

Annual Report & Accounts 2024

**MUSIC
OF
LIFE**





Annual Report & Accounts 2024

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Charity Overview

Established in 2003, Music of Life is a specialist charity that supports the development and well-being of children and young people with disabilities and special needs through the provision of regular high-quality music-making opportunities. To date, we have worked with over 6,000 participants, many of whom engaged in term-time activities for six years or more.

The unique feature of our work is continuity. Positive impact can be traced at many levels – cognitively, physically, emotionally, academically, and socially. Furthermore, our activities positively affect wider groups – families, schools, local communities, and educational bodies. Our students come from disadvantaged backgrounds and many are extremely vulnerable and experience isolation.

In our work we address inequality, financial and social barriers and lack of provision within the educational sector. All of these prevent children and young people with multiple and complex disabilities and special needs from accessing music making that is vital and, in many cases, transformational to their development.

Our projects are based in London, the Midlands and North of England. In 2024 we worked with over 1400 direct beneficiaries and their school communities.

Our Vision

Our vision is for all disabled children and young people to be able to access, and benefit from, music-making opportunities.

Our Mission

Our mission is to build and strengthen the life skills, well-being and confidence of disabled children and young people through music-making

Our Programmes

- Choirs at Special Schools
- Music for Deaf Children
- Individual Music Lessons
- Teacher Training & Work Experience
- Community Integration

Welcome from the Chair of Trustees



2024 was a remarkable year for Music of Life. With continued support from trusts and foundations, and an exceptional individual gift, we were able to deepen our impact across all our programmes. We extended our support for children and young people with disabilities, launched pioneering inclusion sessions that brought together choirs from special needs and mainstream schools, and expanded our work with young people transitioning into adulthood. We also took important steps to strengthen the charity’s capacity as we prepare for the next stage of our development.

Building on this momentum, we felt there was a need to reframe the scope and direction of our work. This is now expressed in four key priority areas:

- Expand music provision for children with disabilities through cross-regional implementation of existing and new programmes.
- Enhance life choices and employability of young people with disabilities by training them to become music leaders and teachers.
- Foster inclusion through shared music projects between disabled children and their mainstream peers, reducing social isolation
- Increase the number of strategic partnerships to optimise joint project delivery, build digital resources and online services.

This strategic framework will not only guide our decisions but will also provide a clear structure for measuring and reporting our progress in the years ahead.

We are very grateful for the generous backing that has made this progress possible. Although our total grant income was 8% below the previous year, we received exceptional support from both long-standing and new donors. We greatly appreciate multi-year grants from the City Bridge Foundation, the Karlsson Jativa Charitable Trust Foundation, the Brian Murtagh Charitable Trust and the Edward Gostling Fund for their 5-year endowment. We are also very grateful for the many other grants including from the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Boots Charitable Trust, the Headley Trust, and The gunnercooke Foundation.

Recognising the need to continue to grow our visibility and diversify income, the Board made the decision to invest in a Head of Development and Communications,

thanks to an extremely generous donation with matched funding from a loyal supporter. We were pleased to welcome Katie Baxter into the role this year, with a designated reserve for two years supporting her work in building sustainable funding streams.

The Board met six times over the year, guiding our programme and organisation development, financial progress and fundraising strategy. A key focus was the preparation of our 2026–28 Strategy and Business Plan. We also undertook a full revision of our risk management framework, implementing a regular review process.

We welcomed four new trustees, including our new Treasurer, to the Board. They bring a wealth of expertise in finance, accounting and law, along with valuable lived experience supporting children with disabilities. We greatly look forward to their guidance and contributions as we move ahead. Cathy Clarke, our Vice Chair, stepped down at the end of the year after eight years on the Board. We are very grateful to her for her great contribution.

Our Advisory Council continues to provide excellent guidance and support. The Council was kept up to date on the implementation of the National Plan for Music Education, offered valuable feedback on Music of Life programmes and provided both context and very valuable insight for our planning. Three members left the Council at the end of its first three years, and we welcomed two new appointees with lived experience and specialist teaching knowledge.

