to '8/10' in July 2024.

Public Benefit

The Trustees of Merton Music Foundation have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees believe that the organisation conforms readily to the public benefit requirements of the Charity Commission.

The reasons for this belief are characterized by our charitable objective: *"To advance music education within a framework of the arts for the benefit of the public of the London Borough of Merton and elsewhere"*, which clearly demonstrates public benefit in advancing and promoting the importance of music education.

The advocacy work that MMF does is of potential benefit to all individuals, schools and its partnership organisations, by helping to create a learning environment in which live music making can flourish and be available to participants and audiences in the local community that the charity serves.

The key focus for MMF's work: music education through a framework of the arts, are both defined within the Charities Act 2006 as charitable activities and as such both directly benefit the public.

The main activities of the charity, and those we try to help, are those for children and young people in and around the London Borough of Merton to whom we aim to provide musical opportunities of the highest standard.

All the Foundation's projects are centered on children and young people, some of whom are 'hard to reach', have additional needs, disadvantaged backgrounds or challenging circumstances.

Financial assistance is not just limited to students of families who qualify for assistance from the Free School Meals criteria. The Trustees recognise that there are many barriers young people face to participation, particularly young people from historically under-represented and marginalised groups. Medium/low-income families, above the threshold for income-based benefits are still contending with the rising cost of living, particularly in London. There is under-representation of people of Black Heritage, people that identify as LGBTQIA+, and people with additional learning needs in the wider music industry.

Building on MMF's 'Be More Charity' initiative, during 2023-24 Trustees approved the creation of a new charitable programme: TEMPO Fund (Training, Education, Musical Progression & Opportunity). TEMPO will be the overarching name given to the Foundation's financial assistance programme and its growing programme of activity to address systemic barriers to participation and historic under-representation of targeted groups.

The Trustees have therefore satisfied themselves that Merton Music Foundation meets the public benefit requirements and they confirm that they have taken due regard of the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Partnerships

During 2023-24, MMF collaborated with its partners on a range of activity for the benefit of Merton children and young people, including:

- Our 'Music is for Life', Royal Albert Hall schools' concert took place in March 2024, reaching almost 1500 children from over 20 Merton schools. This is the first of these concerts the Foundation has delivered since the COVID pandemic, drawing on input from partners including the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Blues and Roots Ensemble, RAM Productions, The Jack Lonergan Foundation, National Youth Choirs and Crown Lane Studio.

- 'Mini Musicians' was devised and launched in 10 Merton primary and special schools. This two-year programme will be delivered in partnership with The University of Roehampton, Sing Up and Trinity College London, funded by Merton Council. Over 650 children have already benefitted from weekly specialist music teaching and a bespoke Scheme of Learning devised based on the Sounds of Intent framework. Over 300 children will be studied over the course of the programme in order to understand the impact of teaching on their musical and wider academic attainment.

- Provision at Soundwave, Mitcham continued to be developed in 2023-24 in partnership with The Jack Lonergan Foundation, including four fully funded free first access class groups including music technology and DJ teaching.

- The 'Friday Afternoon Blues' project with Kings College School was delivered, supporting over 40 children from both KCS and Merton Abbey Primary School to engage in a peer mentoring project focussed around jazz music and improvisation, culminating in performance.

Schools

The Foundation maintains excellent relationships with all of Merton's maintained schools and engaged with 96% of schools during the 2023-24 school year via instrumental and/or whole-class teaching, CPD or project-work.

Locally, schools face increasing financial pressures and there has been a marked decrease in the number of music specialist teachers in Merton schools (currently, c. 20% of Merton Primaries have a music specialist compared to c. 60% in 2015). Nationally, schools have been encouraged to create School Music Development Plans (SMDPs) in response to the National Plan for Music Education. MMF worked to support schools on both of these fronts: through regular in person school visits and CPD / support sessions to audit provision; and via our 'In2Music' whole class teaching programme. MMF's first-access provision in schools continues to be delivered in an adaptable way, encompassing traditional models of Whole-Class Ensemble Tuition (WCET, now also known as Classroom Instrumental Learning – CIL) alongside General Musicianship delivery and Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) release time for teachers. This flexibility helps to ensure wide participation in the programme and access to specialist provision in settings where this isn't available in-house, whilst also navigating increasingly stretched school budgets.

MMF delivered three Primary Music Coordinator Network Meetings (one per term) in 2023-24 and a Secondary Heads of Department professional development and networking event in partnership with Crown Lane Studio. Engagement in these sessions is consistent: 53% of primary music leaders attended at least one session with many school music leaders returning regularly. 47% of primary school music leaders didn't engage with these sessions, however in many of these contexts bespoke training was delivered in-school by MMF. We continue to liaise closely with schools to identify need and ensure programming is effective.

Progression and Musical Development

1954 pupils participated in individual, small group or large group/class activities with MMF in 2023-24. A further 299 children and young people participated in an ensemble during this time. The Foundation delivered or supported whole-class instrumental and/or General Musicianship learning for 4515 children through weekly lessons of at least one term, with the majority participating in MMF-led direct delivery for the full academic year. Approximately 5,500 Merton school children participated in a MMF-led Special Project 2023-24. Therefore, during this year the Foundation reached an estimated 12,000 young people through its Programme of Activity.

Standards Achieved (pupils receiving individual or group lessons, via MMF):

Entry: Pre-level 1 RQF / Initial / Prep	935
Foundation: Level 1 RQF / Grade 1-3	571
Intermediate: Level 2 RQF / Grade 4-5	112
Advanced: Level 3 RQF / Grade 6 and above	63
Pupils for which the standard achieved is unknown	273
Total	1954

The Foundation continued to offer a range of Progression Routes to enable children and young people to 'find their first notes, make progress and flourish as a young musician', in-line with its Vision. This includes 21 ensembles delivered as part of our Music Centre provision. Ensembles are divided into strands (guitar, strings, voice, concert band, jazz ensemble, percussion group, rock/pop), with tiered levels to enable access and progression for learners of all abilities (beginner, intermediate, advanced). Music Technology and DJ provision continued to grow at our Soundwave site in Mitcham, with access to these groups fully subsidized by The Jack Lonergan Foundation. Four new rock & pop ensembles were created in 2023-24 under a new non-formal learning progression route, called 'Amplify'.

We continue to offer an instrumental hire service to both schools and individuals. C. 1000 instruments were loaned to Merton schools for first-access provision in 2023-24 and 538 instrument hire contracts were issued to individuals, with typically c. 200 instruments on loan to individuals at any given time. The Foundation maintains a stock of mostly beginner and intermediate instruments of various sizes, enabling learners to upgrade as they progress musically and grow. We continue to offer financial assistance based on Free School Meals eligibility for instrumental hire.

Inclusion

We continue to prioritise our vision aim to be *'an inclusive cultural organization – not just in what we say, but also in what we do.'* Specific objectives linked to this in 2023-24 were: to review the Foundation's Financial Assistance offer; to diversify MMF's ensemble provision; to expand on subsidised and free-to-access programmes at Soundwave Music Centre in the East of the borough; and to meaningfully incorporate Youth Voice into strategic planning around environmental sustainability. Good progress was made against all these objectives, as outlined in our 2024-25 Action Plan.

We planned and launched 'Mini Musicians' this year, in partnership with Merton Council, Sing Up and The University of Roehampton. This innovative KS1 teaching programme will be delivered in 10 Merton primary and special schools over a two-year period reaching c. 650 children and encompassing a significant research study looking at pupils' musical and wider academic attainment. A bespoke Scheme of Learning has been developed by MMF, based on the Sounds of Intent inclusive framework of musical development and incorporating oracy-informed pedagogical approaches. Pupils will learn to play the melodica in groups and work towards achieving a Trinity Awards and Certificates in Musical Development (ACMD) inclusive accreditation. The programme was successfully delivered with many key learnings already supporting the Foundation's wider approach to inclusion.

Our Youth Council led on the delivery of a Summer festival event, showcasing performances from rock/pop youth acts, including young musicians who are external to MMF provision. This approach of facilitating and celebrating non-formal and youth-led music making is an important new strand to our provision and further supports best inclusive practice at MMF.

During 2023-24, a working group of core staff was established to review the Foundation's recruitment policy and interview matrix, to ensure inclusion is embedded at the heart of these processes. A new interview matrix was developed and has been deployed, ensuring questioning during and information before interviews is clear, accessible and ensures fairness to all candidates whilst adhering to the necessary levels of scrutiny under our Safer Recruitment process.

Sustainability

To better support the Foundation's inclusion aims and ensure long term financial sustainability, during 2023-24 we established a new charitable fund in response to our financial assistance review and continued efforts under an initiative to 'Be More Charity'. TEMPO Fund (Training, Education, Musical Progress & Opportunity) was created with three core strands: continuing to offer a means-based discount at source (now to be known as 'TEMPO Fund Discount Scheme', previously 'Trust Fund'); establishing a series of Access and Progression Programmes, to address historic under-representation of key groups of people; and supporting the Foundation's ambitious programme of Special Projects and events. MMF was fortunate to be one of the Mayor of Merton's nominated charities in 2024, raising £10k to be put straight toward the new fund. Trustees are excited to see meaningful impact of the new fund in 2024/25 and beyond.

The Foundation's Youth Council were tasked with leading on the development of an Environmental Sustainability Strategy, which was presented to trustees by these young people at a meeting of the Board. The strategy and action plan have been implemented with regular reviews to take place in

2024/25, with continued involvement of the Youth Council in oversite of this important work and management of a new sustainability budget.

We were successful in running a crowdfunding campaign, linked to our Royal Albert Hall schools' concert event, which raised over £5k to enable families from low incomes to attend the event and support their child / young person.

We continued to deliver a programme of workforce development and training, including our annual Tutor Conference event in September, termly peer-led training and networking events, lesson observations and a new peer learning programme for tutors. Core staff received termly INSET training sessions and individual tailored training and support, including regular 'professional conversations' with their line manager. In the context of a shrinking music education workforce, the Foundation has begun planning around a new 'routes into industry' strand of provision, to support the next generation of musicians into roles as performers, composers, educators and backstage / industry positions.

Future Planning

We continue to review and revise our Self-Evaluation and Improvement Plan and yearly Action Plan documents, in response to need. 2024-25 will be a period of great change for the organisation, both in terms of the national reorganisation of Music Hubs and due to the planned retirement of the Foundation's Chief Executive. Trustees look forward to continuing to develop and adapt the Foundation's strategic planning, activities and provision to ensure it meets its charitable objectives, guided by its vision for *Moving Music Forward* in Merton.

Other Priorities Include

Over the coming year, we will continue to develop our non-formal progression route, 'Amplify', through increased participation in new rock/pop provision, work with our Youth Council and development of youth-led and open-mic performance opportunities. We aim to broaden this provision to incorporate a more developed 'routes into industry' strand, including signposting and career development opportunities for young people.

Environmental sustainability is an emerging priority for the Foundation, with initial priorities being around auditing and understanding the environmental impact of our activities and possible areas for improvement.

Continued development and integration of our Youth Council remains a priority going forward, ensuring that this group is representative of our community and authentically empowered to lead organisational change.

Completing delivery of the 'Mini Musicians' on-budget will be an ongoing priority in 2024/25, with our thoughts turning toward legacy planning and wider dissemination of learnings from this impactful and highly successful programme.

The Foundation will pilot an open access live electronic music group in 2024-25 as part of a project called 'Resonance Ensemble'. This new group will enable learning about best inclusive practice to be cascaded throughout MMF's programming and foster impactful new partnerships to develop the Foundation's inclusion agenda.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income & Expenditure

Merton Music Foundation enjoyed another successful year with a continued increase in instrumental/vocal lessons, large group/class participation and ensemble membership numbers. Turnover rose 23% to £1,818,300 from £1,475,558 during the previous year as a result of increased participation, fundraising strategies and income from the Mini Musicians project. As turnover increased, total expenditure of the charity increased as well from £1,475,011 to £1,831,629, an increase of 24%. There was a deficit of £13,329 at the end of the year. Restricted funds fell to £876 from £1,839.

Financial Position at Year-End

The net assets of the charity remain at a healthy £211,793. This is a slight reduction from last year's figure of £226,640. The current net assets stand at £185,009 (previous year = £197,658). Cash balances showed a decrease at the year-end to £302,589 from £364,391 at the previous year-end. The financial position at the 31 August 2024 remains strong.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

Merton Music Foundation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 12 March 1991 and registered as a charity on 11 September 1991. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The trustees, who are also directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Edward Hickman

Emma Trevelyan

Ian Bond

Kenisha Fuller (appointed 25 November 2024)

Kingsley Green

Manish Solanki

Mia Liyanage

Nicky Morgan (resigned 8 July 2024)

Prrajesh Varathan (appointed 25 November 2024)

Rowena Maybury

Sandra Vogel (resigned 8 July 2024)

Sebastian Jones

Trustee Induction and Training

New trustee induction includes briefing them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making process, the Local Plan for Music Education and recent financial performance of the charity. During the induction process, they meet key employees and the other trustees. All trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events to develop their understand of their roles as trustees and must complete regular Child Protection & Safeguarding training. New trustees are also given relevant documentation including recent important documentation on music education, management financial reports, meeting minutes and copies of the charity's annual Reports and financial statements.

Related Parties and Co-operation with Other Organisations

MMF works closely with the Friends of Merton's Young Musicians (FMYM) (Charity No. 274493R). FMYM is the parents' association for our Music Centre activities, which are based at Merton Abbey Primary School. The Chief Executive serves in an ex-officio non-voting capacity on the management committee of FMYM.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees meets termly to manage the affairs of the charity. The Board consisted of ten directors, from a variety of professional backgrounds, who are responsible for the overall strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Chief Executive manages the day-to-day operations of the charity, and as a delegated authority, within the terms of delegation approved by the trustee body, for operational matters including finance, employment and artistic related activity.

Risk Management

The Trustees have a risk management policy, which comprises an annual review of the risks the charity may face and establishes systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified.

Child Protection & Safeguarding

Safeguarding of children and young people is one of the Board's primary concerns. Merton Music Foundation adopts the current Safeguarding requirements as set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) and other relevant policy documentation, in-line with best practice adopted by Merton schools. This is achieved via the Foundation's Safeguarding Policy, which is updated at least annually in accordance with national and local guidance.

The Foundation implements a rigorous Safer Recruitment policy and procedure which ensures appropriate vetting of all staff that will undertake Regulated Activity in relation to children and those that may work in an administrative capacity from a Designated Premises, such as a school. This includes obtaining proof of identity, address and residence status/right to work; a full employment and education history from age 18; all personal details including any previous a names; two satisfactory references; verification of any qualifications, as appropriate to the role; and a criminal history declaration. Applicants are asked relevant questions to ascertain their physical and mental suitability to work in schools; online searches; and an Overseas Police Check, if appropriate.

Health and Safety

Ensuring the health and safety of staff, students, volunteers and visitors is also a priority for trustees. Core Staff undertake First Aid and Fire Marshall training and are subject to a health and safety briefing upon induction alongside regular reminders / top-ups. All staff are made aware of their own duties and responsibilities for health and safety issues via the Staff Handbook and all regular and one-off activity is risk assessed under the Foundation's Health and Safety Policy.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that WSM Advisors Limited be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of Information to Auditor

Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

KEY TERMINOLOGY

ACE – Arts Council England

DfE – Department for Education

HLO – Hub Lead Organisation

Hub – Music Hub / Music Education Hub

LDP – Local Delivery Partner

MMF – Merton Music Foundation

NPME – National Plan for Music Education

SEIP - Self-Evaluation and Improvement Plan

SEND – Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Edward Hickman

Edward Hickman

Trustee

Dated: 23 June 2025

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

Statement

The Trustees, who are also the Directors of Merton Music Foundation for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether appliable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Merton Music Foundation (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section* of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other

information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report , which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or

- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or

- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or

- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities [set out on page 19], the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view,

and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to management bias in accounting estimates and posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate the fair value of the company's assets.

Our tests included agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation where relevant, review of Directors meeting minutes, enquiries with management as to the risks of non-compliance and any instances thereof, challenging assumptions and judgments made by management, and identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations. Our audit procedures also focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Companies Act 2006.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less like we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

WSM Advisors Limited

Michael Spink ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of WSM Advisors Limited

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditor

Date: 23 June 2025

Connect House

133-137 Alexandra Road

Wimbledon

London

SW19 7JY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the Year Ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income From:					
Donations & legacies:	3	8,687	-	8,687	9,693
Charitable activities:	4	1,559,516	242,642	1,802,158	1,465,671
Investments:		7,455	-	7,455	194
Total Income:		1,575,658	242,642	1,818,300	1,475,558
Expenditure On:					
Charitable activities	5	1,831,629	-	1,831,629	1,475,011
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(255,971)	242,642	(13,329)	547
Gross transfers between funds		242,642	(242,642)	-	-
Net (expenditure)/income for the year / Net movement in funds		(13,329)	-	(13,329)	547
Fund balances at 1 September 2023		224,246	876	225,122	226,093
Fund balances at 31 August 2024		210,917	876	211,793	226,640

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

BALANCE SHEET

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

As at 31 August 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
Fixed Assets		£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	**9**		26,784		28,982
Current assets					
Debtors	**10**	31,564		14,688	
Cash at bank and in hand		302,589		364,391	
		334,153		379,079	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**11**	(149,144)		(181,421)	
Net current assets			185,009		197,658
Total assets less current liabilities			211,793		226,640
The funds of the charitable company					
Restricted income funds	**12**		876		1,839
Unrestricted funds	**13**		210,917		224,801
			211,793		226,640

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 23 June 2025.

Edward Hickman

Edward Hickman

Trustee

Company registration number 02590621 (England and Wales).

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

For the Year Ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	**20**		(63,238)		51,954
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(6,019)		(3,234)	
Interest received		7,455		194	
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities			1,436		(3,040)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(61,802)		48,914
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of year			364,391		315,477
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			302,589		364,391

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Accounting Policies

Charity Information

Merton Music Foundation is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is c/o Merton Abbey School, High Path, London, SW19 2JY.

1.1 Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charitable company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going Concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Incoming Resources

Incoming resources represents tuition fees, income from concerts, tours, hire of instruments, music centre subscription and other fees rendered in the year. Income is recognised when the charitable company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charitable company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to membership received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the receipt.

1.4 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure for charitable purposes

Direct charitable expenditure includes all expenditure directly related to the objectives of the charitable company and comprises the costs of providing instrumental tuition, concert performances, tours, and education and community projects undertaken by the charitable company and is accounted for when payable.

Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on the basis of an estimate of the proportion of time spent by staff on those activities.

Governance costs

Governance costs represent expenditure incurred in the management of the charitable company's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Musical instruments	25% on reducing balance basis
Computer equipment	25% on reducing balance basis
Office equipment	25% on reducing balance basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.6 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charitable company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charitable company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charitable company's balance sheet when the charitable company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.9 Fund Accounting

The funds held by the charitable company are either:

Restricted funds - these are funds that can be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charitable company. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular purposes.

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes.

The funds received in the year are transferred to the general fund to be set off against expenses in the year that relate to the agreed activities with Arts Council England.

Peter Wooding's bursary fund
These funds have been designated by the charitable company to support exceptional young musicians at the request of Peter Wooding's family. The fund was established with donations made to' 'the charitable company. The charitable company held sufficient cash balances at the year end to allow the funds to be applied as intended.

Arts Council England Funding
The charitable company received a grant in the year from the Arts Council England. According to the Funding Agreement, the use of the grant is restricted to the agreed activities with the Arts Council. The grant is recognised in the accounts when they are received and applied to the period it relates to.

Dorothy Taylor Bequest
The charitable company received restricted funds within the current year to support one girl and one boy in their musical studies for the period of 4 years at the request of the late Dorothy Taylor.

Arts Council England 'Grants for the Arts'
The charitable company received restricted funds within the current year to support its Change is Coming project.

2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charitable company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3. Donations and legacies

	2024 £	2023 £
Donations and gifts	8,687	9,693

4. Charitable activities

	Tuition fees 2024 £	Hire of instruments 2024 £	Music Centre subscriptions 2024 £	Concert and tour receipts 2024 £	Fees - inset 2024 £	Grants receivable 2024 £	Other income 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Sale of goods	1,248,781	28,995	61,033	202,841	15,700	-	2,166	1,559,516	1,239,088
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	242,642	-	242,642	226,583
	1,248,781	28,995	61,033	202,841	15,700	242,642	2,166	1,802,158	1,465,671
Analysis by fund									
Unrestricted funds	1,248,781	28,995	61,033	202,841	15,700	-	2,166	1,559,516	1,239,088
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	242,642	-	242,642	226,583
	1,248,781	28,995	61,033	202,841	15,700	242,642	2,166	1,802,158	1,465,671
For the year ended 31 August 2023									
Unrestricted funds	1,073,729	26,584	48,522	67,109	22,688	-	456		1,239,088
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	226,583	-		226,583
	1,073,729	26,584	48,522	67,109	22,688	226,583	456		1,465,671

5. Charitable activities

	Staff	Depreciation	Direct Costs	Allocate costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
	2024	2024	2024	2024		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Instrumental tuition	221,438	-	678,350	33,282	933,070	736,077
Youth music programme	171,711	-	261,633	8,321	441,665	441,336
Tours and Concerts	61,983	-	226,786	8,321	297,090	145,949
Professional advice and support	7,430	-	-	4,160	11,590	10,763
CPD training	6,907	-	-	4,160	11,067	10,256
Project development	68,565	-	-	8,321	76,886	73,542
Instrument repair and hire	-	-	1,579	8,321	9,900	10,611
	538,034	-	1,168,348	74,886	1,781,268	1,428,534
Share of support costs (see note 6)	16,384	8,218	830	8,321	33,753	33,507
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	-	-	16,608	-	16,608	12,970
	554,418	8,218	1,185,786	83,207	1,831,629	1,475,011

6. Support costs

	Support	Other costs	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Salaries	15,440	-	15,440	14,583
Pension costs	944	-	944	904
Bank charges	829	-	829	1,260
Depreciation	8,218	-	8,218	9,658
Allocated support	8,321	-	8,321	7,101
Audit and accountancy fee	-	16,608	16,608	12,970
	33,752	16,608	50,360	46,476

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £16,608 (2023: £12,970) for audit fees.

These costs are wholly attributable to charitable activities and are allocated based on the trustees' estimate of the appropriate proportion attributable to each activity.

7. Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Number of employees	43	40

	£	£
Wages and salaries	592,605	593,772
Social security costs	49,382	45,010
Other pension costs	73,941	66,136
	715,928	704,919

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,000 to £70,000	1	1
£70,000 to £80,000	-	1
£80,000 to £90,000	1	1
£90,000 to £100,000	1	-

Those employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 (2023: 3 employees) also have retirement benefits accruing under defined benefit pension schemes. A total of £49,794 (2023: £43,974) was paid to the Teachers' Pension Scheme in the year for these employees.

8. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Musical instruments	Computer equipment	Office equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 September 2023	229,530	51,867	34,852	316,249
Additions	2,130	3,889	-	6,019
At 31 August 2024	231,660	55,756	34,852	322,268
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 September 2023	211,835	44,201	31,230	287,266
Depreciation charged in the year	4,424	2,889	905	8,218
At 31 August 2024	216,259	47,090	32,135	295,484
Carrying amount				
At 31 August 2024	15,401	8,666	2,717	26,784
At 31 August 2023	17,695	7,666	3,621	28,982

10. Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	3,950	3,012
Other debtors	27,134	-
Prepayments and accrued income	480	11,676
	31,564	14,688

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	12,293	10,703
Deferred income	82,998	116,517
Trade creditors	32,897	31,329
Other creditors	1,391	1,211
Accruals	19,565	21,661
	149,144	181,421

Deferred income relates to deposits and fees paid in advance for the following year.

12. Restricted funds

The income funds of the charitable company include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 September 2022	Resources expended	Balance at 1 September 2023	Resources expended	Balance at 31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Dorothy Taylor Bequest	3,405	(1,566)	1,839	(963)	876
Greenwood Bursary	9,567	(9,567)	-	-	-
	12,972	(11,133)	1,839	(963)	876

Arts Council England (ACE) made a grant available to the charitable company during the year. The use of the grant has no specific restrictions; however the funding is subject to the charitable company delivering the agreed activities within the core roles and extension roles of the National Plan for Music Education as highlighted within the Trustees' Report. The funds received in the year have been transferred to the general fund to be set off against expenses in the year that relate to the agreed activities with ACE.

13. Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 September 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Peter Woodings Bursary	2,980	-	(554)	-	2,426
General funds	221,265	1,575,658	(1,831,074)	242,642	208,491
	224,246	1,575,658	(1,831,629)	242,642	210,917

Previous year:	At 1 September 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 August 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Peter Woodings Bursary	5,445	-	(2,465)	-	2,980
General funds	218,809	1,248,975	(1,472,546)	226,583	221,821
	224,254	1,248,975	(1,475,011)	226,583	224,801

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds 2024	Unrestricted funds 2024	Total 2024	Restricted funds 2023	Unrestricted funds 2023	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£		£
Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented						
Tangible assets	-	26,784	26,784	-	-	28,982
Current assets/(liabilities)	876	184,133	185,009	1,839	195,819	197,658
	1,839	209,952	211,793	1,839	195,819	226,640

15. Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

The liability of the members is limited. Every member undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company, in the event of the company being wound up whilst they are a member, or within one year after ceasing to be a member, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before ceasing to be a member.

16. Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charitable company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Within one year	18,000	18,000
Between two and five years	18,000	36,000
	36,000	54,000

17. Related party transactions

None of the trustees (or any persons with them) received and remuneration or benefits from the charitable company during the year.

18. Teachers' Pension Scheme

The charity participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme (England and Wales) (the TPS), for its teaching staff. The pension charge for the year includes contributions payable to the TPS of £67,858 (2023 : £61,837).

The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefits pension scheme governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2014. Members contribute on a "pay as you go" basis with contributions from members and the employer being credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

The employer contribution rate is set following scheme valuations undertaken by the Government Actuary's Department. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was prepared as at 31 March 2016, and the valuation report, which was published in September 2019. The employers contribution rate increased to 23.68%. Employers are also required to pay a scheme administration levy of 0.08% giving a total employer contribution rate of 23.76%. This valuation will also determine the opening balance of the cost cap fund and provide an analysis of the cost cap as required by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013.

