

# Seaham Music Academy

England & Wales · Charity number 1023382

## Details

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Other names	SEAHAM PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY, SEAHAM MUSIC ACADEMY, SEAHAM PHILHARMONIC, SEAHAM TOWN BAND
Status	Registered
Legal form	Trust
Registered	1993-07-05
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	18 Northdene Avenue Seaham SR7 7BH
Phone	01915130378
Email	<a href="mailto:seaham.musicacademy@yahoo.co.uk">seaham.musicacademy@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.seahammusic.co.uk">www.seahammusic.co.uk</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE ARTS AND IN PARTICULAR MUSIC SINGING DRAMA AND BALLET AMONGST THE INHABITANTS OF THE EASINGTON DISTRICT COUNCIL RATING ADMINISTRATION AREA.

**Activities:** THE ACADEMY TEACHES YOUNG PEOPLE HOW TO PLAY STRING, WOODWIND, BRASS AND PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS AS WELL AS KEYBOARD AND GUITAR. PROPERLY QUALIFIED , DBS-CHECKED MUSIC TUTORS ARE EMPLOYED. MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ANYONE. THE ACADEMY TEACHES FROM ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS UPWARDS. MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY ALSO GIVE PUBLIC PERFORMANCES.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** IN PRACTICE THE AREA OF EASINGTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
- Durham

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£66,785	£66,785	-	-
2023-12-31	£51,612	£46,463	-	-
2022-12-31	£46,853	£44,045	-	-
2021-12-31	£12,515	£14,814	-	-
2020-12-31	£17,766	£14,184	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
JAMES BAGLEY		
JANE GRAHAM LOWES		
Stephen Williams		2016-04-01

**Seaham Music Academy**

England & Wales - Charity number 1023382

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# Accounts

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# Annual Report 2024

Seaham Music Academy is a not-for-profit organisation operating within Seaham but drawing membership from neighbouring towns, too.

Mission Statement: “To promote participation in and enjoyment of music in the local community without barriers to access”.

During the course of 2024 the Academy met on 39 Saturday mornings.

## **Committee**

The committee comprises:

President: James Bagley

Chairman: Christopher Brown

Musical Director: Frances Abbott

Fundraising Head: Joanne Curtis

Joint Public Relations Managers: Rosie Curtis & Jamie Lowes

AGM & Meeting Secretary: Susan Topping

## **Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM was held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April in St. Mary Magdalen’s church hall.

The full list of Trustees is as follows:

Founded 1992

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[www.seahammusic.co.uk](http://www.seahammusic.co.uk)

Frances Abbott  
James Bagley  
Joanne Curtis  
Janie Lowes  
Steve Williams

There was keen discussion regarding many aspects of the Academy's organisation and performance.

### **Membership**

Over the course of the year we attracted 66 new members. At the end of the year our membership totalled 187.

### **Staff**

The Academy currently enjoys the benefit of thirty-one tutors. We appointed an additional piano tutor in May to absorb some of the insistent demand from pupils to learn this instrument. We still have a piano waiting list bearing sixteen names.

We are also grateful to our six volunteer tutors: Gareth Brown, a brass tutor; Lynne Dakers, who supplements the work of the paid flute tutors and helps greatly to co-ordinate and organise their work; Robert Clark who teaches bass guitar; Richard Lilley and Joanne Curtis who help out with violin tuition and Janie Lowes who fills any gaps in keyboard teaching.

This is also an appropriate time to thank the adult volunteers who stock and run our "tuck shop" each Saturday morning for their cheerful hard work. Profits from the tuck shop make a significant contribution to our annual income.

### **Instruments**

It is Academy policy to loan instruments to members who do not possess them. So far it is our experience that we can never have too many instruments.

This year we have added three new trumpets and we have also had six guitars donated.

We are also pleased to report a steady increase in the Academy's library of sheet music and tutor books.

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## **Concerts and Performances**

Our first performance of the year came with a ceilidh for a birthday party for one of our members. This took place on 20<sup>th</sup> January at Westlea Club and was a very well-attended affair with our ceilidh band earning thoroughly deserved plaudits.