None of our work would be possible without our incredible community. I want to sincerely thank Maria, our CEO, for her inspiring leadership, our outstanding music teachers who bring each session to life, as well as our volunteer administrator, our fundraising contractor, and our independent book-keeping firm.

As we look to 2025 and beyond, we are bringing with us the progress and the learning of this past year. With a clear strategy, committed supporters, and a passionate team, Music of Life is poised to reach even more children and young people- empowering them to express themselves, connect with others, and grow in confidence through music.

Ray Longbottom, Chair

CEO’s Report



I am delighted to present my report for 2024, a year filled with achievements, new initiatives, and our unwavering commitment to being driven by and inspired by the incredible potential of the young people we work with – our new best year to date, with a total of over 1,400 direct beneficiaries! This year has been particularly special as we celebrated our 20th anniversary, reflecting on the legacy of long-term provision and making significant strides in our strategic planning, which stems from years of collaboration with our stakeholders across key programmes.

We celebrated this milestone with our Choirs in Special Schools by initiating a series of concerts, bringing together a total of over 400 participants and pupils from local mainstream schools to rehearse and perform to supportive and welcoming audiences representing families from both schools – a model that received enthusiastic feedback and is set to continue next year. The format of our joint concerts has proven effective, utilising accessible venues such as school premises, which enable local school communities to connect through music and experience the joy of singing, shared by students from diverse backgrounds.

We have observed impressive growth among our long-term beneficiaries, many of whom have blossomed into confident leaders. We are excited to pilot a Young Leaders Programme, designed to nurture those interested in taking on leadership roles within our choirs, particularly focusing on students in Years 10–13.

The Music for Deaf Children Programme has demonstrated ongoing success, led by professional Deaf and hearing musicians. The participating schools report improved engagement among their students across subjects, along with enhanced musical skills and awareness, which open new opportunities for communication. In 2024, we introduced a peer support network aimed at fostering growth among less experienced practitioners – both Deaf and hearing – which facilitates shared learning through focus groups and mentoring sessions.

The inaugural year of the Music of Life pilot course, 'Music Education for Deaf Children,' at the Royal College of Music has proven highly successful, with the first group of students graduating in April. Their feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, particularly regarding the practical experiences gained through school visits. The second year of the programme commenced in September 2024 with a new cohort, adding emphasis on practical experience and an introduction to British Sign Language.

Our weekly individual music lessons with specialist teachers have expanded into new areas this year, while also serving an increasing number of students in previously reached schools. Throughout this programme, several beneficiaries achieved impressive musical milestones, such as top ABRSM grades and festival awards, while others experienced transformative benefits by learning an instrument or participating in group playing and singing for the very first time. Importantly, many students were able to overcome personal and social barriers through these enriching experiences.

As we reflect on the successes of 2024, it is both exciting and inspiring to see how the remarkable achievements of our choirs and individual students, the growth of our practitioner team, and the expansion of our initiatives reaffirm our mission. We look forward to building on this progress, exploring new opportunities, and continuing to support positive transformations through the power of music. I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this journey, and I eagerly anticipate an even more impactful year ahead.

Maria Teterina, CEO

INDIVIDUAL MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES
PROVIDED BY MUSIC OF LIFE IN 2024

42,060

2024 IN NUMBERS

1402

DIRECT
BENEFICIARIES

126

STUDENTS RECEIVING
1:1 LESSONS

5

MUSIC FOR DEAF
CHILDREN SCHOOL
PROGRAMMES

10

CHOIRS IN
SPECIAL NEEDS
SCHOOLS

24

SCHOOLS WITH
INDIVIDUAL LESSON
PROVISION

Number of activities per programme

174

DAYS OF MUSIC
PROVISION IN DEAF
SCHOOLS

3,020

INDIVIDUAL LESSONS

33

TEACHER TRAINING
DAYS AND PEER SUPPORT
SESSIONS

292

CHORAL SESSIONS
IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS

102

CONCERTS, ASSEMBLIES
AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

Summary of music provision

1098

VOICES

40

KEYBOARDS

44

WOODWIND

18

STRING

26

PERCUSSION/
OTHER

120

MUSIC IN
CLASSROOM FOR
DEAF CHILDREN

11

MUSIC THEORY

23

FOLK /
TRADITIONAL

10

MUSIC
TECHNOLOGY

12

COMPOSITION

2024 Key Facts and Figures

Our beneficiaries'
primary conditions*

PMLD (Profound and Multiple Learning Disability)	66%
Deaf / Hard of Hearing	20%
Physical disability	8%
Blind / Visually Impaired	6%

*Many of our students have more than one condition, with 63% also on the autistic spectrum.