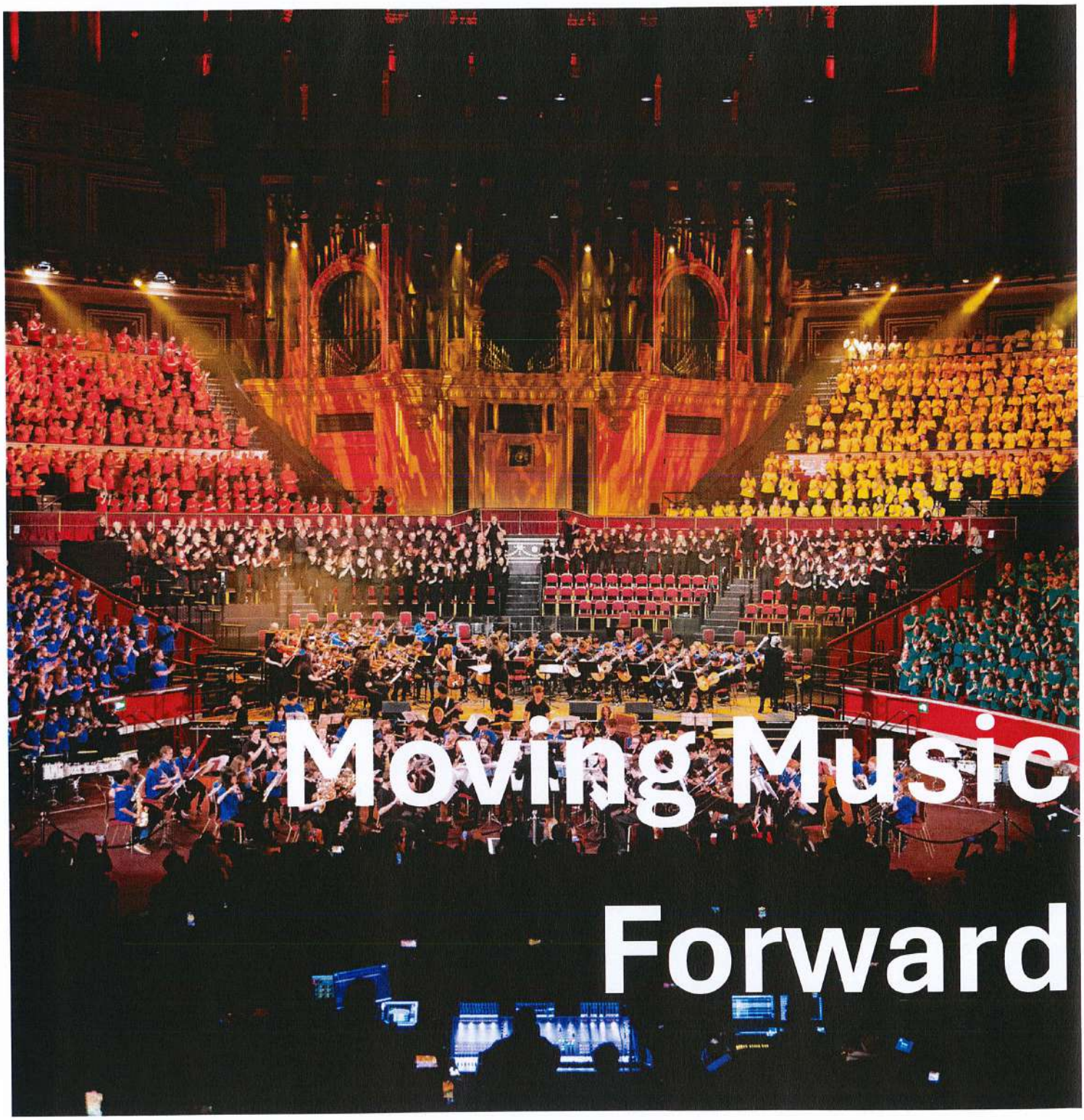
19. Analysis of changes in net funds

The charitable company had no material debt during the year.

20. Cash generated from operations

	2024	2023
	£	£
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(13,329)	547
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(7,455)	(194)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	8,218	9,658
Movement in designated restricted funds	(963)	(11,133
Movement in designated unrestricted funds	(554)	(2,465)
Movements in working capital: (Increase) in debtors	(16,878)	(9,561)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	1,242	(15,784)
(Decrease)/increase in deferred income	(33,519)	80,886
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	(63,238)	51,954

Merton Music Foundation



MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1004122

Accounts

Charity registration number 1004122

Company registration number 02590621 (England and Wales)

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

Annual report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2023

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Edward Hickman	
	Rowena Maybury	
	Ian Bond	
	Sandra Vogel	
	Emma Trevelyan	
	Nicky Morgan	
	Sebastian Jones	(Appointed 3 October 2022)
	Manish Solanki	(Appointed 3 October 2022)
	Kingsley Green	(Appointed 3 October 2022)
	Mia Liyanage	(Appointed 3 October 2022)
Secretary	Mr L Meechan	
Charity number	1004122	
Company number	02590621	
Registered office	c/o Merton Abbey School High Path London SW19 2JY	
Auditor	WSM Advisors Limited Connect House 133-137 Alexandra Road Wimbledon London SW19 7JY	

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

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MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Chair's Introduction

During 2023, MMF undertook a thorough Needs Analysis as part of its development of a Local Plan for Music Education. Need is assessed through the interrogation of participant and engagement data, close liaison with schools and other local stakeholders and an ongoing process of self-evaluation and improvement planning, guided by the Foundation's Vision Statement. MMF's Self-Evaluation and Improvement Plan (SEIP) for the period 2021-2024 has previously been submitted to ACE and is regularly updated and published on the Foundation's website. Much time is dedicated in staff meetings, training sessions and other discussions to reviewing progress against agreed targets and articulating and recording actions to ensure progress is made. During the past 2+ years, MMF has made a concerted effort to embed best inclusive practice in everything it does. The initial focus of this initiative has been on ensuring equitable, transparent and rigorous approaches to staff recruitment, training and support in order to address the observed lack of representation in the Foundation's workforce and governance.

MMF remains at the forefront of cultural activity across the borough. It has been a particular pleasure to set up MAP - Merton Arts Partnership. We have always worked closely with other local arts providers but this formalises the arrangement between us all. We have held two meetings so far and already there is a greater flow of information across the members and some new network working together emerging. We will work as a group to support Merton's bid to become London's Borough of Culture. We work together to provide high quality arts experiences, to avoid duplication and to meet and respond to local need.

We were delighted to be approached by the Leader of Merton Council to set up a new £250k project focusing on children in early years and key stage one. Ofsted has identified that this cohort, post pandemic, had lost ground and could benefit from additional support. The project we have designed with support from Professor Adam Ockelford (who will be supervising and publishing the results of the two-year project at Roehampton University), the local authority education team and Sing Up will start in the next academic year.

Our two new music centres have gone from strength-to-strength. A successful new partnership has been the establishment of our relationship with the Jack Lonergan Foundation over the year. Our needs analysis demonstrated that more support for arts activity was needed on the east of the borough and we have been delighted to be supported to establish provision at 'Soundwave' in Mitcham. Access to Music Production, DJ and Ukulele large group classes at Soundwave was fully subsidised by JLF, enabling increased participation of historically marginalised groups of children and young people, including above average engagement of pupils with SEN/D.

We also launched early years groups at Wimbledon College Saturday Music School called 'Step into Music'. These were immediately fully subscribed and offer a progressive early years music curriculum from birth to age 7. There has been significant parental commitment to this early years package – clearly something in the post-pandemic world that families value.

We have continued to strengthen our relationship with Merton Abbey Primary School during this second year and this has enabled MMF to develop its offer and extend the range of services of it can provide. Many staff and children at the school are now taking instrumental lessons (at a significant fee discount) as music is woven into the fabric of school life. The school has been accommodating and we have been able to start innovative activity based on responding to local need. With funding support from Clarion housing, we started an early years strand to serve the housing estate local to our MMF office. This has been fully subscribed and included social time with refreshments alongside the music sessions to support social engagement between families.

There were many wonderful concerts and events across the year with particular highlights being a return to the Wimbledon Tennis championships with concert band and the senior jazz group to entertain the enthusiastic crowds, and a range of workshops culminating in a concert including all the bands in our jazz strand performing with the Jazz at the Lincoln Center musicians in a celebration concert organized by our parent organization FMYM. Their support of MMF is invaluable and we are grateful to them.

Schools remain our key focus and almost all primaries and secondaries benefitted from our School Music Education Plan. Personal visits were made to over 30 schools by the Creative Director as part of our commitment to listen to and support schools in developing their music curriculum. Relationships with schools remained strong and we delivered whole class tuition projects reaching around 4,200 children. Support for teachers continued with regular termly meetings and around 75% of primary schools joined the SLA. The take up of project activities remained very high – with more than 22 schools signed up for the Royal Albert Hall choral project in March 2024.

Since 2021 MMF has tracked, monitored and reported on the diversity characteristics of applicants to its core and tutor teams to enable greater insight and self-reflection. This way of viewing and analysing MMF activity has enabled us to focus on putting the needs of under-represented groups at the forefront of our work. We are delighted to have already significantly increased the diversity of MMF's Trustee board through a recent recruitment cycle and are seeing gradual progress in this area in terms of the wider tutor and core team workforce.

The Youth Council has grown in reach and confidence and organized another all-day event at the South Wimbledon music centre for a wide range of young people to come together and make music and then perform at the end to an audience with support from a local NHS wellbeing fund. They meet regularly and share their minutes with the senior team. Young people have also been encouraged to take on mentoring roles and support their Duke of Edinburgh awards with music centre activity and presented the findings of their music centre survey to trustees. They are leading on MMF's sustainability strategy.

Despite fears that lesson numbers may fall as families have experienced continued financial hardship, that has not proved to be the case. Lesson numbers increased over the year from 1291 to 1502. There have been increased requests for Trust Fund financial support (up to around 65) and that has prompted the organization to focus on 'Be more charity' to consider how we can attract more funds to support families. This has been added to a core team job description of a newly appointed middle leader for September 2023, so that we can increase the visibility of our commitment and look at ways of increasing charitable giving.

MMF has continued to be financially resilient and resourceful. As a well-established and independent charitable music service with a stable thirty-year background, we are used to exercising excellent stewardship and management of our resources. As in previous years, I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for all their input and support.

Edward Hickman

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Edward Hickman

Chairman

Date: 20th May 2024

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

The trustees are pleased to present their annual trustees report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 August 2023, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

The legal and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The trustees who served during the year are noted on page 1.

Charitable objective

Merton Music Foundation (MMF) aims to promote and support the highest quality music education for ALL.

Our charitable objective is 'To advance music education within a framework of the arts for the benefit of the public of the London Borough of Merton and elsewhere".

MMF's mission is to encourage participation, enjoyment and achievement by providing the highest quality learning opportunities in music and the performing arts.

The vision that shapes our annual activities is based on the aspirations of the National Plan for Music Education 'The Importance of Music'. Published in November 2011, it sets out the Government's vision for music education to enable children from all backgrounds and every part of England to have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; to make music with others; to learn to sing and to have the opportunity to progress to the next level of excellence.

Music Education Hubs

Merton Music Foundation is the lead partner for the Merton Music Education Hub, part of a national network of music education hubs established in 2012.

Music Education Hubs are a vital part of the Government's National Plan for Music Education Plan, which resulted from a thorough review of music education undertaken by Darren Henley in 2011. The Hub receives funding directly from Arts Council England on behalf of the Department of Education.

Music Hubs have a remit to fulfil four core roles and three extension roles in the delivery of music education:

Core Roles

- **First Access -** Ensure that every child aged 5-18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (other than voice) through whole class ensemble teaching programmes.
- **Ensembles -** Provide opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform from an early stage.
- **Progression -** Ensure that clear progression routes are available and affordable to all young people.
- **Singing -** Develop a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil sings regularly and that choirs and other vocal ensembles are available in the area.

Extension Roles

- **Continuous Professional Development -** CPD for school staff, particularly in supporting schools to deliver music in the curriculum.
- **Instrument Hire -** Provide an instrument loan service, with discounts for those on low incomes.
- **Live Music Opportunities -** Provide access to large scale and high quality music experiences for pupils, working with professional musicians and venues. This will include undertaking work to publicise the opportunities available to schools, parents/carers and students.

Working in partnership

The charity's hub programme is a collaboration between key local, regional and national music and arts organisations working together to create joined up, high quality music education in and out of school. The key overriding aims of our partnerships continue to be to broaden and increase the opportunities for music making for all children and young people in the region, regardless of their background or personal circumstances; to make decisions on the basis of need and to raise the standards of music provision to the highest levels possible.

Our partners during the 2022/23 financial year included Crown Lane Studio, Merton Children, Schools and Families Department, London Music Fund, Jazz at Lincoln Centre, Wimbledon Choral Society, Wimbledon Community Chorus, Sonoro Chamber Choir, Wimbledon College, The Sherwood (Soundwave), St Johns Church, Kings College School (Fab Project), Polka Theatre, Wimbledon International Music Festival, New Wimbledon Theatre and Changing Tracks (ED&I Music Education Lead), Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Jack Lonergan Foundation. The charity is also an active member of the South West London Music Education Partnership, which consists of the music services of Croydon, Hounslow, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth.

MMF has always had a strong range of partners who enhance the work of the hub. Partners are at the centre of our wider offer. Strong partnership relationships enable us to gain access to other additional funding streams, avoid duplication, work with musicians from different backgrounds, and create employment opportunities for musician colleagues. Above all, quality partnership work impacts on the outstanding project opportunities available to our schools and local community, benefitting thousands across the year. MMF does not commission partners to deliver core activity, only to enhance our commitment to widen access to innovative and exciting extension projects to local CYP. A successful new partnership has been the establishment of our relationship with the Jack Lonergan Foundation (JLF) over the year, as noted in the chair of trustees introduction. Our needs analysis demonstrated that more support for arts activity was needed on the east of the borough and we have been delighted to be supported to establish provision at 'Soundwave' in Mitcham. Access to Music Production, DJ and Ukulele large group classes at Soundwave was fully subsidised by JLF, enabling increased participation of historically marginalised groups of children and young people, including above average engagement of pupils with SEN/D.

As noted earlier, it has been a particular pleasure to set up MAP - Merton Arts Partnership. We have always worked closely with other local arts providers but this formalises the arrangement between us all. We have held two meetings so far and already there is a greater flow of information across the members and some new network working together emerging. We will work as a group to support Merton's bid to become London's Borough of Culture. During Summer Term, MMF developed new partnerships with The University of Roehampton, Sing Up and strengthened its relationship with London Borough of Merton through the process of planning and development of the 'Mini Musicians' programme. Existing links with Prof. Adam Ockelford and the Sounds of Intent programme have also been strengthened through this project, which aims to enter c. 600 pupils for a Trinity College Awards and Certificates in Musical Development by summer 2025.

Delivery

Executive responsibility for delivery rests with the Chief Executive and the Senior Leadership Team, made up of three full-time employees and one part-time employee of the Foundation and to whom all other employees report either directly or indirectly.

Core team staff support the function of MMF through the administration team, stewards and middle leaders group. They all support the tutor workforce which numbers over 70 tutors, who teach the full range of differing genres and instrumental families available for tuition through MMF.

Volunteers

We work closely with our parents' charity the Friends of Merton's Young Musicians (FMYM). The Friends meet regularly to administer the affairs of their charity, to arrange fundraising events to support the work of Merton Music Foundation, and to help with concerts and other events provided by our charity. Over the years, FMYM's fund raising has enabled us to buy instruments, purchase sheet music for our groups, provide coaching for events like Music is for Life and Music for Youth festivals, and support the provision of overseas tours for our senior Youth Music groups.

FMYM successfully fundraised through a 'sponsor a piano key' campaign to raise £20k for the purchase of a new Yamaha grand piano and U3 upright piano for Music Centre and teaching use. Over this last year they have been increasingly active. They have a balance of over £10k from running the Saturday café, selling refreshments at events and partnership with a local French bakery. As always, they encouraged, supported and gave judicious advice canvassed from the parent body to the MMF community. This year they generously supported a YP to cover the tour costs and bought new PA equipment. We are very grateful to them.

Ensuring our work continues to deliver our charitable purpose

We review our aims, objectives and activities annually through our Business Plan and regular reporting to Arts Council England. The review examines our achievements and the outcomes of our work over the past twelve months. It also looks at the success of each of the National Plan's Core and Extension role areas and the benefits that have been brought to the various groups of people we work with. The review also helps us ensure that our aims, objectives and activities remain focused on our stated charitable purpose. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in deciding what activities the charity should undertake for the following financial year. Over the course of the year we have had termly whole staff reviews across the organisation of our SMART targets and three year self-improvement planning. This has enabled us to embed our Vision and Values and place that at the core of our charitable endeavours and with investment in our website, to make this more publicly transparent and visible.

Public Benefit

The Trustees of Merton Music Foundation have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees believe that the organisation conforms readily to the public benefit requirements of the Charity Commission. The reasons for this belief are characterized by our charitable objective:

"To advance music education within a framework of the arts for the benefit of the public of the London Borough of Merton and elsewhere" which clearly demonstrates public benefit in advancing and promoting the importance of music education.

The advocacy work that MMF does is of potential benefit to all individuals, schools and its partnership organisations, by helping to create a learning environment in which live music making can flourish and be available to participants and audiences in the local community that the charity serves.

The key focus for MMF's work: music education through a framework of the arts, are both defined within the Charities Act 2006 as charitable activities and as such both directly benefit the public.

The main activities of the charity, and those we try to help, are those for children and young people in and around the London Borough of Merton to whom we aim to provide musical opportunities of the highest standard.

All the Foundation's projects are centered on children and young people, some of whom are 'hard to reach', have additional needs, disadvantaged backgrounds or challenging circumstances.

Financial assistance is not just limited to students of families who qualify for assistance from the free school meals criteria. The Trustees recognise that students from families whose income is only a little above the level to qualify for pupil premium/free school meals/specific benefits, but have to contend with the high cost of living in London, and over these last years, the impact of Covid 19, may also require support from MMF's Trust Fund and other funds. Applications from such children and young people are looked upon favourably.

MMF has instigated a 'Be more charity' approach which Trustees, the Youth Council, staff and parents have contributed to across the year to begin to create a more sustainable and transparent strategy for the organisation to underpin all activity.

Financial assistance in membership of MMF's Merton Youth Music activities and participating in its music making activities is considered in all cases of individual hardship.

The Trustees have therefore satisfied themselves that Merton Music Foundation meets the public benefit requirements and they confirm that they have taken due regard of the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

The following summary provides an overview of our achievements and performance against the National Plan for Music Education's Core and Extension Roles. The information is taken from our Annual Data Return to Arts Council England for the 2022/2023 academic year.

The impact of COVID-19 and the resultant necessity for an extraordinary pace of change and development in the organisation over the previous two years has continued in 2022/2023.

MMF started its second year at Merton Abbey Primary School in September 22. This relocation has enabled us to continue to expand and develop in many different areas. Lesson numbers have increased because of greater capacity at the venue and we have the flexibility of using the church next door for additional rehearsal and concert space. As part of our partnership with the school we are paying a much-reduced rent and delivering tuition across the school. Core team, students, tutors, trustees, parents and visitors all report that this is a much happier and suitable environment than our previous accommodation which has the added advantage of being in the centre of the borough and on all Merton major transport links. This has been a very positive new chapter for MMF.

Embedding our Vision and Values statement so that it is a living pledge and not just a website statement has been an organisational priority and this commitment has directly fed into our work around Equity, Diversion and Inclusion and underpinned the CPD training over the year for all staff. All staff contribute to the setting and review of SMART targets which are a standing item in our trustee meetings.

The SLT has continued to facilitate a process of organisational self-evaluation and improvement planning in order to turn the words of our new Vision to action. We reviewed, refined and developed the twelve three-year organisational goals, which are further broken down into twelve priorities for the academic year. Each goal/priority directly relates to one of the three main aims as set out in our Vision and will be supported by a detailed Action Plan with all staff being part of the review process. We also added an anonymous termly staff well-being survey to better understand the needs and feelings of the MMF team with regular feedback of the findings and the follow up actions.

We were pleased to be approached by the Assistant Director for Education and Early Help at London Borough of Merton during 2023 regarding the development of a £250k schools music project on behalf of the Leader of the Council. MMF undertook a Needs Analysis and developed a project proposal based around its own LINE principles (Legacy, Inclusion, Needs-Led and Excellence). MMF undertook a process of iteration and development, finally landing on 'Mini Musicians', a pilot programme and associated research study partnering with LBM, The University of Roehampton and Sing Up. Much development work was undertaken during the Summer Term ready for project implementation in Sept 2023 and a planned 'go live' date of January 2024.

MMF is delighted to report that after a trustee skills audit and successful recruitment process with support from Black Lives in Music, the MMF trustee board is much more representative of the community it serves. The input of the new members is proving dynamic and invigorating and we are grateful for the generous gift of their time, advice and support.

Lesson numbers continued to increase throughout the year from 1291 individual and small group lesson bookings per week in early September to 1502 lesson bookings per week in early July 23. We were surprised and pleased by the upward term on term trend as we know that many families are finding the economic situation challenging.

Our Operations Director and EDI lead were pleased to be invited to present at the annual Music Mark conference in November 2022 on the topic of 'Our EDI journey'. The presentation was well received and has led to increased engagement with MMF from peers on the topic of EDI, notably in collaborating with Changing Tracks on the development of an inclusive lesson observation process.

MMF embarked on a re-organisation of its staffing structure. We audited strengths and weaknesses across the organisation, revisited job descriptions and used our three-year planning framework to forecast specific areas for development. We appointed a .8 Musical Pathways Leader for September and recruited a .8 Programmes Leader to start in September 23. Alongside this we developed the middle leadership team by supporting them to become more autonomous, manage their own budgets and to take more responsibility for project activity.

The Youth Council conducted a survey of all music centre members in the autumn term and had a high response rate of 87%. As a result of this data, which they also presented to the board at a trustee meeting, they organised their second 'playday event' with support from the local NHS wellbeing network. It was very well supported (c.60 participants in the Y5-Y8 age range) with sectional and massed rehearsals and a final run-through with all performers. Particularly important to the YP was that it should be a social as well as musical event, so they planned a treasure hunt, pizza delivery and outdoor free time across the two days. Feedback was very positive from both participants and parents.

We were delighted to be able to offer our first tour since 2019 to Lake Geneva to our members from Y7 upwards who played in the intermediate and senior bands. It was different from previous MMF tours in inviting a wider cohort of musicians but worked extremely well with more massed participation items as well as highlighting the ensembles. Pupil and parental feedback was outstanding in every area - pastoral care, activities and performances.

CORE ROLES

1. First access

MMF continued the development of enhanced bespoke whole class projects in response to school requests. Almost 60% of primary schools were involved in our In2Music provision, covering a wide range of instruments.

We also delivered MMF's first Music Production WCET programme to c. 60 Year 6 pupils at The Sherwood School and established an analogue DJ-ing and turntablism nurture groups at St Mark's primary, a school which historically has not engaged in hub activity. School and parent feedback has been very positive.

We also further developed and embedded our new school-funded provision, which primarily consists of one-to-one and small group instrumental teaching for Pupil Premium and KS4 for pupils as well as a few lunchtime and after school clubs/ensembles. Significant growth in income has been achieved by working closely with secondary schools to support their needs, particularly at KS4 for exam preparation. This is a different way of working for MMF, where the contract is with the school rather than the parent so the Foundation doesn't hold pupil data for this provision. In three schools, this has been combined with school-subsidised lessons for certain groups of pupils which has further enabled the expansion of teaching registers. New processes have been divised had to be developed to enable schools to vary the hours needed each term and to monitor the school paid discounts being applied to new pupils. More than 4,200 young people took part in first access projects.

MMF ran a range of ensembles as part of its Music Centre offer during the year. It has been a particular focus to re-build provision after Covid as numbers had dropped considerably. We are pleased to report that more than 50 new members joined ensembles over the course of the year.

We continued to give support to school staff over repertoire, setting up and developing new school-based groups. Staff running music centre ensembles are meeting to discuss wider and more representative material. They have a budget to purchase new music as needed.

2. Ensembles

All ensembles had specific concerts to work towards – Young Voices sang at the packed NWT pantomime and Singfest, the senior Concert and Jazz Bands resumed their twenty plus year tradition of entertaining the crowds at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships. All the 4 jazz groups performed with musicians from the Jazz at Lincoln Centre in a summer celebration concert. There were termly concerts for all groups.

The new 'Music Centre Classes' programme established at Soundwave delivered DJ and Music Production lessons to groups of c. 8 pupils as small ensembles.

3. Progression

We continue to signpost locally to community music groups and promote local performing opportunities to young people. The National Plan for Music Education promotes the importance of every child between age 5 and 18 having the chance to learn a musical instrument and/or sing through structured activities. As part of this, there is a strong emphasis on musical progression with all children regardless of background having the opportunity to sing and play in larger ensembles, every school providing singing opportunities and aspiring towards having an orchestra or large-scale ensemble. This year we have again continued to focus on strengthening these progression routes within our operations area.

MMF started an early years strand with funding support from Clarion housing to serve the local housing estate where our MMF office is. This has been fully subscribed and has included social time with refreshments alongside the music sessions to support social engagement between families.

We also launched early years groups at Wimbledon College Saturday Music School called 'Step into Music'. These were immediately fully subscribed and offer a music curriculum from birth to age 7. There has been significant parental commitment to this progressive approach.

Cost of living crises has increased demand for MMF's Financial Assistance programme. This is something the Foundation will need to monitor closely as it develops its 'Be more charity strand'.

Supporting schools to implement their music curriculum with advice and support with the New Model Curriculum for Music. MMF Creative Director is writing Sound Ideas, a new Programme of Study to support KS1 and 2 curriculum delivery which includes clear progression documents, 'how to' guides, practical activities, video and audio resources.

We maintain our relationship with Wimbledon Community Chorus and signpost to local music groups such as Wandle Band and Wimbledon Community Orchestra to provide a pathway into adult learning.

We support pupils to make applications to junior conservatoires and national youth ensembles including NYJO and the National Children's Orchestra. We continued to support parents and pupils with career guidance and help with applications for higher education.

During the year pupils were encouraged to take a range of exams and we had a cohort of 100 pupils taking Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music exams in the summer term.

All pupils were encouraged to perform in regular termly 'Spotlight' concerts which were oversubscribed.

The Youth Council took on a more significant role across the year. We encouraged older pupils to volunteer (eg DofE) and mentor in younger groups.

We focused on targeted social media content to signpost to local families opportunities for lessons and ensemble membership and arts activities.

We recruited an additional middle management post in April 2022 to lead on musical pathways and progression to support children into musical learning as part of first access and are planning to deliver early years activities next academic year.

Support for our With One Voice Singing Strategy was encouraging, with 31 schools participating in at least one project with a significant singing element.

