

South Powys Youth Music

Report of the Trustees
and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st August 2023

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Information about the charity

TRUSTEES: Nicholas Gedge (Chair)
 Trudie Jordan
 Martyn King (Treasurer)
 Fiona Corbett
 Flora York Skinner
 Jodine Fec

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1121625

Report of the Trustees

For the year ended August 31st 2023

Structure Governance and Management

Governing Document

South Powys Youth Music is a registered charity governed by Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 21st May 2007. It was granted charitable status by the Charity Commissioners in 2007 under registered charity number 1121625.

The charity's registered address is Ty Mawr, Bwlch, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7SQ. The charity's bankers are Lloyds TSB, 54 Cross Street, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 5HB.

Trustees

The Trustees who served in the year ending 31st August 2023 were:

Nicholas Gedge (Chair)

Trudie Jordan

Martyn King (Treasurer)

Fiona Corbett

Flora York Skinner

Jodine Fec

Management and Organisation

The management consists of a board of trustees and a management committee. They are assisted in the week to week running of the charity by a number of music tutors together with a number of volunteers most of whom are parents of members of South Powys Youth Music. The management committee meets on average once per term – and apart from these meetings, any issues arising are dealt with usually by email communication. The board of trustees meets annually – and more often as and when required if particular issues arise.

The objectives and activities of South Powys Youth Music

The aim of South Powys Youth Music (SPYM) is to provide the children and young people of South Powys with the opportunity to meet on a regular basis to make music together. In the early 1990s Powys disbanded its county music service and South Powys Youth Orchestra was started by a group of parents anxious that the children of the area should not be denied the opportunity to make music together. South Powys Youth Music (SPYM) grew out of this and is now an umbrella organisation for regular youth musical activities in the area. SPYM meets every Wednesday afternoon in school term times at Brecon High School. South Powys (comprising the old counties of Breconshire and Radnorshire) is a very large and sparsely populated rural area and in an effort to make SPYM accessible to as many children as possible, bus transport is provided (funded by SPYM) for children coming from the Hay, Gwernyfed and Talgarth areas. Each of SPYM's groups is coached by members of a team of experienced and dedicated music teachers. A team of adult volunteers also assists. The work of each term is focussed on an end of term concert.

SPYM also organises roadshows which visit primary schools in the area to give young children taster sessions on instruments in the hope that many will be

encouraged to start learning an instrument. In past years there were also very constructive joint projects with SPYM's counterparts at North Powys Youth Music – this collaboration has unfortunately ceased due to funding issues but it remains a hope that one day it may be possible to resume joint ventures.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

The year 2022 – 2023 was one of consolidation for SPYM. Tim Cronin, SPYM's musical director, and all the tutors continued their determined and admirable work to rebuild SPYM after it was so badly hit by Covid. The 15 month gap in activities – from March 2020 to June 2021 - as a result of the pandemic had a major effect on SPYM and we should be hugely grateful to all for the efforts that have been made (and which are continuing) to rebuild SPYM. SPYM membership had dropped somewhat but there remained a determination in 2022 – 2023 to maintain weekly SPYM activities to as full a level as possible whilst also making increased efforts to introduce children and young people to music and to music making by way of road shows and taster sessions and thus, hopefully, also increase SPYM membership. Maintaining the weekly SPYM sessions in this way led to (in broad terms) expenditure on those weekly sessions exceeding the income from those sessions, but it was felt that it was an important step to take in order to preserve SPYM and to hope to grow it in the longer term. There are encouraging signs that this was the right decision to make.

Alan and Kath Davies continued their vital and inspirational work not only with the younger members of SPYM (choir and percussion group) but also with Shake, Rattle and Roll – their music sessions for toddlers. They expanded this work early in 2022 – 2023 with a Music Explorers session in Brecon for children aged 4 – 7. This was the last of the sessions in the summer and autumn of 2022 that were funded by the Summer of Fun grant. In September and October Kath also went to Mount Street Junior School in Brecon to run five choir sessions. SPYM's outreach work continued with school taster sessions for stringed instruments and pbones (plastic trombones).

This was a project which started in June 2022 but which ran on until the Spring of 2023. A total of 351 children in nine different primary schools (Hay-on-Wye, Priory Brecon, Talgarth, Builth Wells, Llandrindod Wells, Llanbister, Clyro, Llangors and Ysgol y Bannau) had a series of 6 or 7 lessons with Tim Cronin, Berri Munn and Jeni Stokes (strings) and Andy McDade (pbones). This fantastic project cost just over £10,000 and was financed with a combination of funds from a Covid Recovery Grant (£5,620) with the balance coming from part of a hugely kind bequest made some years ago by the executors of the will of the late mother of Lisa Jones (a former SPYM parent) – the specific purpose of that bequest being to assist with SPYM's outreach work. It was a major project and was one which SPYM hopes will have a lasting impact not only on the numbers of children and young people learning musical instruments but also one which hopefully will help to grow SPYM membership numbers.