82%

of our current students
are on Pupil Premium

Ethnicity

- White British/ White Other
- Global Majority Groups

Individual Lessons Programme

Our Individual Lessons Programme are weekly specialist music lessons that can last, depending on students' level, needs and abilities, from 20 mins to 1.5 hours and are delivered on a vast variety of instruments and also include composition, music theory and music technology. We also support students who are ready to join a band, youth ensemble or choir, with their Music of Life teacher on their side, to attend these groups for several weeks to help both the students and the group to adjust.

Success stories in our Individual lessons can look very different. From deafblind children learning the concepts of rhythm and patterns through vibrations of the instrument through to young people with profound and multiple disabilities achieving performance-level degrees in music, they are always stories of dedication, perseverance and long-term commitment.

Our delivery partners:

- Birmingham Services for Education
- Liverpool Resonate Hub – Young Sounds
- Wandsworth Music Service
- 24 special schools in London, Midlands and North West
- Individual music teachers - lessons by special arrangement

“

Korede (originally from Africa) started James Wolfe School in January, facing emotional challenges and communication barriers. He found solace in the visual aspects of piano learning, which didn't rely heavily on verbal instruction. It's heartening to see his progress; he's grasped the concepts of high and low pitches, finger numbering, and can play several tunes. His confidence has blossomed, and we've even started using British Sign Language to discuss music.

”

“

"Michael has just sat his GCSEs (a huge achievement) and will now move on to A Levels. Over the past few years I have noticed a profound change in his ability to communicate. We are all seeing sides of Michael that were hidden a few year ago, including a great sense of irony and humour. His management of his own time is now much improved and he is able to answer questions and engage in dialogue in great detail, which was a barrier before. I have no doubt that the regular lessons we have had together over the years have been a great contributing factor to this."

”



Music for Deaf Children

This programme is a mix of classroom music provision (in small groups of 5-7 children) and 1:1 instrument teaching. It started in 2017 and has since grown from one to five schools for Deaf children in London and Hertfordshire. The unique methodology was developed by Ruth Montgomery, our Programme Lead and a professional Deaf musician and music teacher who has been associated with Music of Life since her student years. Ruth supports and mentors a small team of practitioners, some of them are also Deaf musicians, some are hearing music practitioners who are fluent in British Sign Language.

In 2024 Music of Life delivered weekly music sessions and lessons in five schools:

- Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children (Camden)
- Roding Primary School (Woodford)
- Blanche Neville School (Haringey)
- James Wolfe School (Greenwich)
- Heathlands School (St Albans)

“

All children have shown an understanding of different notes and reading music. Ruth has done an amazing job teaching them musical skills through visuals. The children are excited to learn from her every week! It is extremely empowering for pupils to have a positive deaf role model leading the sessions and sharing a 'can do' attitude.

”



Royal College of Music

The first year of the pilot Music of Life course at the Royal College of Music, designed to train young musicians interested in working with Deaf and Disabled children, was completed in April 2024. Led by Ruth Montgomery, it consists of seven seminars on specific topics, followed by school visits where students observe Ruth's teaching in schools for Deaf children involved in the Music of Life programme.

We received overwhelmingly positive feedback from students, especially regarding the school visits, which provided invaluable firsthand experience. Students observed lessons, participated in breakaway sessions, and performed for the children. Suggestions for improvement included teaching basic British Sign Language (BSL). Starting in September 2024, we commenced the second year of the course with a new cohort, maintaining the same structure while incorporating feedback, increasing school visits, and introducing more practical leadership experience.