Schools are making good use of revised progression documents in MMF's Sound Ideas programme of study to improve their curriculum delivery and creating knowledge organisers in line with the Model Music Curriculum. There was strong uptake of projects including 22 schools for the planned RAH concert, due in March 2024.

4. Singing strategy

This year's projects included 3 jazz-focused projects/concerts with Blues and Roots Ensemble, Jazz at the Lincoln Centre, Friday Afternoon Blues, an opera and art project and SingFest community choral festival. There was a high level of engagement with Blues and Roots Ensemble concert at the New Wimbledon Theatre: 26 schools, 1570 participants. North Meets South Blues and Roots Ensemble project: 240 children from 4 schools. Friday Afternoon Blues: 30 children. Jazz At Lincoln Centre concerts: 1,112 children, 142 staff at 21 schools. SingFest: 581 children. Sound Construction music and art project: 30 children.

We were approached by National Youth Choir to extend their work in the hub/maintained school sector and launched a secondary age project with three high schools. This partnership will be a positive development to support secondary singing, particularly with changing voices. An additional MMF vocal group, VoiceBox, is planned for September 23.

This was an encouraging number of events with a high level of participation and creates a basis for stronger choral partnership development in 2023-24.

EXTENSION ROLES

Continuous professional development (CPD)

CPD – Schools

3 CPD meetings were held over the year online for Primary and Secondary Music Coordinators, alongside bespoke sessions for teachers as requested. In-person model teaching, music audits and staff INSET were delivered during in several Primary schools. MMF also delivered training to Wandsworth NQTs.

SLA schools (75% of primary schools) have received bespoke support, ranging from model teaching, staff INSET, advice on developing the curriculum (including the Model Music Curriculum), Programmes of Study, progression and resources audit.

MMF's Merton Teachers Facebook group continues to be extensively used to disseminate a wide range of online resources throughout the year. We have experienced some challenges over the year because schools have reduced budgets so find it hard to pay participation fees for projects and schools are reducing staff numbers to balance budgets so it is impossible to get staff out in the school day. There has been a steady reduction in music specialists in primary schools to c.20%. We also experience bid writing challenges for activity during the school day – many funders will only support out of hours provision. There are frequent change of secondary music HoDs and pressure in schools on one person departments. Schools are increasingly reluctant to permit CYP to be absent from school for approved MMF activity. But although these challenges persist, we are proud to report that links with schools remain strong and meaningful with high levels of engagement and shared events.

CPD – Tutors

The Middle and Senior leadership teams offered ongoing informal advice/ guidance to tutor workforce and the administration team supports tutors with Speed Admin queries. The introduction of this system has reduced paper workload as the process is more streamlined and the data more accessible.

We continue to support tutors leading/co-leading Merton Youth Music ensembles and extra time given for online preparation. The focus on widening repertoire choices as part of MMF'S ED&I commitment has been a productive process and a professional learning opportunity for all members of the community.

Instrumental meetings were held regularly, formally and 'drop in' sessions to support tutors. The standards observed in lesson observations were high and we have focussed on supportive 'next steps' conversations with the workforce as part of feedback for professional development. The tutor peer to peer learning programme was further developed and tutors who had collaborated on learning resources with a colleague were invited to share their journey with the wider team. Twilight Tutor Sharing sessions have been set up termly and three tutors at each event made presentations about their piece of professional research. This has become an important part of our wider Continuous Professional Learning approach at MMF.

High Quality Musical Experiences

MMF provides many opportunities to perform and to attend high quality concerts and events throughout the year. Music Centre groups have termly concerts and are also encouraged to take part in external events. Playing at the Wimbledon Tennis championships to entertain the enthusiastic crowds is always a highlight for the senior jazz and concert bands. Young Voices sang at the New Wimbledon Theatre pantomime and participated in SingFest. The saxophone ensemble played at the Rutsfest bank holiday weekend festival for the first time.

Senior musicians were invited to take part in a tour to Lake Geneva (our first since Covid) and we enjoyed a fantastic trip with inspirational music-making and opportunities to create new social networks and friendships.

The Let Freedom Swing workshops with musicians from the Lincoln Center in New York gave schools the opportunity to hear live music and then the musicians worked with the MMF jazz bands in a summer celebration concert supported by our parent organisation FMYM.

Schools participated in a Blues and Roots ensemble concert at New Wimbledon Theatre, having worked on material produced around the history of jazz in advance and learnt a song for the performance.

The next Royal Albert Hall concert will be in March 2024 with over 22 schools involved and all our Music Centre groups.

Hire

Instrumental hire has seen a real growth over the past year. The additional staffing capacity of our Instruments and Centres Assistant, combined with the greater accessibility of stock following our move of premises, and a clearer oversite over stock levels/condition following the full review facilitated by the Cultural Recovery Fund has enabled us to issue 264 instrumental hires to individuals in 2022-23, bringing total stock on hire to 399. We have also been able to successfully fulfil a large number of hire and In2Music requests from schools, due to continued careful management and deployment of whole-class instrumental teaching stock. During 2022-23 over 800 of MMF's instruments were in use in Merton schools. We have also been able to extend our instrumental hire stock to include electric guitar starter packs, which include a practice amplifier. This initiative is linked to our new Electric Guitar Large Group lessons offer at Music Centre South Wimbledon. The ongoing partnership with our local instrument retailer, Sutton Music Centre, has enabled rapid replenishment and repair of instrumental stock as well as a discount scheme for MMF pupils at SMC.

School Music Education Partnership (SMEP)

We continued to work positively with all stakeholders, talking to head teachers and the LA officers. Understanding the wider borough school situation and the focus on supporting young people was a key part of our ongoing relationships with schools in the autumn term.

Developing the School Music Education Plan is part of our remit to work closely with all schools to support pupils' musical experiences both within and beyond school.

Schools can become SLA partners and 75% of local primary schools joined this active community. This supportive network share resources, meet in cluster groups to discuss good practice and use MMF as a sounding board for ideas, project opportunities and extension activities.

SLA membership entitles schools to access ½ a day of CPD support, termly network meetings for Music Coordinators, accreditation as a 'Moving Music Forward' school including certificate and footer logo, Music Mark Schools membership and preferential pricing for hub events, concerts and training.

Partnership development

Members of Merton Music Foundation's Senior Leadership Team have continue to meet formally and informally with all of its Hub partners over the year to ensure that the focus for all activities is clearly established and targeted where appropriate. The focus for our hub work is on developing connectivity with selected partners who can strengthen and broaden the reach of our education work and avoid duplication. MMF has continued to develop, build and maintain effective partnerships with a wide range of local and national partners as noted above.

We are pleased to report that our strong South-West London Music Education Hub Partnership group has grown closer since lockdown, meeting more regularly and we have set up a joint website. As we bid together to become a new hub lead organisation we will be building on a trusted network of colleagues.

Significant new partnership developments include working with the Jack Lonergan Foundation and the closer local authority link with the Mini Musicians programme.

Plans for the future

Within the framework of our ongoing self-improvement plan our operational plans for the coming year are flexible and responsive. We are delighted to be leading the Mini Musicians project, positive about the increase in lesson numbers and focused on developing our 'Be more charity identity', alongside our regular activities.

Other priorities include:

Working with SW London Music Education Hub Partnership colleagues to prepare to bid as a joint Hub Lead Organisation to Arts Council England.

To continue to work with a wide range of partners who bring benefit to our music education activities for young people.

To continue to embed the new MMF Vision and action plan, regularly reviewing targets and achievements.

To diversify the offer to young people as a result of listening to their views about music via the years 6-8 seven borough wide music survey. To support the development of the MMF Youth Council by building on the results of the survey they conducted with members and addressing their requests and supporting and enabling the youth council to develop our sustainability action plan.

To promote the development of Music Production and DJ provision at the new Soundwave Music Centre.

Building on and developing the strategic partnership relationship between Merton Abbey Primary School and MMF for mutual benefit.

Explore ways in which funding can be secured to deliver new partnerships and start planning potential projects that could be delivered during this period, particularly in preparation for our next Royal Albert Hall concert in March 24.

Financial review
The principal movements in Income and Expenditure were:

Merton Music Foundation enjoyed another successful year with a continued increase in lesson numbers and music centre membership.

There was in increase in turnover of 16% from the previous year reflecting this increase in lesson numbers. Turnover rose to £1,475,558 from £1,273,215.

As turnover increased, total expenditure of the charity increased also from £1,248,172 to £1,475,011, an increase of 18%.

There was a small surplus of £547 at the end of the year, restricted funds fell to £1,839 from £12,972.

Financial position at year-end:

The net assets of the charity remain at a healthy £226,640. This is a slight fall from the previous year's figure of £239,692 as the restricted funds figure was reduced in the year.

The current net assets stand at £197,658, just a small reduction from the previous year. Cash balances showed a significant increase at the year-end to £364,391 from £315,477 at the previous year-end.

The financial position at the 31st August 2023 remains strong.

Structure, governance and management
Governing document

Merton Music Foundation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 12 March 1991 and registered as a charity on 11 September 1991. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Michael Collins	(Resigned 3 October 2022)
Edward Hickman	
Rowena Maybury	
Ian Bond	
Stephen Moran	(Resigned 3 October 2022)
Sandra Vogel	
Emma Trevelyan	
Nicky Morgan	
Sebastian Jones	(Appointed 3 October 2022)
Manish Solanki	(Appointed 3 October 2022)
Kingsley Green	(Appointed 3 October 2022)
Mia Liyanage	(Appointed 3 October 2022)
Elisabeth Wigley	(Resigned 25 May 2023)

Trustee induction and training

New trustee induction includes briefing them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. During the induction process, they meet key employees and the other trustees. All trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events to develop their understanding of their roles as trustees. New trustees are also given relevant documentation including recent important documentation on music education, management financial reports, meeting minutes and copies of the charity's annual Reports and financial statements.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

MMF works closely with the Friends of Merton's Young Musicians (FMYM) (Charity No. 274493R). FMYM is the parents' association for our Music Centre activities, which are based at the Chaucer Centre. The Chief Executive serves in an ex-officio non-voting capacity on the management committee of FMYM.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees meets termly to manage the affairs of the charity. The Board consisted of nine directors, from a variety of professional backgrounds, who are responsible for the overall strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Chief Executive, manages the day-to-day operations of the charity, and as delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustee body, for operational matters including finance, employment and artistic related activity.

Risk management

The Trustees have a risk management policy, which comprises an annual review of the risks the charity may face and establishes systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified.

Health & safety and child protection

The health and safety of staff and students together with child protection are primary concerns to the Trustees. Music Centre managers and other key staff undertake both first aid and fire marshal training and all staff are made aware of their own duties and responsibilities for health and safety issues.

Merton Music Foundation adopts the current Child Protection requirements as set out by the Home Office. Prior to the commencement of work enhanced DBS checks take place for all new staff together with at least two satisfactory references and interview. DBS's are rechecked for all staff and trustees every 3 years.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that WSM Advisors Limited be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Edward Hickman

Edward Hickman

Trustee

Dated: 20th May 2024

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

For the year ended 31 August 2023

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Merton Music Foundation for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Merton Music Foundation (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The impact of macro-economic uncertainties on our audit

Our audit of the financial statements requires us to obtain an understanding of all relevant uncertainties, including those arising as a consequence of the effects of macro-economic uncertainties. All audits assess and challenge the reasonableness of estimates made by the trustees and the related disclosures and the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements. All of these depend on assessments of the future economic environment and the company's future prospects and performance.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to management bias in accounting estimates and posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate the fair value of the company's assets.

Our tests included agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation where relevant, review of Directors meeting minutes, enquiries with management as to the risks of non-compliance and any instances thereof, challenging assumptions and judgments made by management, and identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations. Our audit procedures also focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Companies Act 2006.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less like we are to become aware of it.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

WSM Advisors Limited

Wendy Patterson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of WSM Advisors Limited

23 May 2024

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Connect House
133-137 Alexandra Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 7JY

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	9,693	-	9,693	8,757
Charitable activities	4	1,239,088	226,583	1,465,671	1,264,448
Investments		194	-	194	10
Total income		1,248,975	226,583	1,475,558	1,273,215
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	1,475,011	-	1,475,011	1,248,172
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(226,036)	226,583	547	25,043
Gross transfers between funds		226,583	(226,583)	-	-
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		547	-	547	25,043
Fund balances at 1 September 2022		224,254	1,839	226,093	214,649
Fund balances at 31 August 2023		224,801	1,839	226,640	239,692

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		28,982		35,406
Current assets					
Debtors	10	14,688		5,128	
Cash at bank and in hand		364,391		315,477	
		379,079		320,605	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	181,421		116,319	
Net current assets			197,658		204,286
Total assets less current liabilities			226,640		239,692
The funds of the charitable company					
Restricted income funds	13		1,839		12,973
Unrestricted funds			224,801		226,719
			226,640		239,692

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20th May 2024

Edward Hickman

Edward Hickman
Trustee

Company registration number 02590621 (England and Wales)

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	**21**		51,954		11,116
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(3,234)		(6,523)	
Interest received		194		10	
Net cash used in investing activities			(3,040)		(6,513)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			48,914		4,603
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			315,477		310,874
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			364,391		315,477

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Merton Music Foundation is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is c/o Merton Abbey School, High Path, London, SW19 2JY.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charitable company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Incoming resources

Incoming resources represents tuition fees, income from concerts, tours, hire of instruments, music centre subscription and other fees rendered in the year.

Income is recognised when the charitable company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charitable company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to membership received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the receipt.

1.4 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1 **Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

Expenditure for charitable purposes

Direct charitable expenditure includes all expenditure directly related to the objectives of the charitable company and comprises the costs of providing instrumental tuition, concert performances, tours, and education and community projects undertaken by the charitable company and is accounted for when payable.

Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on the basis of an estimate of the proportion of time spent by staff on those activities.

Governance costs

Governance costs represent expenditure incurred in the management of the charitable company's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Musical instruments	25% on reducing balance basis
Computer equipment	25% on reducing balance basis
Office equipment	25% on reducing balance basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.6 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charitable company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charitable company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charitable company's balance sheet when the charitable company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1 **Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.9 Fund Accounting

The funds held by the charitable company are either:

Restricted funds - these are funds that can be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charitable company. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular purposes.

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes.

The funds received in the year are transferred to the general fund to be set off against expenses in the year that relate to the agreed activities with Arts Council England.

Peter Wooding's bursary fund

These funds have been designated by the charitable company to support exceptional young musicians at the request of Peter Wooding's family. The fund was established with donations made to the charitable company. The charitable company held sufficient cash balances at the year end to allow the funds to be applied as intended.

Greenwood bursary fund

The Greenwood bursary fund was established by the charitable company from funds transferred to it from the Ronald Greenwood Musical Trust by the London Borough of Merton who had previously operated the trust. The fund is operated in accordance with the Ronald Greenwood Musical Trust deed and awards are made to young musicians who show great promise. The charitable company held sufficient cash balances at the year end to allow the fund to be operated in accordance with the Trust deed.

Wider Opportunities

The grant's original use was restricted to the purchase, lease or repair of musical instruments suitable for use with children in KS2. The funds were applied as intended in the period of receipt and the remaining reserve is now reduced by the depreciation and disposal of the fund- purchased musical instruments.

1 **Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

Arts Council England Funding
The charitable company received a grant in the year from the Arts Council England. According to the Funding Agreement, the use of the grant is restricted to the agreed activities with the Arts Council. The grant is recognised in the accounts when they are received and applied to the period it relates to.

Dorothy Taylor Bequest
The charitable company received restricted funds within the current year to support one girl and one boy in their musical studies for the period of 4 years at the request of the late Dorothy Taylor.

Arts Council England 'Grants for the arts'
The charitable company received restricted funds within the current year to support its Backstories and Radio Retro Projects.

2 **Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

In the application of the charitable company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 **Donations and legacies**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donations and gifts	9,693	8,757

4 Charitable activities

	Tuition fees	Hire of instruments	Music centre subscriptions	Concert and tour receipts	Fees - inset	Grants receivable	Other income	Total 2023	Total 2022
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sale of goods	1,073,729	26,584	48,522	67,109	22,688	-	456	1,239,088	1,004,528
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	226,583	-	226,583	259,920
	1,073,729	26,584	48,522	67,109	22,688	226,583	456	1,465,671	1,264,448
Analysis by fund									
Unrestricted funds	1,073,729	26,584	48,522	67,109	22,688	-	456	1,239,088	1,004,528
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	226,583	-	226,583	259,920
	1,073,729	26,584	48,522	67,109	22,688	226,583	456	1,465,671	1,264,448
For the year ended 31 August 2022									
Unrestricted funds	831,536	30,335	39,484	65,026	18,513	15,599	4,035		1,004,528
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	259,920	-		259,920
	831,536	30,335	39,484	65,026	18,513	275,519	4,035		1,264,448

5 Charitable activities

	Staff costs	Depreciation	Direct Costs	Allocated costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	2023	2023	2023	2023		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Instrumental tuition	209,978	-	497,696	28,403	736,077	628,284
Youth music programme	152,111	-	282,124	7,101	441,336	346,120
Tours and Concerts	58,360	-	80,488	7,101	145,949	81,681
Professional advice and support	7,213	-	-	3,550	10,763	9,780
CPD training	6,706	-	-	3,550	10,256	9,288
Project development	65,696	-	745	7,101	73,542	112,372
Instrument repair and hire	-	-	3,510	7,101	10,611	7,452
	500,064	-	864,563	63,907	1,428,534	1,194,977
Share of support costs (see note 6)	15,487	9,658	1,261	7,101	33,507	39,695
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	-	-	12,970	-	12,970	13,500
	515,551	9,658	878,794	71,008	1,475,011	1,248,172

6 Support costs

	Support cost	Other costs	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Salaries	14,583	-	14,583	14,046
Pension costs	904	-	904	874
Bank charges	1,260	-	1,260	7,420
Depreciation	9,658	-	9,658	11,802
Allocated support	7,101	-	7,101	5,554
Audit and accountancy fee	-	12,970	12,970	13,500
	33,506	12,970	46,476	53,196

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £12,970 (2022: £13,500) for audit fees.

These costs are wholly attributable to charitable activities and are allocated based on the trustees' estimate of the appropriate proportion attributable to each activity.

7 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Number of employees	40	34

	£	£
Wages and salaries	593,772	485,035
Social security costs	45,010	37,328
Other pension costs	66,136	51,290
	704,919	573,652

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,000 to £70,000	1	1
£70,000 to £80,000	1	1
£80,000 to £90,000	1	1

Those employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 (2022: 3 employees) also have retirement benefits accruing under defined benefit pension schemes. A total of £66,742 (2022: £61,679) was paid to the Teachers' Pension Scheme in the year for these employees.

8 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Musical instruments	Computer equipment	Office equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 September 2022	229,530	51,867	31,618	313,015
Additions	-	-	3,234	3,234
At 31 August 2023	229,530	51,867	34,852	316,249
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 September 2022	205,936	41,646	30,027	277,609
Depreciation charged in the year	5,899	2,555	1,204	9,658
At 31 August 2023	211,835	44,201	31,231	287,267
Carrying amount				
At 31 August 2023	17,695	7,666	3,621	28,982
At 31 August 2022	23,594	10,221	1,591	35,406

10 Debtors

	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	3,012	5,128
Prepayments and accrued income	11,676	-
	14,688	5,128

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	10,703	9,257
Deferred income	116,517	35,631
Trade creditors	31,329	40,310
Other creditors	1,211	8,560
Accruals	21,661	22,561
	181,421	116,319

Other deferred income relates to deposits and fees paid in advance for the following year.

12 Retirement benefit schemes

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees not in the Teachers Pension Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently administered fund.

13 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charitable company include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

	Balance at 1 September 2022	Resources expended	Balance at 31 August 2023
	£	£	£
Dorothy Taylor Bequest	3,405	(1,566)	1,839
Greenwood Bursary	9,567	(9,567)	-
	12,972	(11,133)	1,839

Arts Council England (ACE) made a grant available to the charitable company during the year. The use of the grant has no specific restrictions; however the funding is subject to the charitable company delivering the agreed activities within the core roles and extension roles of the National Plan for Music Education as highlighted within the Trustees' Report. The funds received in the year have been transferred to the general fund to be set off against expenses in the year that relate to the agreed activities with ACE.

14 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 September 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 August 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Peter Woodings Bursary	5,445	-	(2,465)	-	2,980
General funds	218,809	1,248,975	(1,472,546)	226,583	221,821
	224,254	1,248,975	(1,475,011)	226,583	224,801

Previous year:	At 1 September 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 August 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	201,676	1,013,295	(1,248,172)	259,920	226,719

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds 2023	Unrestricted funds 2023	Total 2023	Restricted funds 2022	Unrestricted funds 2022	Total 2022
	£	£	££	£		£
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	-	-	28,982	-	35,406	35,406
Current assets/(liabilities)	1,839	195,819	197,658	12,973	191,313	204,286
	1,839	195,819	226,640	12,973	226,719	239,692

16 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

The liability of the members is limited. Every member undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company, in the event of the company being wound up whilst they are a member, or within one year after ceasing to be a member, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before ceasing to be a member.

17 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charitable company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Within one year	18,000	18,000
Between two and five years	36,000	54,000
	54,000	72,000

18 Related party transactions

During the year there was an employee who was employed as a chief executive officer who was also a director. Remuneration was paid to this director in the capacity of an employee.

None of the trustees (or any persons with them) received and remuneration or benefits from the charitable company during the year.

19 Teachers' Pension Scheme

The charity participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme (England and Wales) (the TPS), for its teaching staff. The pension charge for the year includes contributions payable to the TPS of £61,837 (2022 : £48,737).

The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefits pension scheme governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2014. Members contribute on a "pay as you go" basis with contributions from members and the employer being credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

The employer contribution rate is set following scheme valuations undertaken by the Government Actuary's Department. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was prepared as at 31 March 2016, and the valuation report, which was published in September 2019. The employers contribution rate increased to 23.68%. Employers are also required to pay a scheme administration levy of 0.08% giving a total employer contribution rate of 23.76%. This valuation will also determine the opening balance of the cost cap fund and provide an analysis of the cost cap as required by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013.

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charitable company had no material debt during the year.

21 Cash generated from operations

	2023	2022
	£	£
Surplus for the year	547	25,043
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(194)	(10)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	9,658	11,802
Movement in designated restricted funds	(11,133)	-
Movement in designated unrestricted funds	(2,465)	-
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in debtors	(9,561)	(1,526)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(15,784)	11,788
Increase/(decrease) in deferred income	80,886	(35,981)
Cash generated from operations	51,954	11,116

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1004122

Accounts

Charity registration number 1004122

Company registration number 02590621 (England and Wales)

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

Annual report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2022

Pages for filing with registrar

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Edward Hickman	
	Rowena Maybury	
	Ian Bond	
	Sandra Vogel	
	Emma Trevelyan	
	Nicky Morgan	
	Sebastian Jones	(Appointed 3 October 2022)
	Manish Solanki	(Appointed 3 October 2022)
	Kingsley Green	(Appointed 3 October 2022)
	Mia Liyanage	(Appointed 3 October 2022)
Secretary	Mr L Meechan	
Charity number	1004122	
Company number	02590621	
Registered office	c/o Merton Abbey School High Path London SW19 2JY	
Auditor	WSM Advisors Limited Connect House 133-137 Alexandra Road Wimbledon London SW19 7JY	

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

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MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 August 2022

Chair's Introduction

The start of the academic year marked MMF's formal move to our new home at Merton Abbey Primary School. The school has been able to offer accommodation for our offices and music centre activities and the MMF community is enjoying being there. As part of the agreement the core team is involved in leading school music activities which is supporting pupils and staff to explore a wider music curriculum and access to the arts.

September 2021 also saw the very welcome return of live music across MMF. The transition was complex with restrictions around large groups and nervousness about singing activities, but after a considered start we were able to enjoy our first concerts at Christmas with capacity delighted audiences.

We were delighted to be asked by Wimbledon College to take over the running of their Saturday music school which had been suspended after the pandemic. It opened in September 21 and by the end of the academic year had 100 young people taking lessons at the new centre. We also opened Soundwave on the Mitcham side of the borough for DJ and turntable classes which is building up in numbers.

MMF remains at the forefront of cultural activity across the borough. We work closely with outstanding local arts providers and practitioners - New Wimbledon Theatre, Polka Theatre, Wimbledon International Music Festival, Crown Lane Studio – and extensively with local charitable and amateur music-making groups. We work together to provide high quality arts experiences, to avoid duplication and to meet and respond to local need.

Later in the year we were able to deliver a range of projects with Jazz at the Lincoln Center musicians, Singfest involving 17 schools, Sound Construction and partnership work with Polka Theatre, Merton Library service, Bookfest, Wimbledon Community Chorus, Wimbledon Choral Society and a very welcome post-Covid return to the Wimbledon Tennis Championships with the senior jazz and concert band ensembles to entertain enthusiastic crowds.

The pandemic had impacted hugely on the numbers of young people taking lessons and numbers were 902 at the end of the academic year (that number was a steady recovery rise through the previous year). During 21-22 numbers (despite the start of the inflationary period from February onwards) increased to 1395. This was a remarkable achievement in the face of challenging circumstances.

Schools remain our key focus and almost all primaries and secondaries benefitted from our School Music Education Plan. Relationships with schools remained strong and we delivered 49 whole class tuition projects reaching around 3,000 children. Support for teachers continued with regular termly meetings and 35 schools participated in an MMF led project and 65% of primary schools joined the SLA.

We were pleased to have a particular focus on Equality Diversity and Inclusion during the year. This way of viewing and analysing MMF activity has enabled us to focus on putting the needs of under-represented groups at the forefront of our work. This has involved a trustee board profile and formed the basis of our recruitment strategy. We are pleased to report that for September 22 the trustee board will be more representative of our local community after a successful recruitment process.

The Youth Council has grown in reach and confidence and organized an all-day event at the South Wimbledon music centre for a wide range of young people to come together and make music and then perform at the end to an audience. They meet regularly and share their minutes with the senior team. Young people have also been encouraged to take on mentoring roles and support their Duke of Edinburgh awards with music centre activity.

The work around our vision and values has been developed and strengthened by regular whole staff reviews which are built into the MMF regular meeting cycle. Deciding priorities and reviewing progress towards targets is a whole team responsibility. We also introduced a workforce satisfaction survey which we run termly and report on in the next meeting and with updates and actions.

We are proud to support young people with financial assistance from many different sources. Our own trust fund, London Music Fund, a bequest and donations form the basis of this. We liaise with Social services to support Children who are looked after and work with parents and carers who manage their child's personal budget to provide appropriate tuition.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all our staff and tutors for their on-going dedication and enthusiasm in providing young people in Merton with such a wide range of music experiences and participation opportunities. This has shone through in particular with the restarting and building up again of services and musical experiences post-pandemic.