Our end-of-term Spring concert was held at Seaview School on the morning of March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our kindermusik children got proceedings underway: there then followed fifteen solo, five duet and one trio performances from our school-aged children on flute, piano, violin, recorder, cello, clarinet, trumpet and bassoon. In addition there were contributions from a junior string group, a violin quartet, a string orchestra, a wind ensemble, a concert band and a pop group. It was a very busy morning! The concert also raised £350 for Academy funds.

Our first performances of the summer term actually took place before the term had even started. This year the Seaham Mayor's Ball was held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April. Our wind band provided the entertainment as the guests arrived and continued until the meal was served. Then during a later intermission our choir, Seaham Academy Singers, serenaded the guests. Both performances were very much appreciated.

Our summer concert, held on the morning of Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July, featured 24 different acts. Our kindermusik children began proceedings to introduce a concert which featured solo and duet performances on piano, baritone, violin, recorder, flute and clarinet.

There were also contributions from a saxophone group, a string ensemble and the Academy wind band. The concert was concluded by our guitar group who played and sang four songs to bring a more modern edge to the morning's music.

Proceeds from the concert exceeded £240. This was a total of admission money, raffle ticket sales and income from the sale of tea, coffee and tuck.

Our final outing for the term was a visit by Seaham Academy Singers to Church View Care Home in Murton on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July.

In the Autumn term our ceilidh band played at a local venue on 26<sup>th</sup> October and then performed at a very well-attended dance in Stockton in late November.

The approach of Christmas always heralds a big increase in the demand for concerts and performances. This year our brass players and choir were

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invited to take part once again in the Mayor of Seaham's ecumenical Christmas carol service on 4<sup>th</sup> December. This was a well-attended service. We had eight choir members who gave renditions of two carols while our seven brass players supported the entire service.

Three days later we held our own in-house end-of-term Christmas concert. This was certainly a case of "standing-room only" for the many people who arrived too late to claim a seat. An extremely successful concert featured groups of singers, kindermusik members, six beginner brass players, violinists, flautists, a wind band, a saxophone group, and string players.

There were also solo performances by two clarinettists, a flautist, six pianists, a trombonist, and a cellist.

Our choir, Seaham Academy Singers, visited homes to try to inject a little joy to the residents' Christmas. On 5<sup>th</sup> December we visited the Church View Care Home in nearby Murton. Then on 12<sup>th</sup> December we sang at Parklands Care Home. Over the course of two hours the singers sang many Christmas songs and carols supplemented by musical theatre and other popular songs. Both performances were extremely well received.

Our final performance this year was at our local Asda store on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December. From 10 until noon members of our wind band and choir played and sang Christmas music. Then from 2 until 4 our string players and a pianist provided a festive atmosphere for shoppers. Thanks to the generosity of the customers we raised £708 for Academy funds.

## **Examinations**

On February 24<sup>th</sup> we were delighted to welcome an examiner from Trinity College London. We had fourteen candidates on string and woodwind instruments as well as piano and drum kit. The range was from Grade 1 to Grade 7. We are delighted to report that all of our candidates passed their exams with two earning distinctions and five gaining merits. We have also seen three more of our members pass examinations online. One student plays trombone, another violin and the third piano. All three candidates passed with distinction.

## **Partnerships**

Since 2005 we have met in Seaview Primary (Deneside) School where we enjoy the use of fifteen separate classrooms, a hall for our main ensemble group to use for rehearsals, a hall for use by our kindermusik group and

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two cupboards to store our instruments and music. We are both very happy with the accommodation and very proud of our long relationship with the school.

## **Grants**

Since one of the Academy's main aims is to ensure that music-making is affordable and accessible to all, we deliberately suppress the membership fees. A consequence of this policy is that we must seek some financial help to guarantee the proper payment of our tutors.

In May we received the first £5,000 instalment of a three-year grant from The Sir James Knott Trust. This body has supported us in the past and we are truly indebted to them. In the same month we also received £500 from the retiring Mayor of Seaham's Charity Fund.

In October The Shears Foundation granted us £5,750 and two representatives of the Foundation were very welcome guests at our Christmas concert.

Point North, formerly known as The County Durham Community Foundation, which has given us great support in the past awarded us £5,000 in October.

Our gratitude to our benefactors cannot be overstated.

**F**inally, to everyone who helped to make 2024 such a worthwhile and productive year - from tutors to parents, from students to helpers and especially our benefactors - thank you very much.