Choirs in Special Schools

Our longest-standing programme started in 2014. The schools we work in cater for learners with complex mental, physical, learning and emotional needs. They come from wide geographical areas and are mainly from very disadvantaged backgrounds, including looked after children, those from low-income households and families with multiple members with disabilities.

In 2024, we worked in 10 special schools:

- Evergreen Primary School, Warwick
- Evergreen Secondary School, Warwick
- Selly Oak Special School, Birmingham
- Woodlands Special School, Coleshill
- Calthorpe Academy, Birmingham
- Bridge School, Birmingham
- Castle School, Cambridge
- Wilson Stuart School, Erdington (supported by Education Impact Academy Trust, EIAT)
- Mayfield School, Birmingham (supported by EIAT)
- Queensbury Horizons, Erdington (supported by EIAT)

Our weekly sessions, led by a minimum of three experienced musicians, are fully inclusive, being open to every student irrespective of the level of their access needs. The sessions bring together the whole school for an hour of joy and fun and are hugely anticipated. Staff comment frequently on how the school atmosphere is better on their Music of Life days, describing the very special “buzz” we bring with us! Most of the songs and singing games currently used in Music of Life sessions have been written by our music leaders – high-profile musicians, composers and experienced choral practitioners – specifically with our choirs in mind. The repertoire is uniquely versatile and accessible and provides opportunities to participate in many ways, including use of Makaton language, sensory equipment and assistive technology.



Young Leaders Programme

One of the most significant developments that we observed throughout the celebratory concerts was the level of engagement and confidence in our older students who have been singing in Music of Life choirs for many years. Capable and enthusiastic, they readily volunteer to lead the songs, standing in front of the choir and not being shy of the audience.

These promising young people don’t want to leave music behind after they finish school. In response to this need, we designed a programme to run focus groups for those students interested in music leadership. The pilot year of the Young Leaders Programme will commence in September 2025. We are exploring synergies with other organisations with a view to creating pathways to work for our participants through collaborative efforts.



Celebratory Concerts

June 2024 was full of amazing concerts and beautiful moments. Six of our schools presented concerts for the parents and friends as we celebrated Music of Life’s 20th anniversary and also 10-year anniversaries with some of our choirs.

This year for the first time our participants were performing with mainstream students in joint concerts that brought together local schools. Each concert was a full house and the atmosphere was incredible. All schools are keen for the collaboration to continue next year with further integration of the choirs on regular basis.

“Learners have made remarkable progress over time with their attention and listening skills. Participation in inclusion with the other school choir has developed some learners’ teamwork, communication, and cooperation, helping them to develop better social interactions and build friendships.”

“Several students who were initially non-verbal joined in with the choir and then started singing! 83% of learners who attend choir had met or exceeded their end of year target in Communication skills. The skills developed through the choir have definitely contributed to their overall achievement. Focus and safe behaviour are noticeably improved during Music of Life sessions and this is transferred to other areas of school.”

Plans for 2025

We are delighted to bring our Choirs in Special Schools programme to three special schools in Brent from September 2025. We are utilising our existing working link with the Brent Music Service and involving experienced practitioners who are currently running our choirs in several special schools in the Midlands.

Trustees' Report

For the year ending 31 December 2024

Introduction

The Trustees who are also the Directors of the limited company have pleasure in presenting their Report together with the financial statements of Music of Life Foundation Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Legal and administrative information set out on page 23 forms part of this Report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Articles of Association, applicable law and Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2019.

Structure, Governance & Management

Music of Life Foundation is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Articles of Association dated 12 November 2003 and amended by special resolution on 11 July 2019 to bring the Charity's governing documents into line with current company and charity law and good practice. The Charity is registered at Companies House as No. 4963498. It is a charity registered with the Charity Commission as No. 1102827.

The Foundation is managed by a Board, the members of which have the legal status of directors of the charitable company (the Charity) and are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law. The Board meets at least six times a year to have a close view on performance against objectives and to have more flexibility to react to arising issues.

Selection and Appointment of Trustees

The Trustees appoint new members by general agreement. Regular reviews are conducted to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills. New trustees take part in an induction process when they receive copies of the Charity's Articles of Association, are fully briefed on their obligations under charity and company law, and are given information on the decision-making processes, the financial performance of the Charity, the regular review of the Risk Assessment and the business plan.