I would also like to thank Steven Moran and Michael Collins for their valuable support and input as Trustees over many years before stepping down in 2022. We have welcomed four new Trustees to the Board and I look forward to working with all my Trustee colleagues in building on MMF's tremendous track record in the coming year and in future.

Edward Hickman

Edward Hickman
Chairman

Date: 25th May 2023

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

For the year ended 31 August 2022

The trustees are pleased to present their annual trustees report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 August 2022, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

The legal and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The trustees who served during the year noted on page 1.

Charitable objective

Merton Music Foundation (MMF) aims to promote and support the highest quality music education for ALL.

Our charitable objective is 'To advance music education within a framework of the arts for the benefit of the public of the London Borough of Merton and elsewhere".

MMF's mission is to encourage participation, enjoyment and achievement by providing the highest quality learning opportunities in music and the performing arts.

The vision that shapes our annual activities is based on the aspirations of the National Plan for Music Education 'The Importance of Music'. Published in November 2011, it sets out the Government's vision for music education to enable children from all backgrounds and every part of England to have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; to make music with others; to learn to sing and to have the opportunity to progress to the next level of excellence.

Music Education Hubs

Merton Music Foundation is the lead partner for the Merton Music Education Hub, part of a national network of music education hubs established in 2012.

Music Education Hubs are a vital part of the Government's National Plan for Music Education Plan, which resulted from a thorough review of music education undertaken by Darren Henley in 2011. The Hub receives funding directly from Arts Council England on behalf of the Department of Education.

Music Hubs have a remit to fulfil four core roles and three extension roles in the delivery of music education:

Core Roles

- **First Access** - Ensure that every child aged 5-18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (other than voice) through whole class ensemble teaching programmes.
- **Ensembles** - Provide opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform from an early stage.
- **Progression** - Ensure that clear progression routes are available and affordable to all young people.
- **Singing** - Develop a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil sings regularly and that choirs and other vocal ensembles are available in the area.

Extension Roles

- **Continuous Professional Development** - CPD for school staff, particularly in supporting schools to deliver music in the curriculum.
- **Instrument Hire** - Provide an instrument loan service, with discounts for those on low incomes.
- **Live Music Opportunities** - Provide access to large scale and high quality music experiences for pupils, working with professional musicians and venues. This will include undertaking work to publicise the opportunities available to schools, parents/carers and students.

Working in partnership

The charity's hub programme is a collaboration between key local, regional and national music and arts organisations working together to create joined up, high quality music education in and out of school.

The key overriding aims of our partnerships continue to be to broaden and increase the opportunities for music making for all children and young people in the region, regardless of their background or personal circumstances; to avoid duplication, make decisions on the basis of need and to raise the standards of music provision to the highest levels possible.

Our partners during the 2021/22 financial year included Crown Lane Studio, Merton Children, Schools and Families Department, London Music Fund, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Wimbledon Choral Society, Wimbledon Community Chorus, Sonoro Chamber Choir, Wimbledon College, The Sherwood (Soundwave), St Johns Church, Kings College School (Fab Project), Polka Theatre, Wimbledon International Music Festival, New Wimbledon Theatre and Changing Tracks (ED&I Music Education Lead), Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.. The charity is also an active member of the South West London Music Education Partnership, which consists of the music services of Croydon, Hounslow, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth.

Delivery

Executive responsibility for delivery rests with the Chief Executive and the Senior Leadership Team, made up of three full-time employees and one part-time employee of the Foundation and to whom all other employees report either directly or indirectly. MMF aims to achieve the highest quality service provision by striving to provide the best opportunities in which to encourage learning through the National Plan's Core and Extension roles.

Building effective and secure partnerships is critical to our ethos of developing sustainable music education provision within the region. At the heart of this development is the Merton Music Education Hub, which builds on the existing structure of local, regional and national partnerships and levers in support for the charity's various education activities.

Volunteers

We work closely with our parents' charity the Friends of Merton's Young Musicians (FMYM). The Friends meet regularly to administer the affairs of their charity, to arrange fundraising events to support the work of Merton Music Foundation, and to help with concerts and other events provided by our charity. Over the years, FMYM's fund raising has enabled us to buy instruments, purchase sheet music for our groups, provide coaching for events like Music is for Life and Music for Youth festivals, and support the provision of overseas tours for our senior Youth Music groups. FMYM successfully fundraised through a 'sponsor a piano key' campaign to raise £20k for the purchase of a new Yamaha grand piano and U3 upright piano for Music Centre and teaching use just ahead of the pandemic. Over this past pandemic year they have had few opportunities for fundraising and any practical activity, although they remain in regular supportive contact. Over this last year they have re-established the Saturday Café which is a welcoming social space for MMF families and is income generating, and have pledged funds for a new middle years weekend activity and a subsidy towards the senior overseas tour in 2023.

Ensuring our work continues to deliver our charitable purpose

We review our aims, objectives and activities annually through our Business Plan and regular reporting to Arts Council England. The review examines our achievements and the outcomes of our work over the past twelve months. It also looks at the success of each of the National Plan's Core and Extension role areas and the benefits that have been brought to the various groups of people we work with. The review also helps us ensure that our aims, objectives and activities remain focused on our stated charitable purpose. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in deciding what activities the charity should undertake for the following financial year.

Over the course of the year we have had termly whole staff reviews across the organisation. of our SMART targets and three year self-improvement planning. This has enabled us to embed our Vision and Values and place that at the core of our charitable endeavours and with investment in our website, to make this more publicly transparent and visible.

Public Benefit

The Trustees of Merton Music Foundation have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees believe that the organisation conforms readily to the public benefit requirements of the Charity Commission. The reasons for this belief are characterized by our charitable objective:

"To advance music education within a framework of the arts for the benefit of the public of the London Borough of Merton and elsewhere", which clearly demonstrates public benefit in advancing and promoting the importance of music education.

The advocacy work that MMF does is of potential benefit to all individuals, schools and its partnership organisations, by helping to create a learning environment in which live music making can flourish and be available to participants and audiences in the local community that the charity serves.

The key focus for MMF's work: music education through a framework of the arts, are both defined within the Charities Act 2006 as charitable activities and as such both directly benefit the public.

The main activities of the charity, and those we try to help, are those for children and young people in and around the London Borough of Merton to whom we aim to provide musical opportunities of the highest standard.

All the Foundation's projects are centered on children and young people, some of whom are 'hard to reach', have additional needs, disadvantaged backgrounds or challenging circumstances.

Financial assistance is not just limited to students of families who qualify for assistance from the free school meals criteria. The Trustees recognise that students from families whose income is only a little above the level to qualify for pupil premium/free school meals/specific benefits, but have to contend with the high cost of living in London, and over these last years, the impact of Covid 19, may also require support from MMF's Trust Fund and other funds. Applications from such children and young people are looked upon favourably.

Financial assistance in membership of MMF's Merton Youth Music activities and participating in its music making activities is considered in all cases of individual hardship.

The Trustees have therefore satisfied themselves that Merton Music Foundation meets the public benefit requirements and they confirm that they have taken due regard of the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

The following summary provides an overview of our achievements and performance against the National Plan for Music Education's Core and Extension Roles. The information is taken from our Annual Data Return to Arts Council England for the 2021/2022 academic year.

The impact of COVID-19 and the resultant necessity for an extraordinary pace of change and development in the organisation over the previous year continued in 2021/2022.

MMF moved formally to Merton Abbey Primary School in September 21. This relocation has enabled us to expand and develop in many different areas. Lesson numbers have increased because of greater capacity at the venue and we had the flexibility of using the church next door for additional rehearsal and concert space. As part of our partnership with the school we are paying a much-reduced rent and delivering tuition across the school including a nurture group. Core team, students, tutors, trustees, parents and visitors all report that this is a much happier and suitable environment than our previous accommodation which has the added advantage of being in the centre of the borough and on all Merton major transport links.

Embedding our Vision and Values statement so that it is a living pledge and not just a website statement has been an organisational priority and this commitment has directly fed into our work around Equity, Diversion and Inclusion and underpinned the CPD training over the year for all staff.

The SLT facilitated a process of organisational self-evaluation and improvement planning in order to turn the words of our new Vision to action. We reviewed, refined and developed the twelve three-year organisational goals, which are further broken down into twelve priorities for the academic year. Each goal/priority directly relates to one of the three main aims as set out in our Vision and will be supported by a detailed Action Plan with all staff being part of the review process. We also added an anonymous termly staff well-being survey to better understand the needs and feelings of the MMF team with regular feedback of the findings and the follow up actions.

In parallel to articulating Our Vision, the Senior Leadership Team has added an additional middle leadership post of Musical Pathways Leader to complement the new roles established in the previous year relating to the priorities set out in the Vision around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Quality of Learning.

We established a new Saturday Music Centre at Wimbledon College using their purpose-built music facility. By the end of the year there were nearly 100 pupils attending individual lessons and it had blossomed into a thriving musical community.

Lesson numbers increased from 900 in September to 1334 by the end of the academic year which was a remarkable achievement as after Covid (which impacted so strongly on tuition) we headed into a period of economic uncertainty in Spring 22 and were concerned that affordability of tuition would be affected and parents would not be able to commit to lessons. Mindful of inflation we increased fees by c.3% rather than the inflation rate for 22/23.

We were delighted to welcome a KickStart young person to join the team on a 6 month assignment who supported with filming and creating digital resources.

The newly established Youth Council organised their first big event in March 22 which involved an all age ensemble day with small and large ensemble rehearsals and a group performance to an audience at the end.

The digital survey carried out with our 7 SW London partners revealed significant data about what young people think about online music-making and we have made a joint application for further funding to develop a resource website for young people in 22-23.

95% of local maintained schools worked with MMF on core roles supported by the hub's SMEP (School Music Education Plan) and Singing Strategy with 51% of schools receiving hub-led or supported WCET programmes. An incredible effort was made to ensure this level of engagement following the disruption of COVID.

The hub also engaged with a number of non-maintained local schools, including London Acorn School via a WCET project, Kings College School via a partnership project, Liberty Woodland school via staff training and arts projects, Marymount International school & Ursuline Prep via instrumental tuition provision.

The senior concert band and jazz band were delighted to be invited back to the Wimbledon Tennis Championships to entertain the crowds after Covid on semi-finals days.

We were pleased to be able to offer SingFest again after the covid interruption. 17 schools featuring 641 singers and 13 community choirs made up of 300+ singers were involved in the festival based in Wimbledon and Mitcham.

CORE ROLES

1. First access

WCET MMF experienced a significant increase in demand for whole-class provision from local schools, particularly for General Musicianship teaching across multiple year groups. Schools began to permit us to reintroduce WCET brass and woodwind projects. 49 projects were delivered across 22 Merton schools.

Challenges included increasing instrumental stocks in schools to minimise sharing of instruments and recruiting and maintaining sufficient suitable staffing to meet the demand. The ongoing impact of COVID on staff health and wellbeing also posed challenges throughout the year. However, we were able to successfully increase provision in line with local need, meeting c. 3000 children via hub-led WCET. This increased reach into local schools throughout the year prompted greater discussion and sign-up ahead of the 22-23 academic year. During 21-22 MMF was still battling to re-establish in-person tuition in schools and dealing with the capacity implications of COVID recovery. Continuation was a significant challenge this year owing to the impact of COVID. All delivery in the previous year was adapted to online / General Musicianship models with very little instrumental provision – particularly for brass and woodwind. We were once again able to include school-led / hub-supported WCET data and ensemble information in our return this year, following the resumption of these activities by schools after lockdowns and MMF staff regaining the capacity to effectively track this information.

There has continued to be further development around a holistic offer to schools with MMF activity in every year group – a major financial and organisational commitment from some schools who value music as part of the fabric and culture of the school. This model is working very successfully at The Sherwood in Mitcham.

The transition back to in-person teaching starting in September 2021 was a complex and multi-faceted operation. A huge, coordinated team-effort across MMF staff, tutors and school colleagues was necessary to ensure the practicalities of resuming teaching safely. Use of a range of digital systems, including the website, live forms and databasing software was vital as was the rapid and frequent exchange of information between stakeholders. We would consider the operation to have been a major success given the challenges presented by this difficult situation.

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In the summer term we recruited a fulltime member of staff to start in September 22 to be responsible for delivering the music curriculum and general musicianship in schools as a result of the increased requests from schools during this academic year for a music specialist.

We recruited an additional middle management post in April 2022 to lead on musical pathways and progression to support children into musical learning as part of first access and are planning to deliver early years activities next academic year.

2. Ensembles

MMF ran a range of ensembles as part of its Music Centre offer. Although grateful to be running live rehearsals again there were challenges in September 21 as we followed distancing guidance. This involved using the church next door (additional expense) for the large concert band and impacted on stewards and staff transporting equipment and supervising students. However, we were able to offer Christmas concerts with a capacity live audience which was very pleasing. Rehearsals were also shorter and colder - one hour rehearsals were cut to 50 minutes to enable rooms to be quickly aired and all ensembles were led in rooms with the doors and windows open.

Numbers in all ensembles were lower than pre-Covid times. It seemed that over the extended Covid period that YP had lost the habit of being in an ensemble and confidence to take part was reduced. During the year numbers stabilised but there is further work to do on this in 22/23 to boost membership.

All ensembles had a specific concert to work towards – the Young Voices sang at the packed NWT pantomime and Singfest, the guitar and string ensembles presented a Jane Austen concert in partnership with the library service and then were asked to repeat it for Wimbledon Bookfest. The senior Concert and Jazz Bands resumed their twenty plus year tradition of entertaining the crowds at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships and played at a new venue, the Regents Park Bandstand to a big audience. A new 'Music Centre Classes' programme established at Soundwave delivering DJ and Music Production lessons to groups of c. 8 pupils as well as 1-1 teaching.

3. Progression

We continue to signpost locally to community music groups and promote local performing opportunities to young people. The National Plan for Music Education promotes the importance of every child between age 5 and 18 having the chance to learn a musical instrument and/or sing through structured activities. As part of this, there is a strong emphasis on musical progression with all children regardless of background having the opportunity to sing and play in larger ensembles, every school providing singing opportunities and aspiring towards having an orchestra or large-scale ensemble. This year we have again continued to focus on strengthening these progression routes within our operations area. This has included:

- Offering remission of fees schemes to support parents on low incomes (106 directly from the MMF Trust Fund and others through the London Music Fund and other awards).
- Continued development of enhanced bespoke whole class projects in response to school requests.
- Supporting schools to implement their music curriculum with advice and support with the New Model Curriculum for Music. MMF's Creative Director is writing Sound Ideas, a new Programme of Study to support KS1 and 2 curriculum delivery which includes clear progression documents, 'how to' guides, practical activities, video and audio resources.
- Working with the special schools and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment to promote inclusive music making activities for children with additional needs. Two primary schools and two special schools presented a performance of the specifically devised 'King Arthur' project involving c.150 young people.
- Continued relationship with Wimbledon Community Chorus and signposting to local music groups such as Wandle Band and Wimbledon Community Orchestra to provide a pathway into adult learning.
- Supporting pupils to make applications to junior conservatoires and national youth ensembles including NYJO and the National Children's Orchestra.
- During the year pupils were encouraged to take a range of virtual exams and we had a cohort of nearly 100 pupils taking face to face Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music exams in the summer term with 100% success rate.
- All pupils were encouraged to perform in regular termly 'Spotlight' concerts which were oversubscribed.
- Tutors were supported to keep in close contact with pupils and liaise with the core team to share successes and report concerns.
- We continued to support parents and pupils with career guidance and support with applications for higher education.
- We encouraged older pupils to volunteer (eg DofE) and mentor in younger groups and that resumed in the summer term.
- Primary music co-ordinators continue to be supported (advice, repertoire, tutor time) to establish school-based ensembles for children to consolidate and develop skills.

- Regular newsletters to key groups/audiences, signposting local families with children learning with us to MMF activities and local arts activities.
- Ongoing support of Wandle Band and Wimbledon Community Orchestra provides an instrumental pathway into adult learning.
- As part of our support of young people with additional needs, the MMF Chief Executive supports tutors and teachers with advice, resources and signposting to further training.
- Continued partnership and consultation with our parents' association, FMYM to fundraise, promote and support evaluation of MMF activities and routes for progression.
- To support YP from whole class first access experiences into tuition and on to an ensemble we have created a new post of .8 Musical Pathways Leader and appointed in April '22. The new team member has been involved in an analysis of current provision, demographics and local need and will lead on implementing new work in EY provision, nurture group interventions and outreach, particularly with local social housing providers in autumn '22.

4. Singing strategy

Most schools were keen to re-establish singing, although there was still some reticence in the autumn term hampered by the ongoing challenges of Covid at the start of the academic year. However, there was a strong take up of projects with a singing focus, including:

- Sing Outside (10 schools, 200+ KS2 song leaders)
- Sound Construction Choral / Art project: 10 schools, 520 KS2 YP
- It Takes A Village song writing videos used by 14 schools, 728 KS2 YP
- Let Freedom Swing JALC concerts: 27 groups from 14 schools, 738 children and 99 staff
- Membership of Young Voices grew over the year and was back to 40+ regular members by Summer term.
- Very successful performances at SingFest and at NWT (Panto opening Gala)
- Polka Resound gave 3 performances over the year (20 singers aged 4 – 86)
- 40 members of WCC performed at Christmas, at SingFest and in June, when they premiered Pete Churchill's specially commissioned 'Living Memory'
- Singfest 2022 was a huge success with participation from: Saturday SF: Over 300 singers from 13 community and youth choirs. Schools SF: 641 singers from 2 special schools; 3 secondary;12 primary and 3 Secondary schools engaged with SingFest for the first time

This was an encouraging number of events with a high level of participation and creates a basis for stronger choral partnership development in 2022-23.

EXTENSION ROLES

Continuous professional development (CPD)

1. CPD - Schools

- 3 CPD meetings were held over the year online for Primary and Secondary Music Coordinators, alongside bespoke sessions for teachers as requested. In-person model teaching, music audits and staff INSET were delivered during in several Primary schools. MMF also delivered training to Wandsworth NQTs.
- SLA schools have received bespoke support, ranging from model teaching, staff INSET, advice on developing the curriculum (including the Model Music Curriculum), Programmes of Study, progression and resources audit.
- MMF's Merton Teachers Facebook group was extensively used to disseminate a wide range of online resources throughout the year.

2. CPD - Tutors

- The Middle and Senior leadership teams offered ongoing informal advice/ guidance to tutor workforce. Intensive IT support was given when Speed Admin (the new software system) was implemented at the start of the academic year.
- Support provided to tutors leading/co-leading Merton Youth Music ensembles and extra time given for online preparation. The focus on widening repertoire choices as part of MMF'S ED&I commitment has been a productive process and a professional learning opportunity for all members of the community.
- Instrumental meetings were held regularly, formally and 'drop in' sessions to support tutors.

3. High Quality Musical Experiences

The start of the academic year offered only a few opportunities for concerts and events because of Covid restrictions. However, it was a delight to present live Christmas concerts with a capacity audience. After that as restrictions were lifted we delivered:

- Young Voices sang at the New Wimbledon Theatre pantomime and participated in SingFest
- 17 Schools took part in Singfest
- Guitar and String Ensembles presented a Jane Austen themed concert for the Merton Libraries service and again as part of Wimbledon Bookfest
- Let Freedom Swing workshops with musicians from the Lincoln Center in New York (27 groups from 14 schools)
- The senior Concert and Jazz Bands resumed their twenty plus year tradition of entertaining the crowds at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships and played at a new venue, the Regents Park Bandstand to a big audience.
- Regular Music Centre end of term concerts
- The next Royal Albert Hall concert will be in March 2024

4. Hire

We continued to provide instruments for all the In2Music projects and to hire out instruments for individual lessons. The Hire Operations and Centres Assistant role has been embedded and has led to a complete refresh of the instrumental stock management and hire process. The move to new premises has enabled improved storage and organisation of instruments.
All instrumental stock on site has been tested and records updated. New partnership with local music shop, Sutton Music Centre, has proved very successful. MMF receives preferential pricing and a discount / delivery scheme for its pupils.
New databasing system has improved bulk-hire process for WCET instruments enabling more accurate tracking and analysis of stock availability. c.220 instruments were on hire by guardians at any time during 21-22 with instruments being returned, replaced or upgraded on a continual basis.
Children and young people in receipt of financial assistance hired c.30 instruments at a termly subsidized £15 fee. The additional staffing capacity enabled us to meet this increase in demand from 20-21 successfully. c.920 WCET instruments were issued to schools.

5. School Music Education Partnership (SMEP)

We continued to work positively with all stakeholders, talking to head teachers and the LA officers. Understanding the wider borough school situation and the focus on supporting young people back to in-person education was a key part of our ongoing relationships with schools in the autumn term.

Developing the School Music Education Plan is part of our remit to work closely with all schools to support pupils' musical experiences both within and beyond school.

Schools can become SLA partners and 30 (65%) of local primary schools joined this active community. This supportive network share resources, meet in cluster groups to discuss good practice and use MMF as a sounding board for ideas, project opportunities and extension activities.

SLA membership entitles schools to access ½ a day of CPD support, termly network meetings for Music Coordinators, accreditation as a 'Moving Music Forward' school including certificate and footer logo, Music Mark Schools membership and preferential pricing for hub events, concerts and training.

The SLA was introduced in 19-20 in response to the withdrawal of all funding from the LA and local Schools' Forum. Merton schools had access to 9 bespoke arts and music projects organised by the hub in 21-22 with 63% of maintained primary schools engaging in at least one of these opportunities.

Partnership development

Members of Merton Music Foundation's Senior Leadership Team have continued to meet formally and informally with all of its Hub partners over the year to ensure that the focus for all activities is clearly established and targeted where appropriate. The focus for our hub work is on developing connectivity with selected partners who can strengthen and broaden the reach of our education work and avoid duplication. MMF has continued to develop, build and maintain effective partnerships with a wide range of local and national partners.
Our strong SouthWest London Music Education Hub Partnership group had grown closer during lockdown and although those restrictions eased we continued our two weekly online meetings. We bid jointly to Music Mark for funds to understand Yong People's Experience of making music in lockdown and are using the research generated to bid to develop a joint digital strategy with input from the music tech industry to then be adapted locally in our areas.

Active partners included:

- Polka Theatre;
- New Wimbledon Theatre:
- Crown Lane Studio;
- Jazz At Lincoln Center
- Wimbledon Choral Society;
- Wimbledon Community Chorus;
- Sonoro Chamber Choir;
- Wimbledon College;
- The Sherwood (Soundwave);
- St John's Church;
- Kings College School (FAB jazz project);
- Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (SEN school projects)
- Wimbledon International Music Festival

Significant new partnership developments:

- MMF has worked closely with Changing Tracks and embraced Music Mark's Talk into Action pledge
- We have benefitted from partnering with Black Lives in Music to better understand issues around inclusive recruitment, working with them over the wording of adverts and application formsand procedures. We trialled this successfully for our Musical Pathways appointment in April 22. By the end of the summer term we had received some strong diverse trustee applications for interview in September 22.
- MMF has also signed ISM-MU Joint Code of Practice and embedded these principles into its EDI Action Plan and Policies.

- The new partnership with The Sherwood school at our Soundwave Music Centre continued to develop throughout 21-22. We have worked closely with local schools to establish and develop contemporary provision at this fledgling centre.
- New partnership with Clarion Housing supported delivery of a new Sing Outside KS2 Song Leaders programme.
- Partnerships with Sonoro, WCS and WCC expanded as joint funding bids with MMF provided additional project funds and professional expertise.
- Developing new relationship with Lifting Limits, with whom we intend to develop and deliver a composition and performance project focused on 'Change' in 2022-23
- Close development work with Crown Lane Studio regarding new accessible online music technology education and training resources. Planned future development to include wider partners to promote pathways into the music industry.
- The move to Merton Abbey has enabled MMF to be a full partner in a school community. We have integrated into the life of the school and they in turn are very much part of MMF activity. We led a school staff samba band that performed for children and parents, supported an outside concert event and many staff are now taking subsidised instrumental lessons with us when we take the building over in the evenings and at weekends. It promotes an inclusive artistic community that the CYP (who are from challenging circumstances with a high level of additional needs and FSM) can see as supportive, aspirational and enjoyable.
- Three members of the MMF core team became arts award assessors during the year and we continue to be Arts Mark partners.
- The MMF Youth Council is currently working towards an arts award as part of their development as a group and individuals involved in music leadership activity
- 14 schools locally participating in Arts Mark process.
- New secondary school instrumental provision established at Raynes Park High School, St Marks CofEAcademy, Harris Academy Wimbledon and Harris Academy Merton via a mix of school-funded and guardian-fundedactivity. Close links developed with all 4 schools to manage ongoing subsidy and timetabling arrangements. Newschool-pays hourly rate created to facilitate this.
- On-going positive relationships with LBM officers and Merton Head Teachers (e.g. through Schools Forum and Hub meetings).
- Continued development of partnership with Polka Theatre to deliver intergenerational choral activities through ReSound choir.
- Continued partnership with Blues and Roots Ensemble, Wimbledon International Music Festival, Wimbledon Community Chorus
- Continued strategic links with Crown Lane Studio, to assist in the development and delivery of a range of projects and the production of resources for projects and curriculum support.
- Continued partnership with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and special schools. MMF has continued to develop and evolve new project work with the OAE, funded by Youth Music, to build on the sustained activity of the last 8 years with the SEND schools.
- Continued support of 3 community music-making groups, Wimbledon Community Chorus, Wandle Band and Wimbledon Community Orchestra (lending of music, professional services of Creative Director to conduct WCC, shared performance opportunities).
- Continued close partnership with SWLMEP with two weekly meetings to share good practice, a listening ear and act as a support network. Joint application was successful to Sound Connections for Youth Voice research into the experience of digital learning on young people across SW London.

Music technology in teaching and learning

The development of Music Production and DJ provision at the new Soundwave Music Centre has resulted in increased core-staff knowledge of practicalities and pedagogy of this area of music technology. The appointment of an experienced tutor and trial sessions in collaboration with a DJ/turntablist during the spring term were successfully piloted and tuition was established.

We purchased new DJ equipment and Soundtrap licenses and discussed with The Sherwood school about launching MMF's first Music Production WCET programme in 22-23.

During the summer term, we brought in a new databasing system ready for invoicing ahead of 22-23 Autumn Term. Implementation was successful, with past data being successfully transferred and snagging issues resolved. Training materials have been disseminated to the tutor team along with ongoing core staff training and standardisation. The new database provides increased access to lesson and timetabling data for the core team, schools and parents/ guardians and simplifies the tutor pay claim process. The digital timetable also increases transparency around missed/ made-up lessons and associated credits/refunds. The new database includes comprehensive reporting features and good use of this has already been made to better understand lesson data and trends to identify potential areas of growth.