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# Seaham : Music Academy

Income 2024		Expenditure 2024	
Subscriptions	19650.65	Tutors' Fees	40710.00
Tuck	1825.94	Books/Sheet Music	97.44
Point North	5000.00	Instrument Accessories	133.81
Sir James Knott Trust	5000.00	Tuck	524.88
Shears Foundation	5750.00	Instruments	568.47
Mayor of Seaham	500.00	Insurance	646.85
Donations	730.00	Exam Fees	886.36
Concert Admission	423.00	Premises Hire	11530.00
Raffles	178.35	Hospitality	146.14
Exam Fees	949.00	Licensing	20.00
Sundry Sales	2044.00	Transport	460.00
		Postage/Stationery	118.98
		Instrument Repairs	337.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>42050.94</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>56179.93</b>
Cash-in-hand@1/1/24	4851.89	Cash-in-hand @ 31/12/24	5936.40
Bank @ 1/1/24	19882.54	Bank @ 31/12/24	4669.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>£66785.37</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>66785.37</b>

Dr. Richard Lilley  
Auditor

James Bagley  
President

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Richard Lilley  
10 Frosterley Drive  
Great Lumley  
Co Durham  
31/03/2024

To Whom it may concern

**Re Audit of Financial Accounts of Seaham Music Academy for 2024**

The accounts for the financial year 2024 were prepared by Jim Bagley. As in previous years the accounts are well organized for the three terms and summarized in a monthly spreadsheet for the year.

The Cash income continues to be checked and signed by 2 volunteers, now including the larger cash income for the Christmas music events. Sampling several random months shows all the bank transfers and cash income is entered in the income spreadsheets.

The expenditure for one term was fully assessed. All expenditure has a numbered receipt or signed tutor receipt and is recorded accurately in the accounts. All Cheques for cash in hand are documented in the expenditure spread sheet.

The bank account balance in the accounts is £3K less than the actual end of year bank account balance. This appears to be due to Durham County Council not drawing a £3K cheque sent for the Autumn premises rental; which has happened before.

I have no further recommendations to make for future financial statements.

Richard Lilley  
Volunteer Auditor.

**Seaham Music Academy**

England & Wales - Charity number 1023382

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# Accounts

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# Annual Report 2023

Seaham Music Academy is a not-for-profit organisation operating within Seaham but drawing membership from neighbouring towns, too.

Mission Statement: "To promote participation in and enjoyment of music in the local community without barriers to access".

During the course of 2023 the Academy met on 38 Saturday mornings. One Saturday morning meeting in October was cancelled as Seaview School had no electricity supply due to storm damage.

## **Committee**

The committee comprises:

President: James Bagley

Chairman: Gareth Brown

Musical Director: Frances Abbott

Fundraising Head: Susan Topping

Joint Public Relations Managers: Rosie Curtis & Jamie Lowes

AGM & Meeting Secretary: Touran Parsee

## **Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM was held on 25<sup>th</sup> April in St. Mary Magdalen's church hall.

The full list of Trustees is as follows:

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James Bagley  
Angela Bromage  
Joanne Curtis  
Sue Faulkner  
Janie Lowes  
Susan Topping  
Steve Williams

There was keen discussion regarding many aspects of the Academy's organisation and performance.

### **Membership**

Over the course of the year we attracted 63 new members. At the end of the year our membership totalled 186.

### **Staff**

The Academy currently enjoys the benefit of thirty tutors.

We are also grateful to our seven volunteer tutors: Peter Lodge, who teaches our senior guitarists; Gareth Brown, a brass tutor; Lynne Dakers, who supplements the work of the paid flute tutors and helps greatly to coordinate and organise their work; Robert Clark who teaches bass guitar; Richard Lilley and Joanne Curtis who help out with violin tuition and Janie Lowes who fills any gaps in keyboard teaching.

This is also an appropriate time to thank the adult volunteers who stock and run our "tuck shop" each Saturday morning for their cheerful hard work. Profits from the tuck shop make a significant contribution to our annual income.

Our 2023 summer concert was very significant as it marked one of the last contributions from two of our outstanding volunteers, Meg and "Battler" Britton. For over 15 years Meg has provided cups of tea and coffee at every Saturday morning Academy meeting. She also sourced and sold sweets to our younger members from the tuck shop. For many of those years Meg also baked gorgeous cakes to sell on Saturday mornings. The ingredients of these cakes were all supplied at Meg's expense.