SPYM is, as ever, enormously grateful to those individuals and organisations who so kindly and generously support its work. This support included a further very kind donation from the Gibbs Trust for which SPYM was enormously grateful. Mid Wales Music Trust also very generously provided significant funds to SPYM both in September 2022 to support a project giving subsidised instrumental lessons to youngsters attending SPYM and then again in the summer of 2023 to support SPYM's Open Day which was held in mid August. This was a really successful day which provided opportunities for children of differing ages in three different groups. Alan and Kath's Shake, Rattle & Roll (for toddlers 0-4's) was oversubscribed – 24 children attended and there was even a lengthy waiting list. Music Explorers (for those aged 4 to 7) was also fully subscribed with 23 attending. This group involved singing, percussion, movement to music, and an introduction to orchestral instruments. Finally, there was a session of instrumental and choir tasters aimed at those aged 7-12. This was attended by 16 children who had the opportunity to try singing in the choir with Kath, to experience playing the cello with Alan, the p-bone with Ed Burfield and the violin with Jeni Stokes. All the tutors involved felt that this was a very valuable day and there has been an encouraging take up from those involved in either joining SPYM and / or in hiring instruments for lessons.

Further support for SPYM came from the National Plan for Music Education, the effect of which was the funding of 50% of SPYM tutors' fees for Autumn term 2022

and Spring term 2023. Of perhaps most potential significance in the longer term, Lynsey McCrohon was appointed by Powys County Council as Strategic Lead for Music and the Expressive Arts. Lynsey was previously head teacher at Priory Primary School in Brecon and for some time she has been a keen supporter of and advocate for the work that SPYM does. This has led to the organisation – using SPYM tutors – of phone taster sessions at Llanbedr, Llangattock, Llangynidr and Crickhowell Primary Schools. Finally, thanks must also go to Brecon Town Council for allowing SPYM to store instruments at the Guildhall in Brecon. This very practical area of support has been of great help and is much valued.

All that I have mentioned so far is in addition to the ongoing sessions that SPYM holds after school on Wednesdays at Brecon High School. These continue to be the core of SPYM's work and they are weekly hives of activity led by SPYM's excellent and dedicated team of tutors under the leadership of Tim Cronin, assisted by a much valued team of adult volunteers all of whom are expertly marshalled and organised by Sally Morris, SPYM's hugely valued and wonderfully efficient administrator. Much hard work goes on in these sessions and much fun is had. Each term concludes with a concert at which SPYM members have the opportunity to show the fruits of their work. The end of the Christmas term 2022 also featured SPYM's choir singing at the Rotary Christmas Concert in St Mary's Church in Brecon and also the now annual appearance by SPYM's choir and orchestra at the Brecon Farmers Market, an event which is not only an enjoyable one in which to take part but which also helps bring SPYM and its work to wider public recognition.

At the end of 2022 SPYM said farewell to Clare Walker – for many years a SPYM tutor. Clare is a fine musician and a fine bassoonist and the contribution she has made to SPYM and its work over so many years has been immeasurable. All at SPYM – past and present - have cause to be very grateful to Clare for all that she has done over the years and we all wish her a long and happy retirement. Staying with tutors, SPYM has been very lucky indeed that Jeni Stokes came aboard in the late summer of 2022. She is not only a very fine violinist but also an inspiring teacher too. Jeni is also a fount of bright and positive ideas about ways to develop SPYM's work and she is also very adept at social media and has taken on task of increasing and improving SPYM's profile on that front. We are very lucky to have her on board. Finally on the tutor front, Andy McDade, who had done so much work to start and

develop the phone project and SPYM's work with brass instruments, left to go to pastures new in early 2023. All at SPYM are very grateful for the work he did and wish him well. We are fortunate that Ed Burfield has taken over his role.