Significant continued development of the hub website has included development of the existing schools page to include a CPD offer, creation of video content for school CPD, parent/guardian and pupil information and accessibility as well as promotion of the hub's activities.

The Vision and Values statement and organisational improvement / action planning documents are now shared via the website to increase transparency and accountability. New inclusion page signposts the hub's EDI Action Plan and Policy as well as its public commitments to EDI and partnerships. Further development of this page in the future will include accessible routes of entry to musical learning and increased signposting of the hub's SEND/Inclusive provision and offer. Development of new What's On' drop down menu and term dates overview pages to support signposting to parents/guardians. Increased use of Alt Text for images and consideration given to website accessibility with further plans for development in this area in 22-23.

The SWLMEP digital survey with funding from Sound Connections/MusicMark was established to understand the experience of YP learning an instrument during lockdown. We commissioned Soundcastle to undertake the research and to present a report to be used as a baseline for further work around developing a digital strategy across SW London. This will take place in the 22/23 year.

The MMF core team transitioned to a blended working pattern implementing file storage/sharing and internal communications via Microsoft Teams. Significant staff training in this area resulted in high levels of staff engagement and use resulting in increased productivity across the organisation. In addition to this is the ongoing production of new teaching videos on new CPD area of the website, and the continued use of Facebook groups and Dropbox for Merton Music Teachers.

Plans for the future

Our operational plans for the coming year are flexible and responsive. It is a relief to not have to actively manage Covid mitigations, but we will monitor the situation and should any restrictions arise we will liaise with partners and follow best practice at the time. Having developed systems for delivering services online and remotely we are confident that we could transition back to that model quickly and successfully if necessary.

Other priorities include:

- Working with SW London Music Education Hub Partnership colleagues to prepare to bid as a joint Hub Lead Organisation to Arts Council England.
- To continue to work with a wide range of partners who bring benefit to our music education activities for young people.
- Continue to embed the new MMF Vision and action plan, regularly reviewing targets and achievements.
- To diversify the offer to young people as a result of listening to their views about music via the years 6-8 borough wide music survey.
- To support the development of the MMF Youth Council by building on the results of the survey they conducted with members and addressing their requests.
- Embedding an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion action plan and policy - talk in to action.
- Further development of the charity's Management Board to better reflect the communities we serve in Merton.
- Continuing to diversify the core and tutor workforces.

Financial review

The principal movements in Income and Expenditure were:

- Income from the year increased by 19% on the previous year as lessons picked up following ease of restrictions. Turnover rose from £1,071,130 to £1,273,215.
- The core Grant from Arts Council fell from £250,339 to £247,722 a decrease of just over 1%.
- As income rose, the overall expenditure of the charity increased also, from £1,065,725 to £1,248,172, in % terms a rise of 17%.
- The surplus of the charity rose from £5,405 in the previous year to £25,043 in the current year. The rise in lessons during the year were reflected in this achieved surplus and present encouraging signs of sustained growth going forward.

Financial position at year-end:

- The net assets of the charity continue to increase and were £239,692 at the year-end. Of this £226,719 were unrestricted funds, 95% of total funds. Restricted funds did not change during the year.
- The current net assets of the charity continue to increase, rising from £173,963 to £204,286 during the current year, an increase of 17%. Bank and cash balances rose by just over 1% from £310,874 to £315,477.
- MMF continues to solidify its balance sheet.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Merton Music Foundation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 12 March 1991 and registered as a charity on 11 September 1991. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Michael Collins	(Resigned 3 October 2022)
Edward Hickman	
Rowena Maybury	
Ian Bond	
Stephen Moran	(Resigned 3 October 2022)
Sandra Vogel	
Emma Trevelyan	
Nicky Morgan	
Sebastian Jones	(Appointed 3 October 2022)
Manish Solanki	(Appointed 3 October 2022)
Kingsley Green	(Appointed 3 October 2022)
Mia Liyanage	(Appointed 3 October 2022)

Trustee induction and training

New trustee induction includes briefing them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. During the induction process, they meet key employees and the other trustees. All trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events to develop their understanding of their roles as trustees. New trustees are also given relevant documentation including recent important documentation on music education, management financial reports, meeting minutes and copies of the charity's annual Reports and financial statements.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

MMF works closely with the Friends of Merton's Young Musicians (FMYM) (Charity No. 274493R). FMYM is the parents' association for our Music Centre activities, which are based at the Chaucer Centre. The Chief Executive serves in an ex-officio non-voting capacity on the management committee of FMYM.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees meets termly to manage the affairs of the charity. The Board consisted of nine directors, from a variety of professional backgrounds, who are responsible for the overall strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Chief Executive, manages the day-to-day operations of the charity, and as delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustee body, for operational matters including finance, employment and artistic related activity.

Risk management

The Trustees have a risk management policy, which comprises an annual review of the risks the charity may face and establishes systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified.

Health & safety and child protection

The health and safety of staff and students together with child protection are primary concerns to the Trustees. Music Centre managers and other key staff undertake both first aid and fire marshal training and all staff are made aware of their own duties and responsibilities for health and safety issues.

Merton Music Foundation adopts the current Child Protection requirements as set out by the Home Office. Prior to the commencement of work enhanced DBS checks take place for all new staff together with at least two satisfactory references and interview. DBS's are rechecked for all staff and trustees every 3 years.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that WSM Advisors Limited be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Edward Hickman

Edward Hickman
Trustee
Dated: 25th May 2023

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

For the year ended 31 August 2022

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Merton Music Foundation for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Merton Music Foundation (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The impact of macro-economic uncertainties on our audit

Our audit of the financial statements requires us to obtain an understanding of all relevant uncertainties, including those arising as a consequence of the effects of macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19. All audits assess and challenge the reasonableness of estimates made by the trustees and the related disclosures and the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements. All of these depend on assessments of the future economic environment and the company's future prospects and performance.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

MSM Advisors Limited

30 May 2023

WSM Advisors Limited

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Connect House
133-137 Alexandra Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 7JY

WSM Advisors Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charitable company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 August 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	8,757	-	8,757	4,842
Charitable activities	4	1,004,528	259,920	1,264,448	1,066,280
Investments		10	-	10	8
Total income		1,013,295	259,920	1,273,215	1,071,130
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	1,248,172	-	1,248,172	1,065,725
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(234,877)	259,920	25,043	5,405
Gross transfers between funds		259,920	(259,920)	-	-
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		25,043	-	25,043	5,405
Fund balances at 1 September 2021		201,676	12,973	214,649	209,244
Fund balances at 31 August 2022		226,719	12,973	239,692	214,649

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 August 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		35,406		40,686
Current assets					
Debtors	10	5,128		3,601	
Cash at bank and in hand		315,477		310,874	
		320,605		314,475	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(116,319)		(140,512)	
Net current assets			204,286		173,963
Total assets less current liabilities			239,692		214,649
Income funds					
Restricted funds	13		12,973		12,973
Unrestricted funds			226,719		201,676
			239,692		214,649

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 August 2022, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 25th May 2023

Edward Hickman

Edward Hickman
Trustee

Company registration number 02590621

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 August 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	**20**		11,116		(14,214)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(6,523)		(4,290)	
Interest received		10		8	
Net cash used in investing activities			(6,513)		(4,282)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			4,603		(18,496)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			310,874		329,370
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			315,477		310,874

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Merton Music Foundation is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is c/o Merton Abbey School, High Path, London, SW19 2JY.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charitable company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have undertaken an assessment of the adequacy of the resources available to the charity as well as the expected support to charities available from the government measures in place through the period of disruption caused by coronavirus. The trustee have a reasonable expectation the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future accordingly continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Incoming resources

Incoming resources represents tuition fees, income from concerts, tours, hire of instruments, music centre subscription and other fees rendered in the year.

Income is recognised when the charitable company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charitable company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to membership received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the receipt.

1.4 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1 **Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

Expenditure for charitable purposes

Direct charitable expenditure includes all expenditure directly related to the objectives of the charitable company and comprises the costs of providing instrumental tuition, concert performances, tours, and education and community projects undertaken by the charitable company and is accounted for when payable.

Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on the basis of an estimate of the proportion of time spent by staff on those activities.

Governance costs

Governance costs represent expenditure incurred in the management of the charitable company's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Musical instruments	25% on reducing balance basis
Computer equipment	25% on reducing balance basis
Office equipment	25% on reducing balance basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.6 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charitable company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charitable company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charitable company's balance sheet when the charitable company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1 **Accounting policies** **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.9 Fund Accounting

The funds held by the charitable company are either:

Restricted funds - these are funds that can be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charitable company. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular purposes.

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes.

The funds received in the year are transferred to the general fund to be set off against expenses in the year that relate to the agreed activities with Arts Council England.

Peter Wooding's bursary fund

These funds have been designated by the charitable company to support exceptional young musicians at the request of Peter Wooding's family. The fund was established with donations made to the charitable company. The charitable company held sufficient cash balances at the year end to allow the funds to be applied as intended.

Greenwood bursary fund

The Greenwood bursary fund was established by the charitable company from funds transferred to it from the Ronald Greenwood Musical Trust by the London Borough of Merton who had previously operated the trust. The fund is operated in accordance with the Ronald Greenwood Musical Trust deed and awards are made to young musicians who show great promise. The charitable company held sufficient cash balances at the year end to allow the fund to be operated in accordance with the Trust deed.

Wider Opportunities

The grant's original use was restricted to the purchase, lease or repair of musical instruments suitable for use with children in KS2. The funds were applied as intended in the period of receipt and the remaining reserve is now reduced by the depreciation and disposal of the fund- purchased musical instruments.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Arts Council England Funding
The charitable company received a grant in the year from the Arts Council England. According to the Funding Agreement, the use of the grant is restricted to the agreed activities with the Arts Council. The grant is recognised in the accounts when they are received and applied to the period it relates to.

Dorothy Taylor Bequest
The charitable company received restricted funds within the current year to support one girl and one boy in their musical studies for the period of 4 years at the request of the late Dorothy Taylor.

Arts Council England 'Grants for the arts'
The charitable company received restricted funds within the current year to support its Backstories and Radio Retro Projects.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charitable company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	2022	2021
	£	£
Donations and gifts	8,757	4,842

4 Charitable activities

	Tuition fees	Hire of instruments	Music centre subscriptions	Concert and tour receipts	Fees - inset	Grants receivable	Other income	Total 2022	Total 2021
	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sales within charitable activities	831,536	30,335	39,484	65,026	18,513	15,599	4,035	1,004,528	815,941
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	259,920	-	259,920	250,339
	831,536	30,335	39,484	65,026	18,513	275,519	4,035	1,264,448	1,066,280
Analysis by fund									
Unrestricted funds	831,536	30,335	39,484	65,026	18,513	15,599	4,035	1,004,528	815,941
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	259,920	-	259,920	250,339
	831,536	30,335	39,484	65,026	18,513	275,519	4,035	1,264,448	1,066,280
For the year ended 31 August 2021									
Unrestricted funds	593,313	19,001	36,757	32,740	72,628	58,850	2,652		815,941
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	250,339	-		250,339
	593,313	19,001	36,757	32,740	72,628	309,189	2,652		1,066,280

5 Charitable activities

	Staff costs	Depreciation	Direct Costs	Allocated costs	Total 2022	Total 2021
	2022	2022	2022	2022		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Instrumental tuition	183,780	-	422,288	22,216	628,284	447,313
Youth music programme	143,218	-	197,348	5,554	346,120	313,974
Tours and Concerts	57,527	-	18,600	5,554	81,681	94,746
Professional advice and support	7,003	-	-	2,777	9,780	13,485
CPD training	6,511	-	-	2,777	9,288	12,143
Project development	55,656	-	51,162	5,554	112,372	116,089
Instrument repair and hire	-	-	1,898	5,554	7,452	12,586
	453,695	-	691,296	49,986	1,194,977	1,010,336
Share of support costs (see note 6)	14,920	11,802	7,419	5,554	39,695	43,889
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	-	-	13,500	-	13,500	11,500
	468,615	11,802	712,215	55,540	1,248,172	1,065,725

6 Support costs

	Support cost	Other costs	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Salaries	14,046	-	14,046	14,950
Pension costs	874	-	874	935
Bank charges	7,419	-	7,420	5,784
Depreciation	11,802	-	11,802	13,562
Allocated support	5,554	-	5,554	8,658
Audit and accountancy fee	-	13,500	13,500	11,500
	39,695	13,500	53,196	55,389

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £13,500 (2021: £11,500) for audit fees.

These costs are wholly attributable to charitable activities and are allocated based on the trustees' estimate of the appropriate proportion attributable to each activity.

7 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Number of employees	34	28

	£	£
Wages and salaries	485,035	445,096
Social security costs	37,328	36,101
Other pension costs	51,290	48,422
	573,652	529,619

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
£60,000 to £70,000	1	1
£70,000 to £80,000	1	1
£80,000 to £90,000	1	1

Those employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 (2021: 3 employees) also have retirement benefits accruing under defined benefit pension schemes. A total of £61,679 (2021: £67,453) was paid to the Teachers' Pension Scheme in the year for these employees.

8 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Musical instruments	Computer equipment	Office equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 September 2021	229,530	46,423	30,539	306,492
Additions	-	5,444	1,079	6,523
At 31 August 2022	229,530	51,867	31,618	313,015
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 September 2021	198,071	38,239	29,496	265,806
Depreciation charged in the year	7,865	3,407	531	11,803
At 31 August 2022	205,936	41,646	30,027	277,609
Carrying amount				
At 31 August 2022	23,594	10,221	1,591	35,406
At 31 August 2021	31,459	8,184	1,043	40,686

10 Debtors

	2022	2021
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	5,128	121
Prepayments and accrued income	-	3,480
	5,128	3,601

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	9,257	9,739
Deferred income	35,631	71,612
Trade creditors	40,310	36,622
Other creditors	8,560	9,960
Accruals	22,561	12,579
	116,319	140,512

Other deferred income relates to deposits and fees paid in advance for the following year.

12 Retirement benefit schemes

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees not in the Teachers Pension Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently administered fund.

13 Restricted funds

Arts Council England (ACE) made a grant available to the charitable company during the year. The use of the grant has no specific restrictions; however the funding is subject to the charitable company delivering the agreed activities within the core roles and extension roles of the National Plan for Music Education as highlighted within the Trustees' Report. The funds received in the year have been transferred to the general fund to be set off against expenses in the year that relate to the agreed activities with ACE.

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds 2022	Unrestricted funds 2022	Total 2022	Restricted funds 2021	Unrestricted funds 2021	Total 2021
	£	£	££	£		£
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	-	35,406	35,406	-	40,686	40,686
Current assets/(liabilities)	12,973	191,313	204,286	12,973	160,990	173,963
	12,973	226,719	239,692	12,973	201,676	214,649

15 Audit report information

The auditor's report was unqualified.

WSM Advisors Limited

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

16 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

The liability of the members is limited. Every member undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company, in the event of the company being wound up whilst they are a member, or within one year after ceasing to be a member, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before ceasing to be a member.

17 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charitable company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Within one year	18,000	18,000

17 Operating lease commitments **(Continued)**

Between two and five years	54,000	54,000
In over five years	-	18,000
	72,000	90,000

18 Related party transactions

During the year there was an employee who was employed as a chief executive officer who was also a director. Remuneration was paid to this director in the capacity of an employee.

None of the trustees (or any persons with them) received and remuneration or benefits from the charitable company during the year.

19 Teachers' Pension Scheme

The charity participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme (England and Wales) (the TPS), for its teaching staff. The pension charge for the year includes contributions payable to the TPS of £48,737 (2021 : £40,233).

The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefits pension scheme governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2014. Members contribute on a "pay as you go" basis with contributions of £.

20 Cash generated from operations

	2022	2021
	£	£
Surplus for the year	25,043	5,405
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(10)	(8)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	11,802	13,562
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(1,526)	5,548
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	11,788	(1,049)
(Decrease) in deferred income	(35,981)	(37,672)
Cash generated from/(absorbed by) operations	11,116	(14,214)

21 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charitable company had no debt during the year.

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1004122

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1004122

Company Registration No. 02590621 (England and Wales)

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

Annual report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Pages for filing with registrar

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Michael Collins Edward Hickman Rowena Maybury Ian Bond Stephen Moran Sandra Vogel Emma Trevelyan Nicky Morgan
Charity number	1004122
Company number	02590621
Registered office	c/o Merton Abbey School High Path London SW19 2JY
Auditor	WSM Advisors Limited Connect House 133-137 Alexandra Road Wimbledon London SW19 7JY

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

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MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Chair's Introduction

The continuation of Covid 19 restrictions throughout the year had a profound impact on MMF's operations. What started in March 2020 as a new way of delivering services became the model for nearly all of the academic year 2020-21. The solid foundation built on in those early pandemic days and the tenacity and rigour underpinning it enabled MMF not only to survive, but to develop the organisation and widens its impact through its 'core' and 'extension' roles.

Lesson numbers plummeted in the first Covid wave and then throughout the 2020-21 period grew again to over 75% of pre-pandemic levels. In-person and online school activity became entirely bespoke to the needs of schools. In the summer term it was a great joy to welcome carefully bubbled bands and ensembles back to Music Centre in our new base at Merton Abbey Primary School.

Disappointingly, we were unable to celebrate MMF's 30th birthday with a concert at the Royal Albert Hall as planned in March 2021, but uncertainty and upheaval has proved a vehicle for significant review and development across the organisation. Team MMF embraced this changing landscape and refined its Vision statement and developed a comprehensive three-year action plan with a clear focus on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Quality Assurance. We are working towards an inclusive organisational 'learning culture' and are investing in staff professional development. We took on a 'Kickstart' young person with graphic design and animation skills which contributed to our digital, social media and website presence. The team has been restructured with clearer lines of responsibility and remit and we have developed a Youth Council to make sure that youth voice is at the heart of what we do.

It was also the moment re-evaluate our accommodation needs. During the year the opportunity to move to Merton Abbey Primary School arose on a reduced rent and with greater storage facilities so by the summer term we were operational there.

MMF successfully applied to the Cultural Recovery Fund and was delighted to receive an award of £64,425. These funds were used to support the move to Merton Abbey, invest in IT, to audit all our instrumental stock and to provide equipment for our new Music Centre in Mitcham, Soundwave.

IT and digital skills development continued to be a Team MMF strength and we recorded several lockdown performances and created a highly viewed community advent calendar featuring MMF ensembles, schools and local music-making groups. We developed our website to be more responsive to local need and to act as a window on to the MMF world. It features not only useful information but galleries of lovely photographs as a lasting record of the many projects and events that occurred across the year.

We were thrilled to welcome our first cohort of 'Don't Stop the Music' scholars in September 2020. As a result of our fundraising campaign we had raised 10k which supported 18 young people. They have flourished and performed at online 'Spotlight' concerts throughout the year. Our second campaign raised less (6k) but with the addition of some other funds we have been able to commit to continuing the scholars' musical journey beyond September 2021. This second year of MMF's major online fundraising initiative has been tied into a celebration site recording every year of MMF activity over the last 30 years and enabled us to develop contact with our alumni group. We remain grateful for the generosity of all donors and particularly thank FMYM (our parents association) for their continued support and enthusiastic fundraising activity for MMF.

Our CEO has now completed a second year managing Kingston Music Service on a two day per week contract. This has continued to increased workload for the rest of the senior team but has enabled MMF to generate significant income from the placement and to bring a wider perspective of a LA music hub to MMF and to generate areas for shared activity and project development.

Although the pandemic has dominated the whole of the academic year, made more complex by changing Government and local restrictions, Team MMF morale remained high. MMF remained at the forefront of cultural activity across the borough, maintaining close contact with outstanding local arts providers and practitioners - New Wimbledon Theatre, Polka Theatre, Wimbledon International Music Festival, Crown Lane Studio – and extensively with local charitable and amateur music-making groups. We continue to work together to provide high quality arts experiences, to avoid duplication and to meet and respond to local need and we are proud, despite the challenges, to have been able to deliver some outstanding live music-making projects.

MMF is grateful to funders such as Arts Council England and Youth Music who allowed us to modify and then re-design several times, projects they had agreed to support. This flexibility has resulted in using funds in innovative ways and ensuring that high quality musical projects could be focused on the needs of schools and young people as circumstances changed.

Schools remain our key focus and almost all primaries and secondaries benefitted from our School Music Education Plan. The lockdown period unexpectedly helped foster closer links between schools and the hub as we worked together to re-design safe classroom delivery, provide risk assessments (particularly around singing), re-model projects and support and reassure music teachers who were feeling isolated and facing barriers when delivering the music curriculum – but as ever, they were innovative and entrepreneurial and many schools produced wonderful ingenious lockdown productions for the benefit of pupils and families. The aspirations of the National Plan for Music Education continue to underpin MMF's vision for the local offer in Merton.

We were able to keep our In2Music programme running and income from 36 projects for the period was sustained.

A Curriculum Leader resigned at the end of the academic year after a period on the Furlough scheme and has not been replaced. The core staff team has been reduced in number and we currently feel it prudent to wait and see how lesson numbers and other activity recover before making a new appointment in line with our new staffing structure.

The year has been a time of intense challenge to an organisation whose core business is learning, playing and performing music with young people. The restrictions on rehearsals and performances have impacted on every aspect of our business and we are indebted to the many pupils, parents and families who continued with online tuition, schools who worked with us to make music happen for their children and our partners who continued to share best practice and encourage us when the way ahead seemed insurmountable. Their collective support and shared belief and vision that musical opportunity is the right of every child has kept Team MMF focused, responsive, dynamic and outward looking.

On a personal note, it has been a pleasure to work with the forward-looking team at MMF on defining our vision and implementation plans. On behalf of my fellow Trustees, I would like to extend our thanks to the leadership team, committed staff and tutors who managed to keep the music playing despite the continuing challenging circumstances thrown up by the pandemic.

.....
Edward Hickman
Chairman

Date: .....

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

The trustees are pleased to present their annual trustees report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 August 2021, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charitable company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Charitable objective

Merton Music Foundation (MMF) aims to promote and support the highest quality music education for ALL.

Our charitable objective is 'To advance music education within a framework of the arts for the benefit of the public of the London Borough of Merton and elsewhere".

MMF's mission is to encourage participation, enjoyment and achievement by providing the highest quality learning opportunities in music and the performing arts.

Music Education Hubs

Merton Music Foundation is the lead partner for the Merton Music Education Hub, part of a national network of music education hubs established in 2012.

Music Education Hubs are a vital part of the Government's National Plan for Music Education Plan, which resulted from a thorough review of music education undertaken by Darren Henley in 2011. The Hub receives funding directly from Arts Council England on behalf of the Department of Education.

Music Hubs have a remit to fulfil four core roles and three extension roles in the delivery of music education:

Core Roles

- **First Access** - Ensure that every child aged 5-18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (other than voice) through whole class ensemble teaching programmes.
- **Ensembles** - Provide opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform from an early stage.
- **Progression** - Ensure that clear progression routes are available and affordable to all young people.
- **Singing** - Develop a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil sings regularly and that choirs and other vocal ensembles are available in the area.

Extension Roles

- **Continuous Professional Development** - CPD for school staff, particularly in supporting schools to deliver music in the curriculum.
- **Instrument Hire** - Provide an instrument loan service, with discounts for those on low incomes.
- **Live Music Opportunities** - Provide access to large scale and high quality music experiences for pupils, working with professional musicians and venues. This will include undertaking work to publicise the opportunities available to schools, parents/carers and students.

The vision that shapes our annual activities is based on the aspirations of the National Plan for Music Education 'The Importance of Music'. Published in November 2011, it sets out the Government's vision for music education to enable children from all backgrounds and every part of England to have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; to make music with others; to learn to sing and to have the opportunity to progress to the next level of excellence.

Working in partnership

The charity's hub programme is a collaboration between key local, regional and national music and arts organisations working together to create joined up, high quality music education in and out of school.

The key overriding aims of our partnerships continue to be to broaden and increase the opportunities for music making for all children and young people in the region, regardless of their background or personal circumstances; to avoid duplication, make decisions on the basis of need and to raise the standards of music provision to the highest levels possible.

Our partners during the 2020/21 financial year included Charanga, Crown Lane Studio, Merton Children, Schools and Families Department, London Music Fund, Merton Schools Forum, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Polka Theatre, Richard Mallet Arts Management, Wimbledon International Music Festival, New Wimbledon Theatre and Wimbledon Civic Theatre Trust. The charity is also an active member of the South West London Music Education Partnership, which consists of the music services of Croydon, Hounslow, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth.

Delivery

Executive responsibility for delivery rests with the Chief Executive and the Senior Leadership Team, made up of three full-time employees and one part-time employee of the Foundation and to whom all other employees report either directly or indirectly. MMF aims to achieve the highest quality service provision by striving to provide the best opportunities in which to encourage learning through the National Plan's Core and Extension roles.

Building effective and secure partnerships is critical to our ethos of developing sustainable music education provision within the region. At the heart of this development is the Merton Music Education Hub, which builds on the existing structure of local, regional and national partnerships and levers in support for the charity's various education activities.

Volunteers

We work closely with our parents' charity the Friends of Merton's Young Musicians (FMYM). The Friends meet regularly to administer the affairs of their charity, to arrange fundraising events to support the work of Merton Music Foundation, and to help with concerts and other events provided by our charity. Over the years, FMYM's fund raising has enabled us to buy instruments, purchase sheet music for our groups, provide coaching for events like Music is for Life and Music for Youth festivals, and support the provision of overseas tours for our senior Youth Music groups. FMYM successfully fundraised through a ‘sponsor a piano key’ campaign to raise £20k for the purchase of a new Yamaha grand piano and U3 upright piano for Music Centre and teaching use just ahead of the pandemic. Over this past pandemic year they have had few opportunities for fundraising and any practical activity, although they remain in regular supportive contact.

Ensuring our work continues to deliver our charitable purpose

We review our aims, objectives and activities annually through our Business Plan and regular reporting to Arts Council England. The review examines our achievements and the outcomes of our work over the past twelve months. It also looks at the success of each of the National Plan's Core and Extension role areas and the benefits that have been brought to the various groups of people we work with. The review also helps us ensure that our aims, objectives and activities remain focused on our stated charitable purpose. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in deciding what activities the charity should undertake for the following financial year. In the spring term we developed our visions and values statement which was shared with our wider community (including the Youth Council) and developed a three-year plan to build on from the pandemic placing our charitable objectives at the heart of everything we do.