Meg's husband, Milton ("Battler"), served for 25 years as a bandsman in the Cheshire Regiment. He then spent a further 15 years in the Territorial

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Army. The experience and effort of those forty years are evident in "Battler's" outstanding musicianship. He can play to an exceptionally high standard any woodwind and virtually all brass instruments. In addition to this "Battler" is also the most modest of men.

As a volunteer tutor for over thirty years "Battler" taught saxophone but because of his extraordinary versatility he was also able to cover most emergency staff absences. Irreplaceable is the only word to describe him both as a musician and as a man.

Time, however, has caught up with Meg and "Battler". All that remains is for Seaham Music Academy to thank them for their truly outstanding dedication and service.

### **Instruments**

It is Academy policy to loan instruments to members who do not possess them. So far it is our experience that we can never have too many instruments.

This year we have added three clarinets, a trombone, a trumpet, a soprano saxophone, a guitar, two violins, a mandolin and a drum kit. All these instruments were donated.

We are also pleased to report a steady increase in the Academy's library of sheet music and tutor books.

### **Concerts and Performances**

Our first performance of the year came with a visit on January 29<sup>th</sup> by Seaham Academy Singers to entertain the residents of the Village Nursing Home in Murton.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup> the Academy then gave a concert at Seaham Town Hall for the Mayor's charity fund. This concert lasted until 10 o'clock at night and featured performances from wood wind, string, piano and percussion players. Three of our younger guitar members also gave solo performances while a guest singer sang songs from musicals to the accompaniment of one of our piano tutors. The whole evening was very well received.

Our end-of-term Spring concert was held at Seaview School on the morning of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Our kindermusik children got proceedings underway

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before our string group and wind band completed the first half. After refreshments we enjoyed the music from sixteen young people who performed solo or in small groups. Brass, flute, violin, piano and clarinet students did themselves proud before the concert was drawn to a close by a saxophone ensemble. The concert raised £310 for Academy funds.

Our summer performances began on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June when we held a fundraising concert at Seaham Conservative Club. On a very warm evening highly enjoyable music was provided by pianists, brass and string players. A delicious buffet was also served. Over one hundred people attended the concert. Takings for the evening exceeded £570.

The very next day the Academy was invited to provide performers for the stage at the inaugural Seaham Youth Festival. This was held at Seaham Town Park. Our first trio performed very well but soon after their departure from the stage the afternoon was brought to an unexpectedly sudden end by a very heavy rainstorm!

Usually we hold our Academy concerts on the last day of term. However by the end of the summer term people have begun to drift away on holiday. So this year we elected to have our Summer Concert two weeks before the end of term. This decision seems to have increased the size of the audience as the hall we performed in was full to capacity. The audience alone numbered very nearly 150.

Our larger ensembles did not play at this concert as the aim was to encourage as many young players as possible to let everyone see their progress.

Proceedings began with two songs from our Kindermusik group. Both were delivered with customary panache! There followed a concert which contained performances by fifteen soloists, all of whom are well below the age of 18. All played really well. Instruments featured piano, baritone, violin, cello, flute and clarinet.

There were also contributions from a saxophone group, a violin quartet and the Academy wind band.

Proceeds from the concert exceeded £366. This was a total of admission money, raffle ticket sales and income from the sale of tea, coffee and tuck.

The approach of Christmas heralds a big increase in the demand for concerts and performances. This year our brass players and choir were

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invited to take part once again in the Mayor of Seaham's ecumenical Christmas carol service. This was an extremely well-attended service. We had a dozen choir members who gave renditions of two carols while our seven brass players supported the entire service.

Three days later we held our own in-house end-of-term Christmas concert. This was certainly a case of "standing-room only" for the many people who arrived too late to claim a seat. An extremely successful concert featured groups of singers, kindermusik members, flautists, a wind band, a saxophone group, string players and a pop group.

There were also solo performances by clarinettists, pianists, a trombonist, violinists and guitarists.

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December our ceilidh group provided the music at a Christmas dance. This was well-attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

On two successive Sunday afternoons our choir, Seaham Academy Singers, visited homes to try to inject a little joy to the residents' Christmas. On 10<sup>th</sup> December we visited the residential Harbour Lodge retirement housing complex. Then on 17<sup>th</sup> December we sang at Parklands Care Home. Over the course of two afternoon hours the singers sang many Christmas songs and carols supplemented by musical theatre and other popular songs. Both performances were extremely well received.