Trustees with specific expertise brief the Board from time to time on current topics, more broadly trustees are encouraged to keep up-to-date with developments in the sector and to take advantage of the many training opportunities available from various bodies.

Objectives and Activities of the Foundation for the Public Benefit

Music of Life Foundation's objectives are the advancement of the education of disabled children in the arts and, in particular, the art of music by:

- Providing access to facilities for study, for creative development and access to both standard and creative organisations, on equal terms with other children,
- Organising of national and international musical events, competitions and concerts in which disabled children can participate thus helping them to realise their potential, and
- Supporting research undertaken into the educational and therapeutic use of the arts and in particular the art of music for the benefit of disabled children

Risk Management

The Trustees regularly review the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and take action where appropriate to mitigate them. The Trustees consider the two greatest risks to be:

- the unpredictability and short-term nature of much of our funding to be the greatest risk in the short to medium term.
- the sudden loss of key individuals involved in the management of the charity and in delivering its programmes

Our fundraising is focussed on securing longer term grants and we have added a new role in our leadership team to work on diversifying our income streams. We are seeking to mitigate the loss of key individuals by regular training of additional contractors, who shadow and work with our workshop leaders.

Financial Review

Total income was £398,655 an increase of 66% over 2023. This major increase resulted from an unexpected and exceptionally generous match-funded individual donation. Income from Trusts and Foundations, which comprises the majority of our income, was 8% below the previous year as several multi-year grants came to an end. Many of the trusts and foundations have been regular supporters and we greatly appreciate their continuing support. Our overall charitable expenditure increased by 30% to £284,430 (2023: £219,264). Fundraising activities cost £19,837, giving total costs of £304,267.

Restricted reserves at year end at £53,248 were £14,499 (21%) lower than at the start of the year and whilst some programmes were well funded others required supplementary funding from unrestricted reserves. On receipt of the major donation, the Directors decided to take the opportunity to invest in the charity's ability to build sustainable income streams and set aside £100,000 in a designated reserve to support this work for 2 years. Excluding the designated reserve, unrestricted reserves at the start of 2025 were £72,340 an increase of £20,036. In early 2025 we received a further significant boost to our unrestricted reserves, which will support the existing programmes with a shortage of funding, whilst also enabling the development of new programmes. In total, we are carrying forward reserves of £214,439 (2023: £120,051). Excluding the balance of the designated reserve (£88,851), reserves stood at £125,588 (2023:£120,051). We continue to apply for restricted funding for the 25/26 academic year to supplement that already committed.

Going Concern

We will continue to focus on building long term relationships with new and existing funders. In addition to the funding mentioned above, we continue to actively apply for grants from Trusts & Foundations. The Board has adopted a rigorous risk assessment process to identify and mitigate any major risks. Consequently, the Trustees believe that it is appropriate to continue to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees review the reserves policy at least annually, or on the occurrence of material changes in the Charity's activities. The Trustees have reviewed the Charity's requirements for reserves and have decided to hold a sufficient balance of unrestricted reserves to cover 6 months of planned expenditure to ensure financial stability and act as a safeguard against unpredictable income streams. In general, we do not commit to projects until funding is secured. These funds are usually received at the start of a project while expenditure follows on a monthly basis. Excluding the designated reserve, unrestricted reserves stand at £72,340 which represents 11 months of cover. This increase is being directed to programme funding to fill the short term gaps which resulted from multi year funding streams coming to an end in 2024 and thereby ensuring continuity of programme delivery.

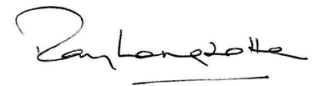
Free reserves are part of the charity's unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend on any of the charity's purposes. Free reserves are cash or liquid funds and do not include tangible fixed assets.

Statement Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company. Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the independent examination, but of which the Examiner is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the Examiner is aware of such information. This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Act relating to small entities.