Public Benefit

The Trustees of Merton Music Foundation have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees believe that the organisation conforms readily to the public benefit requirements of the Charity Commission. The reasons for this belief are characterized by our charitable objective:

"To advance music education within a framework of the arts for the benefit of the public of the London Borough of Merton and elsewhere" , which clearly demonstrates public benefit in advancing and promoting the importance of music education.

The advocacy work that MMF does is of potential benefit to all individuals, schools and its partnership organisations, by helping to create a learning environment in which live music making can flourish and be available to participants and audiences in the local community that the charity serves.

The key focus for MMF's work: music education through a framework of the arts, are both defined within the Charities Act 2006 as charitable activities and as such both directly benefit the public.

The main activities of the charity, and those we try to help, are those for children and young people in and around the London Borough of Merton to whom we aim to provide musical opportunities of the highest standard.

All the Foundation's projects are centred on children and young people, some of whom are 'hard to reach', have additional needs, disadvantaged backgrounds or challenging circumstances.

Financial assistance is not just limited to students of families who qualify for assistance from the 'Pupil Premium' provision. The Trustees recognise that students from families whose income is only a little above the level to qualify for 'Pupil Premium' but have to contend with the high cost of living in London, and over this last year, the impact of Covid 19, may also require support from MMF’s Trust Fund and other funds and applications from such students are looked upon favourably.

Financial assistance in membership of MMF's Merton Youth Music activities and participating in its music making activities is considered in all cases of individual hardship.

The Trustees have therefore satisfied themselves that Merton Music Foundation meets the public benefit requirements, and they confirm that they have taken due regard of the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

The following summary provides an overview of our achievements and performance against the National Plan for Music Education's Core and Extension Roles. The information is taken from our Annual Data Return to Arts Council England for the 2020/21 academic year.

As a direct result of the impact of COVID-19 and the resultant necessity for an extraordinary pace of change and development in the organisation as well as the associated changes to core team staffing following lockdown measures, MMF leadership undertook to articulate the organisation’s Vision for ‘Moving Music Forward’.

Creating the Vision was a 6-month process that involved consultation and input from all levels of the organisation, including core staff, trustees, SLT and young people that attend our Music Centre.

In parallel to articulating Our Vision, the Senior Leadership Team conducted a staffing restructure, re-focussing the existing staff team roles onto new areas relating to the priorities set out in the Vision around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Quality of Learning.

The SLT facilitated a process of organisational self-evaluation and improvement planning in order to turn the words of our new Vision to action. We devised twelve three-year organisational goals, which are further broken down into twelve priorities for the academic year 2021-2022. Each goal/priority directly relates to one of the three main aims as set out in our Vision and will be supported by a detailed Action Plan, drafted with staff in Autumn 1 of 2021-2022.

The current version of our Self-Evaluation and Improvement Planning document is available here: https://mmf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/MMF-Self-Evaluation-Improvement-Plan-2021-2022-v.1-Oct-2021.pdf

We were delighted to receive £64,425 from the Cultural Recovery Fund. This enabled MMF to prepare for a move from Harris Academy Morden to our new home, Merton Abbey Primary School. Funds were spent on cataloguing our instrumental stock, IT and developing resources at Soundwave, a new Music Centre in Mitcham.

We were grateful to Youth Music and Arts Council England for their co-operation in enabling MMF to meet the changing needs of monies and project specifications, permitting re-writing of activity for grants already awarded to meet the changing needs of the Covid situation.

MMF has committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion development across the organisation. It has been incorporated in to one of the Curriculum Leader job descriptions and additional days allocated. We are actively working with outside agencies to embed and embrace wider inclusion and transparency.

During the year we negotiated a move from Harris Academy Morden to Merton Abbey Primary School. Activity was trialled at the new school during the year and our office moved across at Easter for a formal launch in September 2021. This has generated a significant saving in rent expenditure and is proving a positive development to mark MMF's 30th birthday.

Lesson numbers are still lower than pre-pandemic levels when numbers were almost 1500. However, it is pleasing to note that during last year numbers stabilised at around two thirds of previous activity. Autumn was 925, Spring 865 (we went back online), and Summer 1021. Our loyal tutor workforce went above and beyond to support lessons and ensemble activity and we are very grateful to them for their professionalism and commitment.

The second year of our 'Don't Stop the Music' fundraising campaign ensured that the 18 scholars we took on in the previous year could continue their studies.

We developed a Youth Council who are sharing their ideas and aspirations for local music-making. They are applying for external funding from Sound Connections to organise a youth event.

MMF applied to the Kickstart scheme to take on a young person with a background in film and animation in July.

CORE ROLES

1. First access

Delivering WCET In2Music (WCET) continued to be challenging during the year because of the pandemic. Pre-recorded video lessons were provided to schools in-lieu of in-person sessions during periods of lockdown. Engagement was mixed, but feedback was overwhelmingly positive from staff/pupils in schools where there was engagement. 31 projects ran in 12 schools reaching almost 2000 pupils – a dip in reach of provision as a direct result of the constraints of COVID-safe provision. Fortunately, the number of schools engaged in WCET programmes is set to more-than-recover in 2021-2022. There were challenges around quality assurance / lesson observations due to limited access to schools for senior staff.

The low continuation rate after WCET and other free or heavily subsidised programmes has previously been a concern. This has been exacerbated by the pandemic with many families experiencing financial hardship. We will continue to look at innovative ways to support the transition to tuition for the current cohort but recognize that this is challenging.

However, tutors continued to work creatively, liaising directly with their schools and with MMF support were able to present videos, create YouTube clips and in some cases appear by video link in classrooms. Some schools sent materials home for pupils to work on, but in many instances it was difficult for children to make progress as they did not have access to their instrument. Programmes continued to be re-written to be more general musicianship based and therefore more inclusive to reflect this.

We continued to expand a wraparound first access model, to include general musicianship teaching and KS1 provision in response to local need. Schools have increasingly requested projects that go beyond traditional first access such as PPA cover provision. Further recruitment was necessary at the start of the year to meet increased demand. Ongoing staff training and support/networking has helped to establish consistency of staffing and quality of teaching/learning.

There has been particular development around a holistic offer to schools with MMF activity in every year group – a major financial and organisational commitment from some schools who value music as part of the fabric and culture of the school. This model is working very successfully at The Sherwood in Mitcham.

The transition back to in-person teaching starting in September 2021 was a complex and multi-faceted operation. A huge, coordinated team-effort across MMF staff, tutors and school colleagues was necessary to ensure the practicalities of resuming teaching safely. Use of a range of digital systems, including the website, live forms and databasing software was vital as was the rapid and frequent exchange of information between stakeholders. We would consider the operation to have been a major success given the challenges presented by this difficult situation.

2. Ensembles

Despite the pandemic, Merton Youth Music programme provided a comprehensive range of regular ensembles, instrumental and choral, from beginner to advanced level. MMF continues to provide a range of ensembles through its Youth Music Programme and has responded to parental and student survey feedback. Online activity has had some surprising benefits with many parents and tutors reporting that pupils have practiced more and made greater progress. Band leaders have worked tirelessly to make online rehearsals dynamic and enjoyable, but ensembles need to be 'live' to have musical life and energy.

Ensemble activity remained challenging until we were able to meet in person in the summer term. We maintained pleasingly high numbers (122) in the core ensembles during lockdown, but percussion activity was particularly difficult to deliver with percussion ensemble members not having instruments at home. Rebuilding this area will be a priority for 21-22. We were also aware that for older students, 15+, the level of disruption was very high and we lost members who were struggling with many other pressures. It was a great joy to welcome 166 members back in the summer term for (a reduced range) of 'bubbled' activity.

During lockdown the ensembles created several virtual performances.

The one aspect of ensemble provision we were unable to facilitate was live performance for the bands and ensembles. This was an inevitable consequence of the lockdown restrictions.

3. Progression

We continue to signpost locally to community music groups and promote local performing opportunities to young people. The National Plan for Music Education promotes the importance of every child between age 5 and 18 having the chance to learn a musical instrument and/or sing through structured activities. As part of this, there is a strong emphasis on musical progression with all children regardless of background having the opportunity to sing and play in larger ensembles, every school providing singing opportunities and aspiring towards having an orchestra or large-scale ensemble. This year we have again continued to focus on strengthening these progression routes within our operations area. This has included:

- Offering remission of fees schemes to support parents on low incomes.
- Continued development of enhanced bespoke whole class projects in response to school requests.
- Supporting schools to implement their music curriculum with advice and support with the New Model Curriculum for Music.
- Working with the special schools and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment to promote inclusive music making activities for children with additional needs.
- Continued relationship with Wimbledon Community Chorus and signposting to local music groups such as Wandle Band and Wimbledon Community Orchestra to provide a pathway into adult learning.
- Supporting pupils to make applications to junior conservatoires and national youth ensembles including NYJO and the National Children's Orchestra.

We continue to support transition from first access activities into small group tuition and individual lessons. Small group tuition, which is the most affordable parental option, was almost impossible to deliver under lockdown conditions. That was the impetus behind our scholars fundraising campaign and last year we supported 18 pupils who would otherwise have given up. They performed regularly in online concerts which were well supported by families and donors. All these children had access to Music Centre ensembles as part of their individual music development plan, overseen by a MMF mentor.

During the year pupils were encouraged to take virtual exams which had a mixed reception – for some more nervous pupils this was a positive experience.

All pupils were encouraged to perform in weekly term time spotlight concerts, and all events were oversubscribed.

Tutors were supported to keep in close contact with pupils and liaise with the core team to share successes and report concerns.

We continued to support parents and pupils with career guidance and support with applications for higher education.

We encouraged older pupils to volunteer (eg DofE) and mentor in younger groups and that resumed in the summer term.

One continued unexpected benefit of online provision has been the closer contact of parents and families with tutors, which under normal teaching in school practice does not happen. Tutors and parents reported that many children were practising more, parents ‘popped in’ to lessons to clarify any difficulties and children were supported better at home. Although at a distance, tutors and parents reported that the child - tutor relationship developed over this period.

Primary music co-ordinators continue to be supported (advice, repertoire, tutor time) to establish school-based ensembles for children to consolidate and develop skills.

Regular newsletters to key groups/audiences, signposting local families with children learning with us to MMF activities and local arts activities.

The tutor workforce was kept regularly informed of current legislation with regard to music activities and given comprehensive risk assessments.

100 members of the Wimbledon Community Chorus received weekly rehearsals between September and July online.

Ongoing support of Wandle Band and Wimbledon Community Orchestra provides an instrumental pathway into adult learning.

As part of our support of young people with additional needs, the MMF Chief Executive supports tutors and teachers with advice, resources and signposting to further training.

Continued partnership and consultation with our parents’ association, FMYM to fundraise, promote and support evaluation of MMF activities and routes for progression.

4. Singing strategy

Delivery of the singing strand was made particularly difficult throughout the academic year by the government and the London Borough of Merton's Covid strategy restrictions on singing activity in schools and externally. Many schools were unable to resume singing indoors at all, apart from some organised singing outside. This greatly hindered delivery of MMF’s Singing Strategy, with all planned activities postponed or cancelled, including MMF’s We Are Family massed projects and Royal Albert Hall performance.

However, MMF provided a series of new songs and associated art and drama activities linked to the Recovery Curriculum and for Windrush Day, which were made available online, free of charge to all schools. In the summer term, 210 children from 4 schools received in-person Opera workshops on Carmen from Baseless Fabric Theatre;

120 children took part in the Sound Solutions choral workshops and 120 sang in jazz workshops led by Blues and Roots Ensemble.

MMF continued to deliver its weekly Junior Choir online throughout the Autumn and Spring terms, returning to in-person rehearsals in May. Participation numbers remained high and we anticipate that more children will join in Autumn 2021. Members from MMF's Music Centre choir and ensembles produced 2 excellent virtual performances, which were widely viewed.

MMF's hashtag 'LetTheBellsRingOut' virtual Advent calendar attracted video performances from 23 different school and community groups.

During the year, despite the difficulties presented by Covid 19, we worked with all Merton Primary schools to help develop, support and embed MMF's 'With One Voice' singing strategy, through a range of CPD, new resources (including use of Charanga and Sing Up) and a variety of modified performance opportunities. Many schools were nervous and reluctant to sing and we were able to share government guidance with schools with regard to 'safe' singing. Schools have created ingenious performance opportunities by video and online concerts for parents.

Singing is an important element of the 'ln2Music' WCET programme and delivery tutors were given help and resources to incorporate into their planning which was modified in the light of the Covid restrictions.

MMF had secured substantial external funding for 'We Are Family', a series of arts projects and choral commissions, beginning in the summer 2020 in preparation for celebrating MMF's 30th birthday, culminating in a massed performance at the Royal Albert Hall in March 2021. Sadly, these projects have been postponed and will need to be re-developed to reflect the many complexities of delivering both 'in-person' and online work to large groups of children (which we believe may persist for the remainder of 2020-21 and 2021-22). The Royal Albert Hall performance is now booked for March 2024.

EXTENSION ROLES

Continuous professional development (CPD)

1. CPD - Schools

- 3 CPD meetings were held over the year online for Primary and Secondary Music Coordinators, alongside bespoke Zoom support for specific individuals. In-person model teaching, music audits and staff INSET were delivered during the Summer Term in several Primary schools. MMF also delivered training to Wandsworth NQTs.
- SLA schools have received bespoke support, ranging from model teaching, staff INSET, advice on developing the curriculum (including the Model Music Curriculum), Programmes of Study, progression and resources audit.
- MMF's Merton Teachers Facebook group was extensively used to disseminate a wide range of online resources throughout the year.

2. CPD - Tutors

- Curriculum Team offered ongoing informal advice/ guidance to tutor workforce. Intensive IT support was given when needed at the start of the pandemic.
- Support provided to tutors leading/co-leading Merton Youth Music ensembles and extra time given for online preparation.
- Instrumental meetings were held regularly, formally and 'drop in' sessions to support tutors.

3. High Quality Musical Experiences

Sadly, the RAH concert and its related practical projects and workshops were cancelled, as were plans for SingFest 21, MMF Presents BARE at NWT and Sing Outside playground games project. Some project strands will be reworked for delivery in 2021-22.

We were able to deliver:

- Baseless Fabric Theatre – Carmen Workshops (210 x KS2 and 3).
- Sound Solutions: Opera, Jazz, Art workshops (240 x KS2) and a pack of choral and drama resources (all Merton schools).
- BeatFest Samba United project (195 x KS2).
- 'RingOutTheBells' virtual Advent Calendar.
- The next Royal Albert Hall concert will be in March 2024.

4. Hire

We continued to provide instruments for all the In2Music projects and to hire out instruments for individual lessons. 147 instruments were hired and 35 pupils received the reduced trust fund rate. In some cases of children in receipt of an MMF DSTM award, where need arose, there was no charge for hire.
As part of the logistical planning and preparation for our move of premises and using funding from the CRF, we were able to fully audit our instrumental stock and improve processes for tracking and maintaining instruments in our databases and on site. MMF took on a temporary member of staff to assist with this process and by the end of August, all instruments in storage had been accounted for, checked for condition and information about this had been updated on our systems. All instruments are now housed in our new site with improved storage processes and facilities, making it much easier and more efficient to access, assess and utilise the instrumental stock going forward.

5. SMEP

We continued to work closely with all stakeholders, talking to head teachers and the LA officers. Understanding the wider borough school situation and the focus on supporting young people back to in-person education has been a key part of our ongoing relationships with schools.

Partnership development

Members of Merton Music Foundation's Senior Leadership Team have continued to meet formally and informally with all of its Hub partners over the year to ensure that the focus for all activities is clearly established and targeted where appropriate. The focus for our hub work is on developing connectivity with selected partners who can strengthen and broaden the reach of our education work.

To date this has included:

- Continued partnerships with jazz musician and educator Pete Churchill on Sound Solutions project.
- On-going positive relationships with LBM officers and Merton Head Teachers (e.g. through Schools Forum and Hub meetings).
- MMF SLA revised and relaunched in September 2020 in response to the withdrawal of LBM funding and had a high level of uptake with 29 schools signing up, generating c. £14K of income.
- Support for curriculum music in schools, through provision of CPD and CLT / SLT support.
- Continued development of partnership with Polka Theatre to deliver intergenerational choral activities through ReSound choir.
- Continued partnership with Blues and Roots Ensemble, Wimbledon International Music Festival, Wimbledon Community Chorus and Wimbledon Civic Theatre Trust.
- Continued strategic links with Hub partner Crown Lane Studio, to assist in the development and delivery of a range of projects and the production of resources for projects and curriculum support
- Continued partnership with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and special schools. MMF has continued to develop and evolve new project work with the OAE, funded by Youth Music, to build on the sustained activity of the last 8 years with the SEND schools. Some activity was delayed but will resume in person in Sept 2021.
- Continued support of 3 community music-making groups, Wimbledon Community Chorus, Wandle Band and Wimbledon Community Orchestra (lending of music, professional services of Creative Director to conduct WCC, shared performance opportunities).
- Continued partnership with Sonoro chamber choir on Sound Solutions project (Summer 2021).

- Closer links with Kingston Music service with Chief Executive contracted to support KMS for a second year as Interim Head of Service for two days a week.
- Continued close partnership with SWLMEP with two weekly meetings to share good practice, a listening ear and act as a support network. Joint application was successful to Sound Connections for Youth Voice research into the experience of digital learning on young people across SW London.
- Continued partnership with Veterans Voices, working with ex-service veterans from STOLL, with plans to expand and extent this work to included veterans from Haig Homes in Merton.
- At the very end of July, MMF was approached by Wimbledon College, to take over its Saturday Music Centre. We will reopen this centre for tuition in September 2021.
- MMF is working closely with The Sherwood Primary School, to open a new centre for small ensemble activities in January 2022, to include Sound Production, DJ and Deck sessions and EYFS adult and toddler groups.

Music technology in teaching and learning

- Implementation of cloud-based data storage via Microsoft Sharepoint and core-team roll-out of Microsoft Teams required a lot of front-end time / training investment of SLT / core team. However, there has been a marked improvement in remote collaboration and productivity as a result. Staff training / development in this area is ongoing.
- Website development – increased use of website for communication with parents / sharing of information (e.g. in-person teaching status of schools, Music Centre ensemble information). Increased use for sharing content / resources and improved commercial aspects such as click-through / SEO etc.
- Using funding from the CRF, we were able to purchase staff laptops, webcams for existing computers and video conferencing equipment to facilitate a truly ‘blended’ working pattern for the core team. Team Meetings are now hybrid events, with staff in the office making use of the large conferencing screen and those working from home joining remotely. This has enabled increased productivity and more efficient use of the available office space at our new location.
- Development planning took place for establishing a music technology offer at new Soundwave site in Mitcham – planned start of provision Jan 2022.
- Schools used Charanga extensively.
- All ensembles were delivered online until the summer term.
- We wrote safeguarding protocols for online tuition and extensive risk assessments.

Plans for the future

Our operational plans for the coming year are flexible and responsive. It is unclear how long restrictions will be imposed and what the long-term impact will be. We will liaise with ACE and other partners during 21/22 and follow Government advice. This will include further applications to Arts Council England's 'Grants for the Arts' Lottery funded programme to support music education projects and our projects for 2021/22 and beyond.

Other priorities include:

- Embed the new MMF Vision and action plan, regularly reviewing targets and achievements.
- Reviewing job descriptions and responsibilities in the new staffing model and reviewing employee skills as we remodel the workforce, ensuring that roles are tied in to our ambitious development planning aspirations.
- Building on the MMF@30 alumni community to explore opportunities for further fundraising and applications to new funders/supporters.
- Embedding an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion action plan and policy - talk in to action.
- Further development of the charity's Management Board to better reflect the communities we serve in Merton.
- Diversify the core and tutor workforces.
- Development of the partnership relationship between Merton Abbey Primary School and MMF for mutual benefit.
- Confirmation that grant funding is in place from all our core funders for the 2021/22 financial year.
- Pledges are confirmed for all key partners wishing to work as part of the Charity's Music Education Hub programme during the 2021/22 financial year and beyond.

- Review of the effectiveness of current partnership arrangements and to identify any new partners that could help support the next stage of MMF's hub development.
- Explore ways in which funding can be secured to deliver these new partnerships and start planning potential projects that could be delivered during this period, particularly in preparation for our next Royal Albert Hall concert in March 2024.

Financial review

The principal movements in Income and Expenditure were:

- Income from the year was down by 10% on the previous year as a result of the pandemic, turnover fell from £1,190,297 to £1,071,130. A small positive was the increase in voluntary income from £3,054 to £4,842.
- The core Grant from Arts Council fell from £254,173 to £250,339 a decrease of 1.5%
- As income fell, the overall expenditure of the charity decreased also, from £1,149,388 to £1,065,725, in % terms a decrease of just under 8%.
- The surplus of the charity fell from £40,909 in the previous year to £5,405 in the current year. Given the significant decrease in lessons during the year, it was encouraging that MMF could still generate a small surplus.

Financial position at year-end:

- The net assets of the charity continue to increase and were £214,649 at the year-end. Of this £201,676 were unrestricted funds, 94% of total funds. Restricted funds did not change during the year.
- The current net assets of the charity continue to increase, rising from £159,286 to £173,963 during the current year, an increase of 9%. Bank and cash balances fell from £329,370 to £310,874, a fall of just over 5%.
- MMF continues to solidify its balance sheet.

Structure, governance and management
Governing document

Merton Music Foundation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 12 March 1991 and registered as a charity on 11 September 1991. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:
Michael Collins
Edward Hickman
Rowena Maybury
Ian Bond
Stephen Moran
Sandra Vogel
Emma Trevelyan
Nicky Morgan

Trustee induction and training

New trustee induction includes briefing them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. During the induction process, they meet key employees and the other trustees. All trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events to develop their understanding of their roles as trustees. New trustees are also given relevant documentation including recent important documentation on music education, management financial reports, meeting minutes and copies of the charity's annual Reports and financial statements.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

MMF works closely with the Friends of Merton's Young Musicians (FMYM) (Charity No. 274493R). FMYM is the parents' association for our Music Centre activities, which are based at the Chaucer Centre. The Chief Executive serves in an ex-officio non-voting capacity on the management committee of FMYM.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees meets termly to manage the affairs of the charity. The Board consisted of nine directors, from a variety of professional backgrounds, who are responsible for the overall strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Chief Executive, manages the day-to-day operations of the charity, and as delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustee body, for operational matters including finance, employment and artistic related activity.

Risk management

The Trustees have a risk management policy, which comprises an annual review of the risks the charity may face and establishes systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified.

Health & safety and child protection

The health and safety of staff and students together with child protection are primary concerns to the Trustees. Music Centre managers and other key staff undertake both first aid and fire marshal training and all staff are made aware of their own duties and responsibilities for health and safety issues.

Merton Music Foundation adopts the current Child Protection requirements as set out by the Home Office. Prior to the commencement of work enhanced DBS checks take place for all new staff together with at least two satisfactory references and interview. DBS's are rechecked for all staff and trustees every 3 years.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that WSM Advisors Limited be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

.....

Edward Hickman

Trustee

Dated: .....

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

For the year ended 31 August 2021

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Merton Music Foundation for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Merton Music Foundation (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The impact of macro-economic uncertainties on our audit

Our audit of the financial statements requires us to obtain an understanding of all relevant uncertainties, including those arising as a consequence of the effects of macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19. All audits assess and challenge the reasonableness of estimates made by the trustees and the related disclosures and the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements. All of these depend on assessments of the future economic environment and the company's future prospects and performance.

Covid-19 is amongst the most significant economic events currently faced by the UK, and at the date of this report its effects are still having an impact on schools and teaching. Whilst MMF has adopted a blended style of learning, the impact of Covid 19 is still being felt as levels of Covid infections in schools are outpacing the government's vaccination programme. Accordingly, the uncertainties in relation to Covid-19 are still in existence in relation to education provision, with the full range of possible outcomes and their impacts unknown. We applied a standardised firm-wide approach in response to these uncertainties when assessing the company's future prospects and performance. However, no audit should be expected to predict the unknowable factors or all possible future implications for a charitable company associated with these particular events.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

WSM Advisors Limited .....

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Connect House
133-137 Alexandra Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 7JY

WSM Advisors Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charitable company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	**3**	4,842	-	4,842	3,054
Charitable activities	**4**	815,941	250,339	1,066,280	1,187,212
Investments		8	-	8	31
Total income		820,791	250,339	1,071,130	1,190,297
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	**5**	1,065,725	-	1,065,725	1,149,388
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(244,934)	250,339	5,405	40,909
Gross transfers between funds		250,339	(250,339)	-	-
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		5,405	-	5,405	40,909
Fund balances at 1 September 2020		196,271	12,973	209,244	168,335
Fund balances at 31 August 2021		201,676	12,973	214,649	209,244

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 August 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**9**		40,686		49,958
Current assets					
Debtors	**10**	3,601		9,149	
Cash at bank and in hand		310,874		329,370	
		314,475		338,519	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**11**	(140,512)		(179,233)	
Net current assets			173,963		159,286
Total assets less current liabilities			214,649		209,244
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**13**		12,973		12,973
Unrestricted funds			201,676		196,271
			214,649		209,244

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 August 2021, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on .....

.....
Edward Hickman
Trustee

Company Registration No. 02590621

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	**20**		(14,214)		94,916
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,290)		(6,156)	
Interest received		8		31	
Net cash used in investing activities			(4,282)		(6,125)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			(18,496)		88,791
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			329,370		240,579
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			310,874		329,370

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Merton Music Foundation is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is c/o Merton Abbey School, High Path, London, SW19 2JY.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charitable company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have undertaken an assessment of the adequacy of the resources available to the charity and have taken in to account the impact of the coronavirus on the charity as well as the expected support to businesses available from the government measures in place through the period of disruption caused by coronavirus. The trustees have a reasonable expectation the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and accordingly continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Incoming resources

Incoming resources represents tuition fees, income from concerts, tours, hire of instruments, music centre subscription and other fees rendered in the year.

Income is recognised when the charitable company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charitable company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to membership received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the receipt.

1.4 Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset’s use.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Expenditure for charitable purposes

Direct charitable expenditure includes all expenditure directly related to the objectives of the charitable company and comprises the costs of providing instrumental tuition, concert performances, tours, and education and community projects undertaken by the charitable company and is accounted for when payable.

Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on the basis of an estimate of the proportion of time spent by staff on those activities.

Governance costs

Governance costs represent expenditure incurred in the management of the charitable company's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Musical instruments	25% on reducing balance basis
Computer equipment	25% on reducing balance basis
Office equipment	25% on reducing balance basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.6 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charitable company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charitable company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charitable company's balance sheet when the charitable company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.9 Fund Accounting

The funds held by the charitable company are either:

Restricted funds - these are funds that can be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charitable company. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular purposes.

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes.