Our final performance this year was at our local Asda store on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. From 10 until noon members of our wind band played Christmas music. Then from 2 until 4 our string players joined with our singers to serenade shoppers. Thanks to the generosity of the shoppers we raised very nearly £675 for Academy funds.

## **Examinations**

On February 25<sup>th</sup> we were delighted to welcome an examiner from Trinity College London. This was the first examiner visit we have had since February 2020 because of the restrictions caused by the Covid pandemic.

We had sixteen candidates on string and woodwind instruments as well as piano. The range was from Grade 1 to Grade 5. We are delighted to report that all of our candidates passed their exams with three earning distinctions and seven gaining merits.

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## **Partnerships**

We still meet in Seaview Primary (Deneside) School where we enjoy the use of fifteen separate classrooms, a hall for our main ensemble group to use for rehearsals, a hall for use by our kindermusik group and two cupboards to store our instruments and music. We are both very happy with the accommodation and very proud of our long relationship with the school.

## **Grants**

Since one of the Academy's main aims is to ensure that music-making is accessible to all, we deliberately suppress the membership fees. A consequence of this policy is that we must seek some financial help to guarantee the proper payment of our tutors.

During the first Lockdown we sought further funding and in August 2020 received £3,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation. The Foundation also promised the same amount for the following two years. However, because of the general inactivity during 2021 we agreed that the remaining two instalments of this award should be delayed until 2022 and 2023. November duly saw the payment of the third £3,000 instalment.

In February we received £500 from the Asda Foundation. Then in April we were given £1500 from the Durham County Council Area Action Partnership fund to support our Kindermusik provision.

The Mayor of Seaham's Charity Fund very generously donated £750 in May.

July saw us receive contributions from two of our long-standing supporters. The 1989 Willan Charitable Trust gave us £7,000 to help meet our core costs.

The Shears Foundation granted us £5,500 and a representative of the Foundation was a very welcome guest at our Christmas concert. The Foundation also introduced us to the Postlethwaite Music Foundation which granted us £1,000 towards our core costs of rent and tuition fees.

The County Durham Community Foundation's "Community Grants Funding Programme" which has given us great support in the past awarded us £6,250 in November.

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At the very end of the year for the eighth year in succession the Joseph Strong Frazer Trust granted us £1,000 towards tuition and rent costs.

Our gratitude to our benefactors cannot be overstated.

**F**inally, to everyone who helped to make 2023 such a worthwhile and productive year – from tutors to parents, from students to helpers and especially our benefactors – thank you very much.

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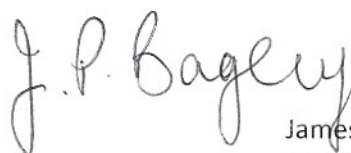
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# Seaham : Music Academy

Income 2023		Expenditure 2023	
Subscriptions	19696.90	Tutors' Fees	38990.00
Tuck	2081.19	Books/Sheet Music	387.00
Willan Charitable Trust	7000.00	Instrument Accessories	575.53
Weston Foundation Grt.	3000.00	Tuck	751.51
Shears Foundation	5500.00	Instruments	46.98
Co. Durham Comm. Fn.	6250.00	Insurance	646.85
Other Grants	4750.00	Catering	420.00
Concert Admission	810.00	Premises Hire	3185.00
Raffles	881.60	Hospitality	185.88
Exam Fees	741.00	Licensing	20.00
Donations	743.60	Transport	400.00
Sundry Sales	158.00	Postage/Stationery	62.00
		Exam Fees	792.74
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>51612.29</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>46463.49</b>
Cash-in-hand @ 1/1/23	4752.55	Cash-in-hand @ 31/12/23	4851.89
Bank @ 1/1/23	14833.08	Bank @ 31/12/23	19882.54
<b>Total</b>	<b>£71197.92</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>71197.92</b>

Dr. Richard Lilley  
Auditor

James Bagley  
President

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Richard Lilley  
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Great Lumley  
Co Durham  
23/03/2024

To Whom it may concern

**Re Audit of Financial Accounts of Seaham Music Academy for 2023**

The accounts for the financial year 2023 were prepared by Jim Bagley. As in previous years the accounts are well organized for the three terms and summarized in a monthly spreadsheet for the year.