In 2022 – 2023 SPYM also said goodbye to one trustee and welcomed another. Trudy Jordan, whose son Owen had been leader of SPYO some years ago, decided to step down after some fifteen years of being a SPYM trustee. Trudy was always a huge supporter of SPYM's work and her input behind the scenes was always much valued. We will miss her. At the end of 2021 – 2022 Martyn King, SPYM's long time treasurer, also indicated that he wished to step aside. It is difficult to state how important Martyn has been to SPYM over the last ten or so years. He was fantastically efficient and was always a calm and reassuring hand at the financial helm. Jodine Fec (a SPYM parent) has come on board as a trustee to take over the role of treasurer. We are very grateful to her for taking on this role. Martyn has kindly agreed to stay on as a trustee for the handover period but he will shortly be leaving us. We will miss him.

I wish to express my thanks to SPYM's wonderful group of tutors and in particular to Tim Cronin under whose tireless and inspirational leadership they do such a fine job. I also wish to thank the dedicated group of adult volunteers who do much to help SPYM week in week out, and also my fellow trustees who work behind the scenes in ways that may be unseen but which are much valued. Finally I wish to thank Sally Morris. She really is the most excellent administrator. SPYM is extremely lucky to have her.

NICK GEDGE

OCTOBER 2023

Treasurer's Report 2022/23

South Powys Youth Music						
Profit and Loss Account						
for year ended 31 August 2023						
Income				Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Subscriptions				8,523.00		8,523.00
Restricted Grant Funding PCC					11,137.00	11,237.00
Other Grants				14,362.50		14,362.50
M Caudle Funds					0.00	
Concert Income				635.00		635.00
SRR				5,155.50		5,155.50
Refreshments/Tuck				274.75		274.75
Instrument Hire				300.00		300.00
Workshops					650.00	650.00
Donations/ Friends				3,930.00		3,930.00
T-Shirts/Hoodies				232.00		232.00
Raffles				281.00		281.00
Sale of Keyboard				50.00		50.00
Farmers Market fee				120.00		120.00
Farmers Market collection				170.25		170.25
Bank Interest				126.55		126.55
Gift Aid				491.25		491.25
TOTAL				34,651.80	11,787.00	46,438.80

Expenditure	Un-restricted £	Restricted £	Total £			
Brecon Tutors	17,006.67		17,006.67			
SRR Tutors	4,160.00		4,160.00			
Outreach & Taster Tutors		11,420.00	11,420.00			
First Experiences Tutors		5,069.16	5,069.16			
DBS checks	74.00		74.00			
Venue Hire BHS	2,365.00		2,365.00			
Venue Hire SRR	765.00		765.00			
Venue Hire Outreach	232.50		232.50			
Instruments, Purchase & Repair	1,485.25		1,485.25			
Mileage/Transport	969.80	1,279.70	2,249.50			
Sheet Music	26.69		26.69			
Stationery & Copying	28.05		28.05			
Support & Admin	3,777.25		3,777.25			
Tuck & Refreshments	199.05		199.05			
T-Shirts/Hoodies	162.19		162.19			
Insurance	556.76		556.76			
Training/First Aid	-		-			
Other	79.62		79.62			
TOTAL	31,887.83	17,768.86	49,656.69			
				Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Surplus/Deficit for the year				2,763.97	-5981.86	(3,217.89)

Balance Sheet					
Balance at start of year	£75,041.73				
Surplus / deficit	-£3,217.89				
Closing balance	£71,823.84				

Summary of Income

The majority of income received came from a number of grants,(including from the National Plan for Music Education Funding paid via Powys County Council), weekly subs from SPYM and Shake, Rattle and Roll, and donations from friends of SPYM. The balance of the large private restricted fund donation received during the year 2018/19 has been partly used this year to continue to offer outreach sessions.

Core funding

The National Plan for Music Education Funding provided a grant of £6562.50 to fund 50% of SPYM tutor costs for the period September 2022- March 2023, as well as grants for smaller sums for First Experiences sessions for children in Powys schools. A COVID community recovery fund payment was successfully applied for, totalling £5620. Such funding via Powys County Council accounted for 39% of the total income received.

Remaining income comprised

16% other grants (see below)