The funds received in the year are transferred to the general fund to be set off against expenses in the year that relate to the agreed activities with Arts Council England.

Peter Wooding's bursary fund

These funds have been designated by the charitable company to support exceptional young musicians at the request of Peter Wooding's family. The fund was established with donations made to' 'the charitable company. The charitable company held sufficient cash balances at the year end to allow the funds to be applied as intended.

Greenwood bursary fund

The Greenwood bursary fund was established by the charitable company from funds transferred to it from the Ronald Greenwood Musical Trust by the London Borough of Merton who had previously operated the trust. The fund is operated in accordance with the Ronald Greenwood Musical Trust deed and awards are made to young musicians who show great promise. The charitable company held sufficient cash balances at the year end to allow the fund to be operated in accordance with the Trust deed.

Wider Opportunities

The grant's original use was restricted to the purchase, lease or repair of musical instruments suitable for use with children in KS2. The funds were applied as intended in the period of receipt and the remaining reserve is now reduced by the depreciation and disposal of the fund- purchased musical instruments.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Arts Council England Funding
The charitable company received a grant in the year from the Arts Council England. According to the Funding Agreement, the use of the grant is restricted to the agreed activities with the Arts Council. The grant is recognised in the accounts when they are received and applied to the period it relates to.

Dorothy Taylor Bequest
The charitable company received restricted funds within the current year to support one girl and one boy in their musical studies for the period of 4 years at the request of the late Dorothy Taylor.

Arts Council England 'Grants for the arts'
The charitable company received restricted funds within the current year to support its Backstories and Radio Retro Projects.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charitable company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	2021	2020
	£	£
Donations and gifts	4,842	3,054

The income from voluntary income was £4,842 (2020: £3,054) of which all are unrestricted income.

4 Charitable activities

	Tuition fees	Hire of instruments	Music centre subscriptions	Concert and tour receipts	Fees - inset	Grants receivable	Other income	Total 2021	Total 2020
	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sales within charitable activities	593,313	19,001	36,757	32,740	72,628	58,850	2,652	815,941	910,039
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	250,339	-	250,339	277,173
	593,313	19,001	36,757	32,740	72,628	309,189	2,652	1,066,280	1,187,212
Analysis by fund									
Unrestricted funds	593,313	19,001	36,757	32,740	72,628	58,850	2,652	815,941	910,039
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	250,339	-	250,339	277,173
	593,313	19,001	36,757	32,740	72,628	309,189	2,652	1,066,280	1,187,212
For the year ended 31 August 2020									
Unrestricted funds	726,880	22,518	61,331	31,615	58,755	5,013	3,927		910,039
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	277,173	-		277,173
	726,880	22,518	61,331	31,615	58,755	282,186	3,927		1,187,212

5 Charitable activities

	Staff costs	Depreciation	Direct Costs	Allocated costs	Total 2021	Total 2020
	2021	2021	2021	2021		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Instrumental tuition	111,904	-	300,778	34,631	447,313	482,152
Youth music programme	143,529	-	161,787	8,658	313,974	350,766
Tours and Concerts	74,425	-	11,663	8,658	94,746	90,495
Professional advice and support	9,156	-	-	4,329	13,485	13,168
CPD training	7,814	-	-	4,329	12,143	11,607
Project development	84,861	-	22,570	8,658	116,089	112,963
Instrument repair and hire	3,382	-	546	8,658	12,586	22,499
	435,071	-	497,344	77,921	1,010,336	1,083,650
Share of support costs (see note 6)	15,885	13,562	5,784	8,658	43,889	54,562
Share of governance costs (see note 6)	-	-	11,500	-	11,500	11,176
	450,956	13,562	514,628	86,579	1,065,725	1,149,388

6 Support costs

	Support cost	Other costs	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Salaries	14,950	-	14,950	23,663
Pension costs	935	-	935	928
Bank charges	5,784	-	5,784	6,878
Sundries	-	-	-	2,695
Depreciation	13,562	-	13,562	13,158
Allocated support	8,658	-	8,658	7,240
Audit and accountancy fee	-	11,500	11,500	11,176
	43,889	11,500	55,389	65,738

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £11,500 (2020: £11,176) for audit fees.

These costs are wholly attributable to charitable activities and are allocated based on the trustees' estimate of the appropriate proportion attributable to each activity.

7 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Number of employees	28	31

	£	£
Wages and salaries	445,096	498,170
Social security costs	36,101	36,705
Other pension costs	48,422	48,702
	529,619	583,577

Wages and salaries include £78,663 of staff wages, which have been classed under the Youth Music Programme within direct costs.

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
£60,000 to £70,000	1	2
£70,000 to £80,000	1	-
£80,000 to £90,000	1	-

Those employees whose emoluments exceeded £60,000 (2021: 3 employees, 2020: 2 employees) also have retirement benefits accruing under defined benefit pension schemes. A total of £67,453 (2020: £25,238) was paid to the Teachers' Pension Scheme in the year for these employees.

8 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

9 Tangible fixed assets

	Musical instruments	Computer equipment	Office equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 September 2020	229,530	42,133	30,539	302,202
Additions	-	4,290	-	4,290
At 31 August 2021	229,530	46,423	30,539	306,492
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 September 2020	187,585	35,511	29,148	252,244
Depreciation charged in the year	10,486	2,728	348	13,562
At 31 August 2021	198,071	38,239	29,496	265,806
Carrying amount				
At 31 August 2021	31,459	8,184	1,043	40,686
At 31 August 2020	41,945	6,622	1,391	49,958

10 Debtors

	2021	2020
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	121	3,465
Other debtors	-	3,684
Prepayments and accrued income	3,480	2,000
	3,601	9,149

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	9,739	8,472
Deferred income	71,612	109,284
Trade creditors	36,622	28,436
Other creditors	9,960	16,175
Accruals	12,579	16,866
	140,512	179,233

Other deferred income relates to deposits and fees paid in advance for the following year.

12 Retirement benefit schemes

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees not in the Teachers Pension Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently administered fund.

13 Restricted funds

Arts Council England (ACE) made a grant available to the charitable company during the year. The use of the grant has no specific restrictions; however the funding is subject to the charitable company delivering the agreed activities within the core roles and extension roles of the National Plan for Music Education as highlighted within the Trustees' Report. The funds received in the year have been transferred to the general fund to be set off against expenses in the year that relate to the agreed activities with ACE.

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds 2021	Unrestricted funds 2021	Total 2021	Restricted funds 2020	Unrestricted funds 2020	Total 2020
	£	£	££	£		£
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	-	40,686	40,686	-	49,958	49,958
Current assets/(liabilities)	12,973	160,990	173,963	12,973	146,313	159,286
	12,973	201,676	214,649	12,973	196,271	209,244

15 Audit report information

The auditor's report was unqualified.

WSM Advisors Limited

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

16 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

The liability of the members is limited. Every member undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company, in the event of the company being wound up whilst they are a member, or within one year after ceasing to be a member, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before ceasing to be a member.

17 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charitable company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Within one year	18,000	-

17 Operating lease commitments **(Continued)**

Between two and five years	54,000	18,513
In over five years	18,000	-
	90,000	18,513

18 Related party transactions

During the year there was an employee who was employed as a chief executive officer who was also a director. Remuneration was paid to this director in the capacity of an employee.

None of the trustees (or any persons with them) received and remuneration or benefits from the charitable company during the year.

19 Teachers' Pension Scheme

The charity participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme (England and Wales) (the TPS), for its teaching staff. The pension charge for the year includes contributions payable to the TPS of £40,233 (2020 : £48,702).

The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefits pension scheme governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2014. Members contribute on a "pay as you go" basis with contributions of £.

20 Cash generated from operations

	2021	**2020**
	£	**£**
Surplus for the year	5,405	40,909
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(8)	(31)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	13,562	13,158
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	5,548	(3,688)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(1,049)	11,267
(Decrease)/increase in deferred income	(37,672)	33,301
Cash (absorbed by)/generated from operations	(14,214)	94,916

21 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charitable company had no debt during the year.

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1004122

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1004122

Company Registration No. 02590621 (England and Wales)

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

Annual report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 August 2020

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Michael Collins Edward Hickman Rowena Maybury Ian Bond Stephen Moran Sandra Vogel Emma Trevelyan Nicky Morgan	 (Appointed 23 September 2019)
Charity number	1004122	
Company number	02590621	
Registered office	c/o Merton Abbey School High Path London SW19 2JY	
Auditor	WSM Advisors Limited Connect House 133-137 Alexandra Road Wimbledon London SW19 7JY	

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

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MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 August 2020

Chair's Introduction

The Covid 19 lockdown in mid-March meant that the organisation was faced with the challenge of adapting all its existing ways of working. Showing the kind of determination that my fellow Trustees have come to expect from all of the team, MMF transformed how it operated into an online service almost overnight and continued to fulfil its remit in providing outstanding musical experiences for local young people, through its Hub 'core' and 'extension' roles.

Team Merton Music Foundation (MMF hereafter) launched an online tuition service via Zoom within two weeks with safeguarding and risk assessment protocols in place. The tutor workforce of 65 were supported with workshops and training to develop confidence and new skills to teach in a new way. The MMF team embraced this new style of working and core staff IT/digital skills were quickly enhanced. This was followed by an online Music Centre with 145 members launched in the summer term with a more diverse offer and extra activities. Take up of lessons was 50% of the previous term (a significant reduction of income) and Music Centre continuation was c.60%.

We were acutely aware of the cohort of pupils who were difficult to reach because of vulnerability and family circumstances, who had cheaper group lessons that were too difficult for MMF to facilitate online. This was the impetus for our ‘Don’t Stop the Music’ fundraising campaign which raised an impressive £10k enabling a group of ‘Merton Scholars’ to continue tuition for September 2020. This also enabled MMF to start building an alumni data base and develop a fundraising strategy. This was MMF’s first major online fundraising initiative, and we were delighted with the response and generosity of donors.
Friends of Merton's Young Musician (FMYM hereafter) (parents association) continued to support and fundraise for MMF and widely promoted this fundraising campaign and we remain grateful for their ongoing enthusiasm and commitment.

Since September 2019 our CEO has also been managing Kingston Music Service on a two day per week contract. This has increased workload for the rest of the senior team, but has enabled MMF to generate significant income from the placement and to bring a wider perspective of a LA music hub to MMF and to consider areas where activity could be shared and developed.

Although the pandemic dominated the latter part of the financial year, the first six months saw a growth in activity with some notable achievements. MMF is at the forefront of cultural activity across the borough. We work closely with outstanding local arts providers and practitioners - New Wimbledon Theatre, Polka Theatre, Wimbledon International Music Festival, Crown Lane Studio -and extensively with local charitable and amateur music-making groups. We work together to provide high quality arts experiences, to avoid duplication and to meet and respond to local need. Out last community-based project with Wimbledon Community Theatre Trust, performed at New Wimbledon Theatre in February 2020, reached an audience of 4,500.

MMF also had the highest number of pupils taking tuition in February 2020 (1485) and had been successful in grant applications including over £50k towards our Royal Albert Hall's (RAH hereafter) 30th birthday celebration at the RAH in March 21 which sadly was unable to go ahead. Further successful applications brought in excess of £30k and we have been grateful to all the various grant awarding bodies who have worked with us to modify the original bids and enable us to re-imagine and re-work the original ideas.

Schools remain our key focus and almost all primaries and secondaries benefitted from our School Music Education Plan. Project opportunities, subsidised clubs, workshops, support for primary music co ordinators, CPD, large scale performances, whole class programmes, provision of Music Centres and tuition have formed the backbone of MMF’s delivery.

The aspirations of the National Plan for Music Education underpin MMF’s vision for the local offer in Merton.

We were supported by schools during the summer term so that our In2Music income (£129,531 from 36 projects) for the period was retained, enabling us to pay the In2music teaching staff employed during the summer term.

A senior member of the finance team retired in March and was not replaced. Sadly, two members of staff have been made redundant in line with our prudent approach to keeping our resources and operational capacity aligned.

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 August 2020

The year has been a period of two halves – the first seeing MMF thrive and develop its offer, and the second a time when global challenges overtook the local situation and demanded brave leadership and decision making. My thanks to the leadership team, committed staff and tutors who managed to keep the music playing despite the most challenging and unique circumstances thrown up by the pandemic.

I would also like to thank all the schools and parents who continue to place their trust in MMF to support their children along their individual and collective musical journeys. Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for all of their input and help in reaching difficult decisions over these last 12 months.

What follows in this report provides the detail and the background to our achievements in 2019-20.

Edward Hickman
Chairman
Dated: 21 October 2021

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

For the year ended 31 August 2020

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2020.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charitable company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)".

Charitable objective

Merton Music Foundation (MMF) aims to promote and support the highest quality music education for ALL.

Our charitable objective is 'To advance music education within a framework of the arts for the benefit of the public of the London Borough of Merton and elsewhere".

MMF's mission is to encourage participation, enjoyment and achievement by providing the highest quality learning opportunities in music and the performing arts.

The vision that shapes our annual activities is based on the aspirations of the National Plan for Music Education 'The Importance of Music'. Published in November 2011, it sets out the Government's vision for music education to enable children from all backgrounds and every part of England to have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; to make music with others; to learn to sing and to have the opportunity to progress to the next level of excellence.

Music Education Hubs

Merton Music Foundation is the lead partner for the Merton Music Education Hub, part of a national network of music education hubs established in 2012.

Music Education Hubs are a vital part of the Government's National Plan for Music Education Plan, which resulted from a thorough review of music education undertaken by Darren Henley in 2011. The Hub receives funding directly from Arts Council England on behalf of the Department of Education.

Music Hubs have a remit to fulfil four core roles and three extension roles in the delivery of music education:

Core Roles

- **First Access** - Ensure that every child aged 5 -18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (other than voice) through whole class ensemble teaching programmes.
- **Ensembles** - Provide opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform from an early stage.
- **Progression** - Ensure that clear progression routes are available and affordable to all young people.
- **Singing** - Develop a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil sings regularly and that choirs and other vocal ensembles are available in the area.

Extension Roles

- **Continuous Professional Development** - CPD for school staff, particularly in supporting schools to deliver music in the curriculum.
- **Instrument Hire** - Provide an instrument loan service, with discounts for those on low incomes.
- **Live Music Opportunities** - Provide access to large scale and high quality music experiences for pupils, working with professional musicians and venues. This will include undertaking work to publicise the opportunities available to schools, parents/carers and students.

Working in partnership

The charity's hub programme is a collaboration between key local, regional and national music and arts organisations working together to create joined up, high quality music education in and out of school. The key overriding aims of our partnerships continue to be to broaden and increase the opportunities for music making for all children and young people in the region, regardless of their background or personal circumstances; to avoid duplication, make decisions on the basis of need and to raise the standards of music provision to the highest levels possible.

Our partners during the 2019/20 financial year included Charanga, Crown Lane Studio, Merton Children, Schools and Families Department, Mayor's Music Fund, Merton Schools Forum, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Polka Theatre, Richard Mallet Arts Management, Wimbledon International Music Festival and Wimbledon Civic Theatre Trust. The charity is also an active member of the South West London Music Education Partnership, which consists of the music services of Croydon, Hounslow, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth.

Delivery

Executive responsibility for delivery rests with the Chief Executive and the Senior Leadership Team, made up of two full-time employees and one part-time employee of the Foundation and to whom all other employees report either directly or indirectly. MMF aims to achieve the highest quality service provision by striving to provide the best opportunities in which to encourage learning through the National Plan's Core and Extension roles.

Building effective and secure partnerships is critical to our ethos of developing sustainable music education provision within the region. At the heart of this development is the Merton Music Education Hub, which builds on the existing structure of local, regional and national partnerships and levers in support for the charity's various education activities.

Volunteers

We work closely with our parents' charity the Friends of Merton's Young Musicians (FMYM). The Friends meet regularly to administer the affairs of their charity, to arrange fundraising events to support the work of Merton Music Foundation, and to help with concerts and other events provided by our charity. Over the years, FMYM's fund raising has enabled us to buy instruments, purchase sheet music for our groups, provide coaching for events like Music *is* for Life and Music for Youth festivals, and support the provision of overseas tours for our senior Youth Music groups. FMYM successfully fundraised through a ‘sponsor a piano key’ campaign to raise £20k for the purchase of a new Yamaha grand piano and U3 upright piano for Music Centre and teaching use.

Ensuring our work continues to deliver our charitable purpose

We review our aims, objectives and activities annually through our Business Plan and regular reporting to Arts Council England. The review examines our achievements and the outcomes of our work over the past twelve months. It also looks at the success of each of the National Plan's Core and Extension role areas and the benefits that have been brought to the various groups of people we work with. The review also helps us ensure that our aims, objectives and activities remain focused on our stated charitable purpose. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in deciding what activities the charity should undertake for the following financial year.

Public Benefit

The Trustees of Merton Music Foundation have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The Trustees believe that the organisation conforms readily to the new public benefit requirements of the Charity Commission. The reasons for this belief are:

Our charitable objective *"To advance music education within a framework of the arts for the benefit of the public of the London Borough of Merton and elsewhere"* which clearly demonstrates public benefit in advancing and promoting the importance of music education.

The advocacy work that MMF does is of potential benefit to all individuals, schools and its partnership organisations, by helping to create a learning environment in which live music making can flourish and be available to participants and audiences in the local community that the charity serves.

The key focus for MMF's work: music education through a framework of the arts, are both defined within the Charities Act 2006 as charitable activities and as such both directly benefit the public.

The main activities of the charity, and those we try to help, are those for children and young people in and around the London Borough of Merton to whom we aim to provide musical opportunities of the highest standard.

All the Foundation's projects are centered on children and young people, some of whom are 'hard to reach', have disadvantaged backgrounds or challenging circumstances.

Financial assistance is not just limited to students of families who qualify for assistance from the 'Pupil Premium'. The Trustees recognise that students from families whose income is only a little above the level to qualify for 'Pupil Premium' but have to contend with the high cost of living in London, may also require support from MMF's Trust Fund and other funds and applications from such students are looked upon favourably.

Financial assistance in membership of MMF's Merton Youth Music activities and participating in its music making activities is considered in all cases of individual hardship.

The Trustees have therefore satisfied themselves that Merton Music Foundation meets the public benefit requirements and they confirm that they have taken due regard of the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charitable company should undertake.

Achievements and performance

The following summary provides an overview of our achievements and performance against the National Plan for Music Education's Core and Extension Roles. The information is taken from our Annual Data Return to Arts Council England for the 2019/20 academic year.

CORE ROLES

1.First access

MMF's First Access opportunities included a range of music making programmes for pupils from all phases this year, including provision for Special Schools. The new Senior Curriculum Leader reviewed and revised the In2music programme which has led to a greater uptake by schools.

In the first half of the year classes were delivered face to face but in the summer term all activity was online. Tutors worked creatively, liaising directly with their schools and with MMF support were able to present videos, create YouTube clips and in some cases appear by video link in classrooms. Some schools sent materials home for pupils to work on, but in many instances it was difficult for children to make progress as they did not have access to their instrument. Programmes were re-written to be more general musicianship based and therefore more inclusive to reflect this.

We continued to expand a wraparound first access model, to include general musicianship teaching and KS1 provision in response to local need. Schools have increasingly requested projects that go beyond traditional first access and 36 projects ran in 17 schools across the year. Further recruitment was necessary at the start of the year to meet increased demand. Ongoing staff training and support/ networking has helped to establish consistency of staffing and quality of teaching/learning.

With the support of Senior Leadership Team (SLT), tutors worked with over 2000 pupils from 17 Merton schools who benefitted from First Access instrumental programmes.

Schools bought into a full range of instruments - projects were delivered on djembe, mixed percussion, gamelan, samba, trumpet, clarinet, flute, recorder, violin and guitar.

Pupils at Cricket Green SEND School completed the seventh year of a Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (WCET hereafter) type programme with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (OAE hereafter) funded by Youth Music to run between 2013-20. The project had to be paused but will continue next year.

Larger primary schools continue to be offered the adapted 3-form entry primary school model. These last 45 minutes, enabling all three classes to have a lesson within a morning or afternoon period. Although adding more pressure on the tutor and MMF resources, this format does enable all pupils within a year group to take part in learning an instrument. These projects were all modified for the summer term.

2. Ensembles

Merton Youth Music programme provided a comprehensive range of 21 regular ensembles, instrumental and choral, from beginner to advanced level. Jazz and percussion provision have been further refined and developed (additional master classes and workshops) and with the appointment of a string specialist to the core team, MMF's string provision has been reviewed. COVID-19 has impacted on the excellent groundwork established so this developmental work will carry over into September 20. Merton Messengers (extension jazz group) has continued to become increasingly autonomous and booked gigs independently of MMF.

The new String Curriculum Leader works closely with London Music Masters.
Senior Music Centre students are encouraged to become Mentors in Junior Bands. We had around 10 mentors, some of whom used the experience to support their Duke of Edinburgh award.

Young players from WCET projects are encouraged to take exams and join Music Centre as well as taking instrumental lessons.

Primary music co-ordinators continue to be supported (advice, repertoire, tutor time) to establish school-based ensembles for children to consolidate and develop skills. MMF is sometimes asked to lead these groups.

Regular newsletters to key groups/audiences, signposting local families with children learning with us to MMF activities and local arts activities.

The tutor workforce was kept informed of local, MMF and wider progression routes. One member of the MMF team works at the National Childrens Orchestra (NCO hereafter) and supports and encourages children and parents to make applications. Another tutor wrote and published a beginner piano book with a foreword by MMF.

Crown Lane Studio has continued to offer London Borough of Merton (LBM hereafter) pupils work experience placements and have been available to support local young people in accessing the recording industry.

Ongoing relationship with OAE and Special schools now in seventh year.

100 members of the Wimbledon Community Chorus received weekly rehearsals between September and July and gave 2 local public performances, including an outstanding performance of Mozart Requiem with Sonoro chamber choir and Wimbledon Symphony Orchestra and another with the Central Band of the Royal British Legion, involving a choir of ex-service veterans from STOLL (British Legion's Housing and Helping Veterans Organisation).

Continued development of an adult guitar ensemble, who performed with the youth ensembles at a joint MMF event for a local homeless charity.

Ongoing support of Wandle Band and Wimbledon Community Orchestra provides an instrumental pathway into adult learning. MMF has developed a range of tuition (percussion, piano, guitar) and club models for Harris Academy Morden. Students successfully passed ABRSM exams.

As part of our support of young people with additional needs, the MMF Chief Executive (CE hereafter) supports tutors and teachers with advice, resources and signposting to further training.

Continued partnership and consultation with our parents' association, FMYM to fundraise, promote and support evaluation of MMF activities and routes for progression.

3.Progression
The National Plan for Music Education promotes the importance of every child between age 5 and 18 having the chance to learn a musical instrument and/or sing through structured activities. As part of this, there is a strong emphasis on musical progression with all children regardless of background having the opportunity to sing and play in larger ensembles, every school providing singing opportunities and aspiring towards having an orchestra or large-scale ensemble.

This year we have again continued to focus on strengthening these progression routes within our operations area. This has included:

- Annual review and development of our Merton Youth Music programme - comprehensive range of 21 regular ensembles, instrumental and choral, from beginner to advanced level.
- Offering remission of fees schemes to support parents on low incomes
- Further development of enhanced In2Music provision at St Teresa's catering for a complete year group. The children have enjoyed their learning and performance standards have been high. The school has pledged funding for three years.
- Developing new performance opportunities with Hub partners. It was thrilling to have 4,500 participants across 5 performances of Twist at New Wimbledon Theatre.
- Working with the special schools and the OAE to promote inclusive musicmaking activities for children with additional needs.
- Continued relationship with Wimbledon Community Chorus and signposting to local music groups such as Wandle Band and Wimbledon Community Orchestra to provide a pathway into adult learning.
- Supporting pupils to make applications to junior conservatoires and national youth ensembles including NYJO and the National Children's Orchestra, and help with post 18 applications to study music in the higher education sector.

4.Singing strategy

During the year, despite the difficulties presented by Covid 19, we worked with all Merton Primary schools to help develop, support and embed MMF's 'With One Voice' singing strategy, through a range of CPD, new resources (including use of Charanga and Sing Up) and a variety of modified performance opportunities. Many schools were nervous and reluctant to sing and we were able to share government guidance with schools with regard to 'safe' singing. Schools have created ingenious performance opportunities by video and online concerts for parents.

MMF's Programmes Director is directly responsible for the on-going development, management and much of the delivery of WOV. She holds three meetings a year for school-based Primary Music Coordinators, which always includes an element of singing CPD. Music Coordinators and Secondary Music Leaders across all primary, secondary and special schools are emailed regularly with updated information on recommended resources. This included opportunities for CPD ('in house' and through nationally recognised organisations like Sound Connections, Sing Up, ABCD and The Voices Foundation); performance projects and other aspects of professional practice (e.g. advice on how to start or develop a school choir; how to choose appropriate repertoire; how to teach part-work successfully). The Programmes Director and Senior Curriculum Leader have also given on-going informal advice to specific teachers on supporting singing and choral development.

Singing is an important element of the 'ln2Music' WCET programme and delivery tutors were given help and resources to incorporate into their planning which was modified in the summer term.

Huge success with the Twist project, in partnership with WCTT and NWT. We brought together over 3,500 Primary aged children from 26 local schools to sing excerpts from the musical Oliver!, incorporated into an interactive performance of a specially commissioned script based on the Dickens novel.

There were 5 performances over 2 days, including an evening performance with an audience of 600. Merton Youth Concert Band opened the evening with a 45min set, after a curtain raiser by The MerTones percussion ensemble followed by the final performance of Twist. We would like to produce something similar at New Wimbledon Theatre (NWT hereafter) in future – plans in place for January 2021 have had to be cancelled.

Monkey Boy – 60 KS2 pupils from Beecholme school received a series of 4 full day workshops with a group of Indian musicians, to compose music, dance and drama, culminating in a performance of Monkey Boy.
FAB – 60 Y5 pupils from Holy Trinity school engaged with senior students from Kings College School (KCS hereafter), to learn about The Blues. The KCS boys acted as mentors and workshop leaders, supported by teaching staff from MMF and KCS. To conclude, they performed a set of songs and instrumental pieces to a packed hall at KCS's new theatre.

SingFest 2020 involved workshops and performances by 535 pupils from 13 schools. Schools were given free access to a range of original and specially arranged choral resources in the MMF Song pack, via the MMF website.

MMF had secured substantial external funding for 'We Are Family', a series of arts projects and choral commissions, beginning in the summer 2020 in preparation for celebrating MMF's 30th birthday, culminating in a massed performance at the Royal Albert Hall in March 2021. Sadly, these projects have been postponed and will need to be re-developed to reflect the many complexities of delivering both 'in-person' and online work to large groups of children (which we believe may persist for the remainder of 2020-21 and 2021-22). RAH performance is now booked for March 22.