The income is well documented and all cash on the Academy days is double counted and countersigned by volunteers. Sampling three random months shows all the bank transfers and cash income is entered in the accounts.

All expenditure has a numbered receipt or signed tutor receipt and is recorded accurately in the accounts.

There were two fund raising events in 2023 when significant cash was collected, for the purposes of unquestionable probity I have suggested this income should be double counted and signed.

Summation was randomly checked. The Summary for the year is an accurate record of the Seaham Music Academy accounts.



Richard Lilley  
Volunteer Auditor.

**Seaham Music Academy**

England & Wales - Charity number 1023382

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# Accounts

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# Annual Report 2022

**S**eaham Music Academy is a not-for-profit organisation operating within Seaham but drawing membership from neighbouring towns, too.

Mission Statement: "To promote participation in and enjoyment of music in the local community without barriers to access".

During the course of 2022 the Academy met on 36 Saturday mornings. The very first meeting of the year had to be cancelled as the school caretaker was suffering from Covid. In fact the spring term was greatly disrupted by positive Covid tests in both tutors and pupils. We frequently had to draft in substitute teachers. However, as the year progressed these problems eased and faded.

## **Committee**

The committee comprises:

President: James Bagley

Chairman: Gareth Brown

Musical Director: Frances Abbott

Fundraising Head: Susan Topping

Joint Public Relations Managers: Rosie Curtis & Jamie Lowes

AGM & Meeting Secretary: Touran Parsee

## **Annual General Meeting**

Our AGM was held on 27<sup>th</sup> April in St. Mary Magdalen's church hall.

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The resignation of trustee Julie Wilson, who has moved far from the area, was accepted and the meeting welcomed Angela Bromage as a new trustee.

The full list of Trustees is as follows:

James Bagley  
Angela Bromage  
Joanne Curtis  
Sue Faulkner  
Janie Lowes  
Susan Topping  
Steve Williams

There was keen discussion regarding many aspects of the Academy's organisation and performance.

## **Membership**

Over the course of the year we attracted 72 new members. At the end of the year our membership totalled 184.

We hope that our membership levels will continue to improve now that Covid concerns seem to be receding. However, the history of Covid is the biggest reminder that we should never be complacent.

## **Staff**

The Academy currently enjoys the benefit of thirty tutors.

One of our younger drum tutors has still to recover from long Covid. His absence meant that our remaining three drum instructors had a very difficult few months before we were able to appoint another tutor in October.

We are also grateful to our seven volunteer tutors: Peter Lodge, who teaches our senior guitarists; Gareth Brown, a brass tutor; Milton "Battler" Britton who supports our saxophone tutors week by week, but is also happy to teach clarinet and brass as well as conducting our woodwind ensemble; Lynne Dakers, who supplements the work of the paid flute tutors and helps greatly to co-ordinate and organise their work; Robert Clark who teaches bass guitar; Richard Lilley who helps out with violin tuition and Janie Lowes who fills any gaps in keyboard teaching.

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This is also an appropriate time to thank the adult volunteers and youngsters who stock and run our “tuck shop” each Saturday morning for their cheerful hard work. Profits from the tuck shop make a significant contribution to our annual income.

## **Instruments**

It is Academy policy to loan instruments to members who do not possess them. So far it is our experience that we can never have too many instruments.

This year we have added three clarinets, three flutes, a junior drum kit, a trombone and a violin. All these instruments were donated.

We are also pleased to report a steady increase in the Academy’s library of sheet music and tutor books.

## **Concerts and Performances**

As far as concerts and performances are concerned 2022 was the year in which we started to recover from the pandemic lockdowns.

On 9<sup>th</sup> April we held our first end-of-term concert since December 2019. It seemed strange to put together a programme and to carry out all the other tasks preliminary to the concert. On the day everything worked out well. The concert was opened by 17-year-old twin sisters who sang the first-ever pop songs at an Academy concert. They were followed by our pre-school Kindermusik class. Then there came individual and small-group performances on violin, flute, clarinet and piano as well as contributions by our Wind Band and our choir, Seaham Academy Singers.

