

FRIENDS OF KINGSTON MUSIC SERVICE

TRUSTEES REPORT 2023/24

This financial year has been dominated by the creation and launch of the Searby Scholarship program, something I would never have envisaged being asked to take on when I first stepped into the role of Chair. It marked, for us as a group, a big step up in the way that we thought, and took us on a learning curve which now permeates our practice in other areas of the charity. The hard work to set up the programs was certainly worth it, and the wonderful moment of offering the first Searby Scholar a full scholarship on her dream instrument, the French Horn, is one that I will treasure always.

Since the parent-led committee was formed, the charity has been building its infrastructure and creating systems in order to function effectively. The 'back office' is now the strongest it's been. Our focus for the year 24 25 will be to extend our formalisation of systems into our fundraising efforts. This year sees the first time use of a budget for the charity, and I hope that in 12 months we will be able to set a reasonable, achievable and sustainable fundraising target.

With a strong administrative foundation in place, and an increase in our fundraising efforts, my hope is that in 25 26 we will be able to turn our thoughts towards the two funds that we administer, and the possibility of creating more, to better serve the aims of the charity, and help to spread music education further throughout the borough.

About Kingston Music Service

Kingston Music Service (KMS) provides instrumental and vocal music lessons to young people and adults in Kingston. We offer lessons both in schools and at our evening and Saturday morning music centres. Since March 2020 we also provide online tuition using the Google Hangouts platform.

In addition, we run a number of bands, orchestras and other ensembles for young people to make music together and organise regular concerts and tours. We aim to be as inclusive as possible and to this end we have a Wider Opportunities programme available in schools which allows whole classes to learn musical instruments, after which students are encouraged to continue learning via small groups or individual tuition.

KMS has a Youth Board which gives young people from across the borough an opportunity to share and develop their ideas.

The Hook Centre has a recording studio where students can learn about music technology and record music with the support of dedicated technicians.

We also hire musical instruments and offer an instrument repair service.

KMS has good relationships with primary and secondary schools across the borough, offering tailored packages of music provision including professional development for teachers.

About Friends of Kingston Music Service

Founded in 2001, Friends of Kingston Music Service (FKMS) exists to promote, maintain, improve and advance music education within the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames.

FKMS supports this mission by offering financial assistance to those who might be struggling in times of hardship and are unable to afford the cost of their music lessons and activities.

FKMS membership & committee. FKMS is an independent charity. KMS service users are automatically considered members of FKMS and there is a small committee which steers its activities and manages its finances. Although this committee has previously included KMS staff members it should be led entirely by parents/carers, adult students and members of the wider community with staff members ex-officio in order to avoid conflicts of interest.

A general meeting with all FKMS members is held once a year, with the management committee meeting at least three times a year.

FKMS is reliant on donations for income. It was fortunate to receive a large donation around 10 years ago - some of which remains - but as these reserves diminish annually it is imperative that we find new ways to raise money. It receives donations at the end of concerts and from activities such as busking - particularly by the KMS bands at Christmas time. Most recently, some parents have forgone refunds of cancelled ensembles activities and lesson discounts in order to donate this money to FKMS.

Given the current financial climate we anticipate that the number of KMS students in need of financial support will rise and, as we want to continue to support all that we can to continue their musical journey with us, the charity needs to find new ways to raise funds as soon as possible.

How are funds spent?

FKMS funds have been used to subsidise tuition for individual students who would otherwise be unable to afford lessons or participate in ensemble activities via the **KMS Fund**. It has also subsidised specific KMS ensemble activities such as tours and KMS events.

In 2023/24 a second fund, **The Clive Searby Brass Education Fund** was inaugurated. This aims to increase the number of young people taking up brass instruments by offering fully funded scholarships to students judged to have music potential by music coordinators and KMS tutors in the borough of Kingston and who lack the means to pay for tutoring, an instrument and ensemble fees.

Sarah Lewis

Chair, FKMS

Friends of Kingston Music Service
Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure account)
for year ending 30 September 2024

	Restricted Funds £ <i>FKMS Fund</i>	Restricted Funds £ <i>Searby Fund</i>	Total Funds £ 2024	Total Funds £ 2023
Incoming resources				
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds:</i>				
<i>Voluntary income:</i>				
Donations	617		617	1,406
Bequests		26,227	26,227	0
Total incoming resources	617	26,227	26,844	1,406
Resources expended				
<i>Charitable activities:</i>				
Distribution of bursaries	735	0	735	941
<i>Governance costs</i>	50	96	146	0
Total resources expended	785	96	881	941
Net incoming (outgoing) resources and net movement in funds for year	(168)	26,131	25,963	466
Reconciliation of funds				
Total Funds brought forward	8,076	0	8,076	7,610
Total Funds carried forward	7,908	26,131	34,039	8,076


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

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Friends of Kingston Music Service
Balance Sheet
as at 30 September 2024

	FKMS Fund	Searby Fund	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	0	0	0	0
Total Fixed Assets	0	0	0	0
Current assets				
Prepayments	220		220	
Cash at bank and in hand	7,688	26,131	33,819	8,076
Total Current Assets	7,908	26,131	34,039	8,076
Liabilities				
Creditors falling due within one year	0	0	0	0
Net Current Assets	7,908	26,131	34,039	8,076
Total assets less current liabilities	7,908	26,131	34,039	8,076
Creditors: falling due after more than 1 year	0	0	0	0
Net Assets	7,908	26,131	34,039	8,076
The funds of the charity:				
Restricted income funds	7,908	26,131	34,039	8,076
Total charity funds	7,908	26,131	34,039	8,076

The trustees have prepared accounts in accordance with Schedule 5A of the Charities Act 1993.

Signed 
Name **Mark Swainson**, FCCA, Treasurer on behalf of the trustees

Approved by the trustees on 8 July 2025

Iwona Pelczarska
97 Lordship Park
!2 Brookgate
N16 5UR
London

8 July 2025

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Friends of Kingston Music Service
(Registered Charity: 1089255) for the year ended 30 September 2024.**

I the undersigned, confirm that I have reviewed the records kept by the charity and have compared the accounts with those records. I have reviewed the accounts and considered any unusual items and disclosures.

It is my professional opinion that proper accounting records have been kept for the period above and that the accounts have been duly prepared in accordance with the accounting records.

I have identified nothing to give rise to any significant concerns and no matter of material significance that would necessitate a report to the Charities Commission. In forming this opinion I have given regard to the areas of dishonesty, fraud, money laundering, criminal activity, management of significant conflicts of interest and Sections 5 and 6 of the Commission's guidance notes [Independent examination of charity accounts: examiners \(CC32\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-examination-of-charity-accounts-trustees-cc31/independent-examination-of-charity-accounts-trustees) contained at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-examination-of-charity-accounts-trustees-cc31/independent-examination-of-charity-accounts-trustees>.



Iwona Pelczarska, ACCA

Independent Examiner