'Sound Ideas', a comprehensive and progressive programme of study which places singing at the heart of early musical development continues to be available free of charge to all teachers in the borough (online in blog form, with planning, song material and audio clips). All primary schools are offered the online music resource 'Charanga' free of charge to support classroom learning.

EXTENSION ROLES

Continuous professional development (CPD)

1.Schools

- A CPD meeting was held for Primary Music Coordinators in the Autumn term. 2 more meetings were delivered online in the early and late summer term, led by members of the SLT. The Programmes Director provided a regular flow of information and links to teaching resources throughout the summer term and members of SLT and Curriculum Leaders Team gave bespoke advice where needed.
- A meeting about the OFSTED 'Deep Dive' Inspection process was organised in the Autumn term and was very well attended (27 schools represented).
- SLA schools have received bespoke support, ranging from percussion workshops, advice on developing the curriculum (including through use of Charanga), progression, resources audit and model teaching.
- All Secondary school HODs were contacted for support and information sharing.
- SCL and PD gave informal ongoing advice to Music Coordinators through email/ telephone conversations (auditing resources, progression, curriculum planning, constructing composition projects, evaluation/ assessment).

2.Tutor Workforce

- Curriculum Team offered ongoing informal advice/ guidance to tutor workforce. Intensive IT support was given at the start of the pandemic.
- Support provided to tutors leading/co-leading Merton Youth Music ensembles and extra time given for online preparation.
- Instrumental meetings were held regularly, formally and 'drop in' sessions to support the workforce.

3. Instrument hire

A competitive instrument hire scheme was provided to support learning. Fewer instruments were hired out this year because of concerns around health and safety and access to our offices. Students eligible for Trust Fund support hired at no cost other than a termly administration fee of £15.

- Partnership with Allianz Insurance provided discounted cover for parents hiring through MMF and a percentage donation was made to MMF.

4. Large scale / High quality musical experiences

This included:

- Monkey Boy – 60 KS2 pupils from Beecholme received a series of 4 full day workshops with a group of Indian musicians, to compose music, dance and drama, culminating in a performance of Monkey Boy.
- FAB – 60 Y5 pupils from Holy Trinity school engaged with senior students from Kings College School, to learn about The Blues. The KCS boys acted as mentors and workshop leaders, supported by teaching staff from MMF and KCS. To conclude, they performed a set of songs and instrumental pieces to a packed hall at KCS's new theatre.
- Let Freedom Swing – 792 pupils and staff from 13 local schools attended an interactive performance given by members of Jazz at the Lincoln Center. This is the 2nd year of this exclusive partnership with JALC – Merton is the only music hub in the UK to be receiving this unique and highly valued programme. Sadly the group's 2nd follow-up visit, due in June, was cancelled, as have plans to return in 2020-21.
- Sound Construction – 180 KS2 pupils from 3 Primary schools used opera and other songs presented by the superb chamber choir Sonoro as a stimulus for artwork (painting and 3D model making), based on the theme of architecture and construction. This project was delivered in partnership with the Wimbledon International Music Festival. Plans to extend this very successful project have been delayed until Summer 2021.
- BeatFest, a new Samba project (funded by Youth Music), with access and inclusion at its heart, was largely postponed, although the Beat Awards were able to go ahead virtually. Delivery will now take place throughout 2020-21, though sadly without the planned performance at the RAH.
- Twist at New Wimbledon Theatre featured 4,500 participants.
- The continued restrictions on singing in the classroom (and in OOSS) has resulted in the cancelation or postponement of all choral events planned for the summer of 2020, including a summer term KS2 singing festival and a Playground Games project. All the singing activities planned as part of the We Are Family have been postponed until the summer 2021 at the earliest.
- OAE partnership concerts given and attended with Cricket Green school.

5.School music education plans

We supported all schools in the Borough as part of our School Music Education Plan which is built on MMF's current practice. All schools have been offered subsidised after school music clubs, and a half-day of MMF time for workshops, support or training. This has been well received and various schools booked 'bespoke' consultation time during the year and have negotiated after school provision.

- Developments have included the launching of an SLA with schools signing up for a package of services.
- Tailored NQT support for primary staff
- Further development of Crown Lane Percussion activities (every weekday and Saturdays)
- High take up of projects (some oversubscribed)
- Schools continue to book up for a range of 'ln2Music' WCET programmes, with the one term and variable models proving more popular.

Routes for Progression

- The low continuation rate after WCET and other free or heavily subsidised programmes has previously been a concern. This has been exacerbated by the pandemic with many families experiencing financial hardship. We will continue to look at innovative ways to support the transition to tuition for the current cohort but recognize that this is challenging.

Ensembles

- MMF continues to provide a range of ensembles through its Youth Music Programme and has responded to parental and student survey feedback. Online activity has had some surprising benefits with many parents and tutors reporting that pupils have practiced more and made greater progress. Band leaders have worked tirelessly to make online rehearsals dynamic and enjoyable, but ensembles need to be 'live' to have musical life and energy.

Singing Strategy
The 'With One Voice' singing strategy continued to be at the heart of Primary music provision, but we recognise that singing is a difficult area and look forward to the relaxing of the current rules, when safe to do so.

Partnership development
Members of Merton Music Foundation's Senior Leadership Team have continued to meet formally and informally with all of its Hub partners over the year to ensure that the focus for all activities is clearly established and targeted where appropriate. The focus for our hub work is on developing connectivity with selected partners who can strengthen and broaden the reach of our education work.

To date this has included:

- Continued partnership discussions with all local arts providers as we assess collectively what is possible, practical and safe.
- Continued contact with the wider musical community – other London hub colleagues and Music Mark.
- Ongoing positive relationships with LBM officers and Merton Head Teachers (e.g. through Schools Forum and Hub meetings), to ensure continued high quality support for curriculum music in schools, (e.g. through provision of CPD and Curriculum Leaders Team support.
- Closer partnership with the Southwest London Music Education Partnership, meeting more frequently and bidding for funds collectively.
- Continued partnership work with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment
- Continued support of three community music making groups, Wimbledon Community Chorus and signposting to Wandle Band and Wimbledon Community Orchestra.Programmes Director conducts WCC and offers shared performance opportunities.
- Collaboration with the Mayor's office, to provide local performance opportunities.

Music technology in teaching and learning

- Merton Music Foundation has long been an innovative leader in the use of technology to support music education. The pandemic intensified this development and IT skills became fundamental to our survival.
- We focused on developing our website as a means of communication with our multiple audiences.
- Core staff took on additional roles to support IT development including video editing, producing materials and creating online performances.
- Schools used Charanga extensively.
- All ensembles have been delivered online.
- Merton schools continue to embrace the use of technology, use of white boards and iPads.
- We wrote safeguarding protocols for online tuition and extensive risk assessments.

Plans for the future

Our operational plans for the coming year are flexible and responsive. It is unclear how long restrictions will be imposed and what the long-term impact will be. We will liaise with ACE and other partners during 20/21 and follow Government advice. This will include further applications to Arts Council England's 'Grants for the Arts' Lottery funded programme to support music education projects and our projects for 20/21.

Other priorities include:

- Reviewing job roles and employee skills to remodel the workforce, new job specifications will be introduced alongside a new appraisal/staff review process.
- Establishing a fundraising strategy and exploring new applications to new funders/supporters.
- Development of an alumni group
- Further development of the charity's Management Board with the formation of new sub groups to support the charity's new senior leadership team. (e.g. Fundraising, Appointments & Salaries Review, Audit and Risk Assessment).
- Development of the partnership relationship between Harris Academy Morden and MMF for mutual benefit.

- Confirmation that grant funding is in place from all our core funders for the 2020/21 financial year.
- Pledges are confirmed for all key partners wishing to work as part of the Charity's Music Education Hub programme during the 2019/20 financial year and onward to 2021.
- Review of the effectiveness of current partnership arrangements and to identify any new partners that could help support the next stage of MMF's hub development (2020-2022).
- Explore ways in which funding can be secured to deliver these new partnerships and start planning potential projects that could be delivered during this period.

Financial review
The principal movements in Income and Expenditure for the year were:

Income
Income was £1,190,297 in comparison with £1,330,279 for 2019, a decrease of 10.5% on the previous year. This decrease in income was the direct result of the Covd-19 pandemic. This significantly affect MMF’s activities for the summer term.

Voluntary income from Donations and Gift Aid was only £3,054 this financial year

The core Grant from Arts Council increased slightly to £254,173 from £253,761 received in the previous year.

Income from music tuition, music centre fees and other similar income streams, was significantly down by 11 % from £1,021,880 in 2019 to £910,039.

Investment income showed a return of only £31 on MMF's short-term deposits. This is due to interest rates, which have continued to remain very low during this financial period.

Expenditure

Total expenditure was £1,149,388 in 2020, 11% lower than the figure for 2019 of £1,300,491

Governance costs, as a percentage of total costs has continued to drop and represented 0.9 % of total costs in 2020.

Financial position at year end

Taking into account income and expenditure, the charity realised an operational surplus of £40,909 for the year (2019: a surplus of £29,788) before revaluations and investment asset disposals.

Total fund balances as at August 2020 were £209,244 (2019: £168,335). This consisted of £196,271 of unrestricted funds and restricted funds of £12,973.

Unrestricted funds continued to increase in this financial year. The increase this year was by 26% to the figure of £196,271 increasing the level of 'free' funds available and was in line with the charity's Reserves Policy.

Restricted funds did not change during the year ended 31st August 2020. These funds principally represented amounts held by MMF for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity and were primarily made up of funds transferred from the Ronald Greenwood Music. Trust funds received from the Federation of Music Services during 2010/11 for the purchase of musical instruments. Expenditure from the second fund had been capitalised within the accounts in prior years and is now reduced by depreciation associated with these capitalised assets. This is shown in note 15 of the Notes to the Financial Statements.

Investment Policy

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power to invest in any way the Trustees see fit.

The grant, which was received from the Department for Education via the Arts Council England, is specifically allocated to the expansion and development of the Foundation's music education services.

The Trustees do not consider it prudent to invest funds in stocks and shares, which are designed for the longer term. The charity has a policy to keep any surplus liquid funds in an interest bearing deposit account and seek to achieve a rate of interest, which matches or exceeds inflation. From time to time short-term deposits are deposited weekly or monthly on Treasury depending on the availability of reserves and having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the Foundation.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Trust to seek to maintain unrestricted funds, which are free reserves of the charity at a level, which equates to at least one month unrestricted expenditure and over time to seek to build up reserves towards the prudent amount of three months as recommended by the Charity Commission. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised and contingency savings made. These reserves are to provide sufficient funds to cover management, administration and operational costs over the stated period. The Trustees review the policy annually and the level of reserves is assessed in light of prevailing conditions and known risks to the Charity's sources of funds.

Surplus/Deficit

The Foundation aims to make a small surplus year on year. Any projected deficit is managed through regular monitoring meetings between the Chief Executive and Programmes Director who have operational responsibility for the charity's programmes. If the deficit becomes an actual the Board of Trustees agree to cover the amount through use of reserves.

Structure, governance and management
Governing document

Merton Music Foundation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 12 March 1991 and registered as a charity on 11 September 1991. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Ian Newman	(Resigned 23 September 2019)
Michael Collins	
Edward Hickman	
Rowena Maybury	
Ian Bond	
Stephen Moran	
Sandra Vogel	
Emma Trevelyan	
Nicky Morgan	(Appointed 23 September 2019)

Appointment of trustees
The trustees are also the directors for the purpose of company law. It is the Board of Trustees' collective responsibility to ensure that the organisation is fit for purpose and to determine and support its strategic direction in order to enable it to attain its stated objectives. All trustees receive a quality standards document that outlines the required role of a trustee on the management board and the relevant standards and commitments that are expected of them.

Members of the Board are normally re-elected at each Annual General Meeting. Retirement is by rotation with trustees, being eligible, offering themselves for re-election based on those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. New appointments to the Board are made after completion of a trustee skills gap analysis. Recruitment is normally by recommendation with suitable business, education or charity experience sought. A curriculum vitae is required from candidates and existing Board members approve all applications. Vetting checks include ensuring candidates have not been disqualified from acting as a trustee and enhanced checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

All members of the Board gave their time voluntarily and received no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in the note 7 to the accounts.

Trustee induction and training
New trustee induction includes briefing them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. During the induction process, they meet key employees and the other trustees. All trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events to develop their understanding of their roles as trustees. New trustees are also given relevant documentation including recent important documentation on music education, management financial reports, meeting minutes and copies of the charity's annual Reports and financial statements.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

MMF works closely with the Friends of Merton's Young Musicians (FMYM) (Charity No. 274493R). FMYM is the parents' association for our Music Centre activities, which are based at the Chaucer Centre. The Chief Executive serves in an ex-officio non-voting capacity on the management committee of FMYM.

Organisation

The Board of Trustees meets termly to manage the affairs of the charity. The Board consisted of nine directors, from a variety of professional backgrounds, who are responsible for the overall strategic direction and policy of the charity. The Chief Executive, manages the day-to-day operations of the charity, and as delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustee body, for operational matters including finance, employment and artistic related activity.

Risk management

The Trustees have a risk management policy, which comprises an annual review of the risks the charity may face and establishes systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified.

Health & safety and child protection

The health and safety of staff and students together with child protection are primary concerns to the Trustees. Music Centre managers and other key staff undertake both first aid and fire marshal training and all staff are made aware of their own duties and responsibilities for health and safety issues.

Merton Music Foundation adopts the current Child Protection requirements as set out by the Home Office. Prior to the commencement of work enhanced DBS checks take place for all new staff together with at least two satisfactory references and interview. DBS's are rechecked for all staff and trustees every 3 years.

Auditor
In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that WSM Advisors Limited be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Edward Hickman
Trustee
Dated: 22 October 2021

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

For the year ended 31 August 2020

The Trustees, who are also the directors of Merton Music Foundation for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Merton Music Foundation (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

The impact of macro-economic uncertainties on our audit

Our audit of the financial statements requires us to obtain an understanding of all relevant uncertainties, including those arising as a consequence of the effects of macro-economic uncertainties such as Covid-19. All audits assess and challenge the reasonableness of estimates made by the trustees and the related disclosures and the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements. All of these depend on assessments of the future economic environment and the company's future prospects and performance.

Covid-19 is amongst the most significant economic events currently faced by the UK, and at the date of this report its effects are still having an impact on schools and teaching. Whilst MMF has adopted a blended style of learning, the impact of Covid 19 is still being felt as levels of Covid infections in schools are outpacing the government's vaccination programme. Accordingly, the uncertainties in relation to Covid-19 are still in existence in relation to education provision, with the full range of possible outcomes and their impacts unknown. We applied a standardised firm-wide approach in response to these uncertainties when assessing the company's future prospects and performance. However, no audit should be expected to predict the unknowable factors or all possible future implications for a charitable company associated with these particular events.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information
The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees
As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Wendy Patterson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of WSM Advisors Limited 21 October 2021

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Connect House
133-137 Alexandra Road
Wimbledon
London
SW19 7JY

WSM Advisors Limited is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charitable company by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 August 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	**3**	3,054	-	3,054	26,235
Charitable activities	**4**	910,039	277,173	1,187,212	1,304,005
Investments	**5**	31	-	31	39
Total income		913,124	277,173	1,190,297	1,330,279
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	**6**	1,149,388	-	1,149,388	1,300,491
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(236,264)	277,173	40,909	29,788
Gross transfers between funds		277,173	(277,173)	-	-
Net income for the year/ Net movement in funds		40,909	-	40,909	29,788
Fund balances at 1 September 2019		155,362	12,973	168,335	138,547
Fund balances at 31 August 2020		196,271	12,973	209,244	168,335

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 August 2020

	Notes	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**10**		49,958		56,960
Current assets					
Debtors	**11**	9,149		5,461	
Cash at bank and in hand		329,370		240,579	
		338,519		246,040	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**12**	(179,233)		(134,665)	
Net current assets			159,286		111,375
Total assets less current liabilities			209,244		168,335
Income funds					
Restricted funds			12,973		12,973
Unrestricted funds			196,271		155,362
			209,244		168,335

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 August 2020, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements under the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 21 October 2021

Edward Hickman
Trustee

Company Registration No. 02590621

MERTON MUSIC FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 August 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	**21**		94,916		49,278
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(6,156)		(34,674)	
Interest received		31		39	
Net cash used in investing activities			(6,125)		(34,635)
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			88,791		14,643
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			240,579		225,936
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			329,370		240,579

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Merton Music Foundation is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is c/o Merton Abbey School, High Path, London, SW19 2JY.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charitable company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have undertaken an assessment of the adequacy of the resources available to the charity and have taken in to account the impact of the coronavirus on the charity as well as the expected support to businesses available from the government measures in place through the period of disruption caused by coronavirus. The trustees have a reasonable expectation the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and accordingly continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Incoming resources

Incoming resources represents tuition fees, income from concerts, tours, hire of instruments, music centre subscription and other fees rendered in the year.

Income is recognised when the charitable company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charitable company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to membership received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the receipt.

1.4 Resources expended

Expenditure for charitable purposes

Direct charitable expenditure includes all expenditure directly related to the objectives of the charitable company and comprises the costs of providing instrumental tuition, concert performances, tours, and education and community projects undertaken by the charitable company and is accounted for when payable.

Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on the basis of an estimate of the proportion of time spent by staff on those activities.

Governance costs

Governance costs represent expenditure incurred in the management of the charitable company's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Musical instruments	0% per annum
Computer equipment	25% on reducing balance basis
Office equipment	25% on reducing balance basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.6 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charitable company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charitable company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charitable company's balance sheet when the charitable company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged to income on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

1.10 Fund Accounting

The funds held by the charitable company are either:

Restricted funds - these are funds that can be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charitable company. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular purposes.

Unrestricted general funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds - these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes.

The funds received in the year are transferred to the general fund to be set off against expenses in the year that relate to the agreed activities with Arts Council England.

Peter Wooding's bursary fund

These funds have been designated by the charitable company to support exceptional young musicians at the request of Peter Wooding's family. The fund was established with donations made to' 'the charitable company. The charitable company held sufficient cash balances at the year end to allow the funds to be applied as intended.

Greenwood bursary fund

The Greenwood bursary fund was established by the charitable company from funds transferred to it from the Ronald Greenwood Musical Trust by the London Borough of Merton who had previously operated the trust. The fund is operated in accordance with the Ronald Greenwood Musical Trust deed and awards are made to young musicians who show great promise. The charitable company held sufficient cash balances at the year end to allow the fund to be operated in accordance with the Trust deed.

Wider Opportunities

The grant's original use was restricted to the purchase, lease or repair of musical instruments suitable for use with children in KS2. The funds were applied as intended in the period of receipt and the remaining reserve is now reduced by the depreciation and disposal of the fund- purchased musical instruments.

Arts Council England Funding

The charitable company received a grant in the year from the Arts Council England. According to the Funding Agreement, the use of the grant is restricted to the agreed activities with the Arts Council. The grant is recognised in the accounts when they are received and applied to the period it relates to.

Dorothy Taylor Bequest

The charitable company received restricted funds within the current year to support one girl and one boy in their musical studies for the period of 4 years at the request of the late Dorothy Taylor.

Arts Council England 'Grants for the arts'

The charitable company received restricted funds within the current year to support its Backstories and Radio Retro Projects.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charitable company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Donations and legacies

	2020	2019
	£	£
Donations and gifts	3,054	22,211
Gift aid claimed in prior years	-	4,024
	3,054	26,235

The income from voluntary income was £3,054 (2019: £26,235) of which all are unrestricted income.

4 Charitable activities

	Tuition fees	Hire of instruments	Music centre subscriptions	Concert and tour receipts	Fees - inset	Grants receivable	Other income	Total 2020	Total 2019
	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Sales within charitable activities	726,880	22,518	61,331	31,615	58,755	5,013	3,927	910,039	1,021,880
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	277,173	-	277,173	282,125
	726,880	22,518	61,331	31,615	58,755	282,186	3,927	1,187,212	1,304,005
Analysis by fund									
Unrestricted funds	726,880	22,518	61,331	31,615	58,755	5,013	3,927	910,039	1,021,880
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	277,173	-	277,173	282,125
	726,880	22,518	61,331	31,615	58,755	282,186	3,927	1,187,212	1,304,005
For the year ended 31 August 2019									
Unrestricted funds	723,196	34,793	68,172	180,991	8,460	-	6,268		1,021,880
Restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	282,125	-		282,125
	723,196	34,793	68,172	180,991	8,460	282,125	6,268		1,304,005

5 Investments

	2020 £	2019 £
Interest receivable	31	39

The income from investments was £31 (2019: £39) which was unrestricted.

6 Charitable activities

	Staff costs 2020 £	Depreciation 2020 £	Direct Costs 2020 £	Allocated costs 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Instrumental tuition	110,581	-	342,613	28,958	482,152	594,041
Youth music programme	250,725	-	92,801	7,240	350,766	328,355
Tours and Concerts	78,556	-	4,699	7,240	90,495	61,904
Professional advice and support	9,548	-	-	3,620	13,168	9,016
CPD training	7,987	-	-	3,620	11,607	77,865
Project development	88,795	-	16,929	7,239	112,963	158,207
Instrument repair and hire	12,796	-	2,464	7,239	22,499	18,139
	558,988	-	459,506	65,156	1,083,650	1,247,527
Share of support costs (see note 7)	24,591	13,158	9,573	7,240	54,562	41,491
Share of governance costs (see note 7)	-	-	11,176	-	11,176	11,473
	583,579	13,158	480,255	72,396	1,149,388	1,300,491

7 Support costs

	Support cost	Other costs	2020	2019	
	£	£	£	£	
Salaries	23,663	-	23,663	19,705	
Pension costs	928	-	928	1,037	
Legal and professional fee	-	-	-	1,852	
Bank charges	6,878	-	6,878	7,191	
Sundries	2,695	-	2,695	2,411	
Depreciation	13,158	-	13,158	-	
Allocated support	7,240	-	7,240	9,295	
Audit and accountancy fee	-	11,176	11,176	11,473	Governance
	54,562	11,176	65,738	52,964	
Analysed between					
Charitable activities	54,562	11,176	65,738	52,964	

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of £8,060 (2019- £8,730) for audit fees.

These costs are allocated across the charitable activities based on the trustees estimate of the appropriate proportion attributable to each activity.

8 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2020 Number	2019 Number
Number of employees	31	31

	£	£
Wages and salaries	498,170	424,960
Social security costs	36,705	34,281
Other pension costs	48,702	42,437
	583,576	501,678

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2020 Number	2019 Number
£60,000 to £70,000	2	1

Number of employees whose emoluments exceed £60,000 2 (2019: 1 employee) has retirement benefits accruing under defined benefit pension schemes. A total of £25,328 (2019: £11,157) was paid to the Teachers' Pension Scheme in the year for this employee.

9 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Musical instruments	Computer equipment	Office equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1 September 2019	224,265	41,242	30,539	296,046
Additions	5,265	891	-	6,156
At 31 August 2020	229,530	42,133	30,539	302,202
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 September 2019	177,099	33,303	28,684	239,086
Depreciation charged in the year	10,486	2,208	464	13,158
At 31 August 2020	187,585	35,511	29,148	252,244
Carrying amount				
At 31 August 2020	41,945	6,622	1,391	49,958
At 31 August 2019	47,166	7,939	1,855	56,960

11 Debtors

	2020	2019
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	3,465	1,461
Other debtors	3,684	4,000
Prepayments and accrued income	2,000	-
	9,149	5,461

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2020	2019
		£	£
Other taxation and social security		8,472	9,736
Deferred income	13	109,284	75,983
Trade creditors		28,436	16,245
Other creditors		16,175	14,421
Accruals		16,866	18,280
		179,233	134,665

13 Deferred income

	2020	2019
	£	£
Arising from other deferred income	109,284	75,983

Other deferred income relates to deposits and fees paid in advance for the following year.

14 Retirement benefit schemes

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees not in the Teachers Pension Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently administered fund.

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds 2020	Unrestricted funds 2020	Total 2020	Restricted funds 2019	Unrestricted funds 2019	Total 2019
	£	£	££	£		£
Fund balances at 31 August 2020 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	-	60,444	49,958	-	56,960	56,960
Current assets/(liabilities)	12,973	146,314	159,286	12,973	98,402	111,375
	12,973	206,758	209,244	12,973	155,362	168,335

16 Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

The liability of the members is limited. Every member undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company, in the event of the company being wound up whilst they are a member, or within one year after ceasing to be a member, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before ceasing to be a member.

17 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the charitable company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Between two and five years	18,513	35,498

18 Related party transactions

None of the trustees (or any person connected with them) received any remuneration, reimbursed expenses or benefits from the charitable company during the year.

19 Teachers' Pension Scheme

The charity participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme (England and Wales) (the "TPS"), for its teaching staff. The pension charge for the year includes contributions payable to the TPS of £48,702 (2019: £38,872).

The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefits pension scheme governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 (as amended) and the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014 (as amended). Members contribute on a "pay as you go" basis with contributions from members and the employer being credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

The employer contribution rate is set by the Secretary of State following scheme valuations undertaken by the Government Actuary's Department. The most recent actuarial valuation of the TPS was prepared as at 31 March 2012 and the valuation report, which was published in June 2014, confirmed an employer contribution rate for the TPS of 16.4% from 1 September 2015. Employers are also required to pay a scheme administration levy of 0.08% giving a total employer contribution rate of 16.48%.

This employer rate will be payable until the outcome of the next actuarial valuation, which is due to be prepared as at 31 March 2016, with any resulting changes to the employer rate to take effect from 1 September 2019. The employers contribution rate increased to 23.68%. Employers are also required to pay a scheme administration levy of 0.08% giving a total employer contribution rate of 23.76%. This valuation will also determine the opening balance of the cost cap fund and provide an analysis of the cost cap as required by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013.

There are also indications that the protections in the new cost cap mechanism required by the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 mean public sector workers will get improved pension benefits for employment over the period April 2019 to March 2023.

Six (2019: Five) members of staff who are not eligible to join the Teachers' Pension Scheme participated in a defined contribution scheme to which the charity contributed £3,022(2019: £2,556).

20 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charitable company had no debt during the year.

21	Cash generated from operations	2020 £	2019 £
	Surplus for the year	40,909	29,788
	Adjustments for:		
	Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(31)	(39)
	Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	13,158	3,265
	Movements in working capital:		
	(Increase)/decrease in stocks	-	1,502
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(3,688)	27,441
	Increase in creditors	11,267	10,468
	Increase/(decrease) in deferred income	33,301	(23,147)
	Cash generated from operations	94,916	49,278