The Saturday morning concert was attended by almost 150 people. The concert was very well received. It also generated £440 for Academy funds. This sum was matched by Lloyds Bank, the employer of the mother of two of our piano pupils.

To conclude our summer term we held a concert on the morning of 16<sup>th</sup> July. Here we again experienced the negative effects of Covid. Our choir, Seaham Academy Singers, had insufficient members well enough to perform. Our wind band was also unable to play because of the conductor’s health problems.

With such glorious sunshine outside it seemed a shame to be indoors! This statement was probably reflected in the comparatively small number of

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attendees. There were slightly less than one hundred people at the concert. However, this did not in the slightest deter our young musicians.

The concert was given a very lively opening by our kindermusik group with a rendition of "The Grand Old Duke Was Happy". There followed a piano solo by an eight-year-old boy which was in turn succeeded by two clarinet solos by teenage boys.

Thereafter the remainder of the concert was taken up by string players. We have this term established a string group which rehearses each Saturday morning. The group is made up of a mixture of string teachers and students.

This ensemble continued the concert with a selection of popular short pieces. There followed three violin solos, a duet and then a trio: all of these violinists are still schoolchildren. Then the opening half of the concert was concluded by an adult violin quartet.

Following the intermission the theme turned to another variety of music which relies heavily on strings - ceilidh music. Our ceilidh group rattled off a few tunes before inviting members of the audience to join the fun by enjoying a few ceilidh dances. This probably wasn't too good an idea on one of the hottest days of the year!

Despite the smaller than usual attendance the concert still raised in excess of £300 to bolster the Academy's funds.

It is encouraging to report that we have had more musical engagements in the autumn term. Perhaps people are beginning to look beyond the pandemic.

Our performances began on 25<sup>th</sup> November when for the first time in three years we were able to hold our Jinglemania Christmas event. This took place at the Glebe Centre in Murton. The entertainment was provided by our ceilidh band with refreshments supplied by a local company. Over one hundred people attended the event and everyone went home happy. The Academy was also pleased to record a profit of over £800 on the event. Particular thanks are due to Susan Faulkner and Susan Topping for the very hard work they put into sourcing raffle prizes and generally organising the evening. We are also indebted to our ceilidh band.

On the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> December our choir provided entertainment for the residents of Parklands Care Home. Carols and other Christmas songs were sung for over ninety minutes to a very appreciative audience who were encouraged to join the singing and jingle bell rattling. The residents were

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also provided with mince pies and seasonal drinks to make a very pleasant evening.

The very next night saw our choir busy again. Together with our brass players the choir attended Seaham's Civic Carol Service. This was another very well-attended event and our brass musicians helped to create a very traditional and emotional atmosphere. The contribution of both our brass and choir was praised widely at the reception after the service.

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December we held our end-of-term Christmas concert at Seaview School. The audience was entertained with almost two hours of music. Our wind band, string group and choir framed the concert but in between their playing we were thrilled by our Kindermusik group singing, complete with actions, "The wheels on the bus" and then "Jingle Bells" accompanied by our young flautists.

Thereafter we saw sixteen individual performances by young people on flute, clarinet, piano, violin and cello. It is always uplifting to witness such creativity. The hall was absolutely full of parents, family members and tutors to give support to our young players. We were all very proud of them. The concert ended with community carol singing. The Academy also raised almost £350.

For four hours on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December Academy musicians and singers entertained shoppers in the entrance to Morrisons supermarket at Dalton Park. Our wind band played for two hours in the morning and string players and singers covered two hours in the afternoon. Our efforts were well received by the shoppers and we received exactly £587 in donations.

## **Examinations**

As we only gradually resumed lessons in September and October of last year then we did not have sufficient examinees to warrant inviting an examiner from Trinity Guildhall to visit our Academy during the February half-term. Instead we entered the five candidates who were ready to take a grade examination at the regional exam centre in Newcastle in March. Four candidates were violinists with the other being a pianist. Three took the first Grade I exam while the other two sat Grade IV. We are delighted to report that one person gained a distinction while the other four all claimed merits.

## **Partnerships**

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We still meet in Seaview Primary (Deneside) School where we enjoy the use of fifteen separate classrooms, a hall for our main ensemble group to use for rehearsals, a hall for use by our kindermusik group and two cupboards to store our instruments and music. We are both very happy with the accommodation and very proud of our long relationship with the school.