Approved by the Board on 15 May 2025 and signed on its behalf:

RA Longbottom, Chair of Trustees



Independent Examiner’s Report to the Trustees of Music of Life Foundation



JK Barnehurst Accounting Ltd

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 15 to 21.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees, who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and an independent examination is required under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the charitable company is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view ' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statements below.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jing

Jing Lu, Chartered Certified Accountant
JK Barnehurst Accounting Ltd
15 May 2025

Statement of Financial Activities (For the year ended 31 December 2024)

		2024			2023		
	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income From							
Donations	2	225,923	137,800	363,723	49,776	161,650	211,426
Invoiced income		22,952	11,318	34,270	15,228	12,533	27,761
Investment Income		662	-	662	457	-	457
Total Income		249,537	149,118	398,655	65,461	174,183	239,644
Expenditure on							
Raising Funds		19,837	-	19,837	20,107	-	20,107
Charitable Activities		119,750	164,680	284,430	71,105	148,159	219,264
Total Expenditure	3	139,587	164,860	304,267	91,212	148,159	239,371
Net Income/(Expenditure)							
		109,950	(15,562)	94,388	(25,751)	26,024	273
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		52,304	67,747	120,051	62,608	57,170	119,778
Transfer between funds		(1,063)	1,063	-	15,447	(15,447)	-
Total funds carried forward		161,191	53,248	214,439	52,304	67,747	120,051

Balance Sheet

At 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets	6	44	312
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	612	17,403
Cash at Bank		228,089	111,981
		228,701	129,384
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(14,306)	(9,645)
Net current assets		214,395	119,739
Total net assets		214,439	120,051
The funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds	9	72,340	52,304
Designated Unrestricted Funds		88,851	
Restricted Funds	9, 10	53,248	67,747
Total charity funds		214,439	120,051

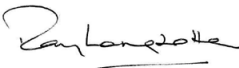
For the year ending 31 December 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors’ responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

These accounts were approved by the Board on 15 May 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



R A Longbottom
Chair

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Cashflow from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	115,446	(14,527)
Cashflow from investing activities:		
Interest received	662	457
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	-	-
Net cash from investing activities	662	457
Cashflow from financing activities:	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalent in the reporting period	116,108	(14,070)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	111,981	126,051
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	228,089	111,981

Reconciliation of net income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	93,726	(184)
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	268	268
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	16,791	(9,471)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	4,661	(5,140)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	115,446	(14,527)

Notes on Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Principal accounting policies

(a) Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis in accordance with 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) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), and the Companies Act 2006.

(b) Company status

The Charity is limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 23. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

(c) Income recognition

Income from voluntary grants, legacies and donations are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when received unless the grant specifically funds the Charity’s expenditure, in which case income and expenditure are allocated to the relevant period and matched.

(d) Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity and include project management. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

(e) Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. Income arising on designated funds can be used in accordance with the objects of the Charity and is included in unrestricted funds. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

(f) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

- Office equipment and website - 20% per annum

2. Donations

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 Total £
Donations for the year included:			
Events and individual donations	91,243		91,243
Corporate match funding for an individual donation	75,000		75,000
City Bridge Foundation		49,550	49,550
Garfield Weston Foundation	20,000		20,000
The Karlsson Játiva Charitable Foundation		20,000	20,000
The Brian Murtagh Charitable Trust		15,000	15,000
Boots Charitable Trust	10,000		10,000
The Eveson Trust		10,000	10,000
The Headley Trust		10,000	10,000
The gunnercooke Foundation		10,000	10,000
Hayes Foundation		5,750	5,750
Masonic Charitable Trust	5,000		5,000
The Powell Family Foundation		5,000	5,000
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust		4,000	4,000

2. Donations (continued)

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 Total £
Co-Op Community Fund	3,413		3,413
Woodlands Special School Fundraiser		3,000	3,000
The Grantham Yorke Trust		2,500	2,500
Frognal Foundation		2,000	2,000
Shanley Foundation		1,000	1,000
Gift Aid	21,267		21,267
Total	225,923	137,800	363,723