This year saw a change of leadership in the school which resulted in our weekly rent rising from £120 to £250. Of course this has very serious repercussions for the Academy and at first sight the level of increase might seem excessive.

However, it should be borne in mind that this is the first increase we have faced since we first hired the school in 2005. Also the school will have to pay much higher energy costs this winter. Finally it could be argued that we would struggle to find comparable accommodation anywhere in Seaham.

## **Grants**

Since one of the Academy's main aims is to ensure that music-making is accessible to all, we deliberately suppress the membership fees. A consequence of this policy is that we must seek some financial help to guarantee the proper payment of our tutors.

During the first Lockdown we sought further funding and in August 2020 received £3,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation. The Foundation also promised the same amount for the following two years. However, because of the general inactivity during 2021 we agreed that the remaining two instalments of this award should be delayed until 2022 and 2023. September duly saw the payment of the second £3,000 instalment.

September also saw us receive £5,000 from the County Durham Community Foundation's "Community Grants Funding Programme".

In the month of November we were very pleased to receive a grant of £1,000 from Seaham Town Council. We also received news of a £5,000 "Organisational Sustainability Grant" from the County Durham Community Foundation.

Then in December came the further brilliant news of a £5,000 grant from the Foyle Foundation.

At the very end of the year for the seventh year in succession the Joseph Strong Frazer Trust granted us £1,000 towards tuition and rent costs.

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Our gratitude to our benefactors cannot be overstated.

**F**

inally, to everyone who helped to make 2022 such a worthwhile and productive year - from tutors to parents, from students to helpers and especially our benefactors - thank you very much.

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# Seaham : Music Academy

Income 2022	Expenditure 2022
Subscriptions 17199.20	Tutors' Fees 34690.00
Tuck 2022.21	Books/Sheet Music 470.71
Foyle Foundation Grant 5000.00	Instrument Accessories 181.90
Weston Foundation Grt. 3000.00	Tuck 583.15
Other Grants 12690.00	Instrument Repairs 54.96
Concert Admission 1443.50	Insurance 616.94
Raffles 1342.82	DBS Checks 95.00
Exam Fees 333.00	Premises Hire 5740.00
Merchandise Sale 16.00	Hospitality 49.50
Donations 691.54	Licensing 20.00
Sundry Sales 35.80	Prize 100.00
HMRC Gift Aid 3088.54	Postage/Stationery 73.00
	Exam Fees 278.00
	Catering 792.00
	Transport

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	300.00
<b>Sub-total</b> <b>46852.61</b>	<b>Sub-total</b> <b>44045.16</b>
Cash-in-hand @ 1/1/22 5098.90	Cash-in-hand @ 31/12/22 4752.55
Bank @ 1/1/22 11669.28	Bank @ 31/12/22 14833.08
<b>Total</b> <b>£63630.79</b>	<b>Total</b> <b>63630.79</b>

Dr. Richard Lillee  
James Bagley  
Auditor  
President

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## **Seaham Music Academy - Financial Accounts Audit report for 2022.**

I have audited the financial accounts for Seaham Music Academy. I have been provided with the accounts in paper format by James Bagley (Treasurer). My career has been in the NHS as a medical practitioner and was a partner in a General Practice. Through the Practice I have gained some experience in the accounts of a small business but have no formal financial training. Throughout my 41 years as a qualified doctor I have not been investigated or sanctioned by the General Medical Council for medical or probity matters.

The Accounts are well organised on a 'term' and monthly basis with documentation of cash flows, receipted outgoings, documented income and bank statements. The largest expense is for music tutors who have to sign a declaration at the end of each term to confirm the fees which they have drawn. The Accounts are accurate with no unexplained income or outgoings.

I can report the implementation over the past two years of further safeguards to tighten up the documentation of 'on the day' cash income. The variation in tuition fees (Adult/Child/Waived) and exam fees is now itemised and summated on a weekly basis to enable easy cross checking with 'on the day' cash. The tuck shop monies are entered in a schedule and signed for by a counter.

For the Year 2022 on the basis of my examination I can state that the Accounts are a balanced and true reflection of the finances of Seaham Music Academy.

Richard Lilley

10 Frosterley Drive

Great Lumley

Co Durham DH3 4SJ.

17/07/2023