3. Analysis of total expenditure

	Staff Costs £	Other Direct Costs £	Depreciation £	Governance costs £	2024 £	2023 £
Raising Funds	-	19,200	-	637	19,837	20,107
Charitable Activities	55,501	219,531	268	9,130	284,430	219,264
Total for Charity	55,501	238,731	268	9,767	304,267	239,371

Governance Costs Include	2024 £	2023 £
Payroll fee	545	549
Independent examiner’s fee	984	956
Annual report design	1,100	1,100
Trustees recruitment	5,207	600
Trustees expenses and meeting costs	1,760	137
Other governance costs	171	86
Total	9,767	3,428

4. Staff Costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs were as follows:		
Salaries and National Insurance	54,121	36,043
Pension costs	1,380	894
Total	55,501	36,937

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Administration and support	2	1
Total	2	1

No member of staff was paid £60,000 or more during the year (2023 - nil).

5. Trustees remuneration and expenses

No Trustees received any remuneration in respect of their services as a member of the committee during the year (2023: £nil).

Trustees were reimbursed £nil for travel and other expenses (2023: £nil).

Notes on Financial Statements

(Continued...)

6. Tangible fixed assets

	2024			2023		
	Office Equipm't	Website	Total	Office Equipm't	Website	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 31 December 2023	5,342	6,000	11,342	5,342	6,000	11,342
Addition	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	5,342	6,000	11,342	5,342	6,000	11,342
Depreciation						
At 31 December 2023	5,030	6,000	11,030	4,762	6,000	10,762
Charge for the year	268	-	268	268	-	268
Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	5,298	6,000	11,298	5,030	6,000	11,030
Net book value						
At 31 December 2024	44	-	44	312	-	312
At 31 December 2023	312	-	312	580	-	580

7. Debtors: Due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Debtors	-	1,863
Prepayments	612	612
Accrued Income	-	14,928
Total	612	17,403

8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Creditor	4,526	5,050
Accruals	5,637	4,421
Deferred Income	3,672	0
Other creditor	471	174
Total	14,306	9,645

9. Movement in funds

	At 1 January 2024	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfer between funds	At 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Undesignated Funds	52,304	149,537	(128,438)	(1,063)	72,340
Unrestricted Designated Funds		100,000	(11,149)		88,851
Restricted Funds	67,747	149,118	(164,680)	1,063	53,248
Total Funds	120,051	398,655	(304,267)	-	214,439

An amount of the Unrestricted Fund has been designated for a specific development purpose spanning a two year period, and is shown separately on the accounts for clarity.

10. Restricted Funds

	Funds for Individual Lesson programmes	Funds for Choral Workshops	Funds for Deaf Schools Programme in London	Funds for Teacher Training	Concert	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Opening balance at 1st Jan 2024	15,803	27,142	21,265	3,537	-	67,747
New funds received	40,454	62,038	26,516	16,518	3,592	149,118
Transfer of funds to Project Administration	(5,277)	(8,571)	(3,459)	(2,154)	-	(19,461)
Expenses	(57,844)	(68,012)	(22,472)	(7,724)	(8,628)	(164,680)
Reserves transfer to cover Project Shortfall	12,670	-	-	-	7,854	20,524
Closing funds at 31 December 2024	5,806	12,597	21,850	10,177	2,818	53,248

11. Related party transactions

The Trustees in office during the year are listed on page 23. The trustees have no financial interests in the charity's results or assets and received no remuneration for acting in that capacity. There are no related party transactions for disclosure during the year.

Thank You to Our Donors

We are fully committed to sustaining our ongoing, long-term projects, and we greatly appreciate the support of our funders who share our values and believe in the importance of continuous engagement.

We are also deeply grateful for grants and donations that are forward-facing and enable us to pilot new, groundbreaking projects and strengthen our organisation, allowing us to meet the growing need for our services.



Message of support from our major individual supporters, Yuri and Irina Bedny:

"Words are the language of the brain, while music is the language of the soul. Giving children the opportunity to study music is a deeply meaningful pursuit—it brings purpose to life and enhances the wellbeing of so many around us.

Witnessing deaf children take part in music lessons felt nothing short of miraculous. The connection between the silent world and the hearing world, formed through music and choir, is a powerful bridge that transcends all boundaries."



We would like to thank our individual donors for their amazing support that empowers the young people we work with in so many ways:

- Yuri and Irina Bedny**

Jack Brierley

Birgitta Clift

James Cooper

M J Crane KC

Anna Francis

Katie Metcalfe

Ray and Julia Longbottom

Sylvia Stanbridge

Katherine Puffett

Barry Short

Marilyn Vincent

Rachel Portman
- Alison Herberts**

Michael Clarkson Webb

Natalie Hooper

Sara Caldwell

Professor Christopher Dingle

Rory Macleod

Nadine Shaw

Julia Orford

Katharine Wright

Pupils and parents at Bishop Wordsworths School

Students of the Spalding High School Chamber Choir

- Our Royal Parks Half Marathon Runner Fundraisers:
- William Hamlyn**
- Oliver Irwin**
- Simon Longbottom**
- Edward Ritchie**

Legal and Administrative Details

Charity number:	1102827
Company number:	4963498
Registered address:	54 Portland Place London, W1B 1DY
Trustees:	Ray Longbottom (Chair) Catherine Clarke (Vice Chair, resigned 28 November 2024) Sarah Kolkman (Treasurer, resigned 1 June 2024) Louise Shepherd-Evans (Treasurer, appointed 14 October 2024) Sophie Brüggemann Emma Dearnaley (appointed 1 May 2024) Valentina Di Venuta (appointed 1 May 2024) Stefano Filippi Lily Harriss Tristen Hennigs Belinda Kembery (appointed 1 May 2024) Alexander McHardy
Team	Maria Teterina, Chief Executive Katie Baxter - Head of Development and Communications (appointed 14 October 2024) Suzzie Vango, Head of Choirs Ruth Montgomery, Music for Deaf Children Programme Lead Gina Baker, Community Engagement and Events Manager Gina Baker, Naomi Berry, Zoe Challenor, Emma Cockbill, Miriam Dubois, Rachel Edmonds, Olga Elbourn, Charlotte Galloway, Lucy Hollins, Sofia Hunt, Jessica Lawrence-Hares, Robin Morton, Charlie Penn, Helena Raeburn, Shivani Rattan - Workshop leaders Shruti Soni, Accountant Diana Cripps, Administrative Support (volunteer) >50 music teachers and support musicians
Patrons	Evelyn Glennie CH, DBE Denise Leigh John Lubbock OBE
Advisory Council	Sophie Gray, Head of Inclusion, Services for Education, Birmingham Evangelos Himonides, Professor of Technology, Education, and Music, UCL Karen Irwin, Strategic Director (Children and Young People), Live Music Now Julian Knight, Creative Director, Creative Futures (UK) Kathryn Mason, Research Fellow, The Deafness, Cognition and Language Research Centre, UCL Adam Ockelford, Professor of Music, Roehampton University and Founder, Amber Trust Peter Smalley, Chief Executive, Northampton Music and Performing Arts Trust Lorella Terzi, Professor of Philosophy of Education, University of Roehampton Graham Welch, Professor & Chair of Music Education, UCL Institute of Education Rachel Wolffsohn, General Manager, The OHMI Trust
Bankers:	The CAF Bank Ltd 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent, ME19 4JQ Shawbrook Bank Ltd Lutea House Warley Hill Business Park Brentwood Essex, CM13 3BE
Independent Examiner:	Jing Lu Chartered Certified Accountant JK Barnehurst Accounting Ltd 108 Manor Way, Bexleyheath, DA7 6JN



MUSIC OF LIFE

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Our work thrives thanks to the generous support of people like you. If you'd like to learn more or get involved—whether through fundraising, volunteering, or other opportunities—please contact Katie Baxter at katie.baxter@mofl.co.uk or visit the link below for details.

www.musicoflife.org.uk/support-our-work

If you would like to fundraise for us, please find Music of Life on Justgiving using this QR code



Contact us

Music of Life Foundation
mofl@mofl.co.uk

www.musicoflife.org.uk

Registered address:
54 Portland Place, London W1B 1DY

Find us @musicoflifeuk