18% SPYM subscriptions

11% Shake Rattle and Roll subscriptions

8% Donations/Friends of SPYM

8% income from concerts, instrument hire, Gift Aid and other small amounts

Grants

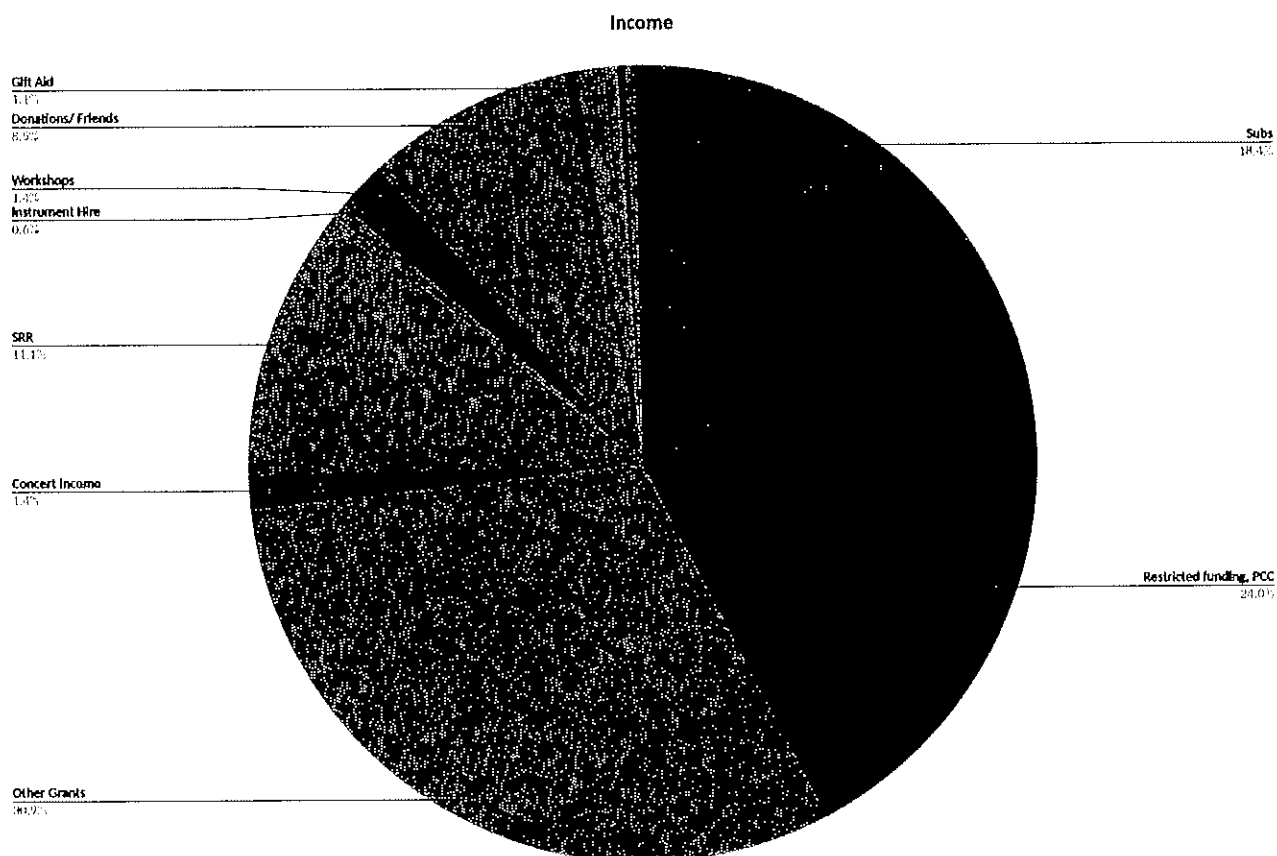
Two generous grants of £2400 and £2500 were received from the Mid Wales Music Trust towards tuition in SPYM sessions and in the summer Outreach Taster session held in Kensington Hall. The Gibbs Charitable Trust gave a grant of £2500 towards Wednesday sessions, particularly to support those families who could not afford the regular subs.

Summary of Restricted Income

Restricted income is made up of the remainder of the £30k received from a private estate donation in the financial year 2018/19, in addition to funding for specific purposes received during this financial year. A balance of £15,576 remains available entering the financial year 2023/24.

South Powys Youth Music		
Profit and Loss Account - Restricted funds		
for year ended 31 August 2023		
Income	£s	£s
Covid Recovery Fund		5620.00
First experiences outreach - tutor costs		4725.00
First experiences outreach - mileage		792.00
Mount Street workshops		650.00
TOTAL INCOME		11787.00
Expenditure		
Covid Recovery outreach - tutor costs	10770.00	
Covid Recovery outreach - mileage	664.80	
First Experiences - tutor costs	5069.16	
First Experiences - mileage	614.90	
Workshops - tutor costs	650.00	
TOTAL	17768.86	
Balance Sheet		

Balance at start of year	21558.85
Surplus/deficit	-5981.86
Closing balance	15576.99



Summary of Expenditure

34% of expenditure was spent on tutoring fees during regular SPYM sessions

33% on Outreach including First Experiences

8% on Shake, Rattle & Roll (SRR) tutors

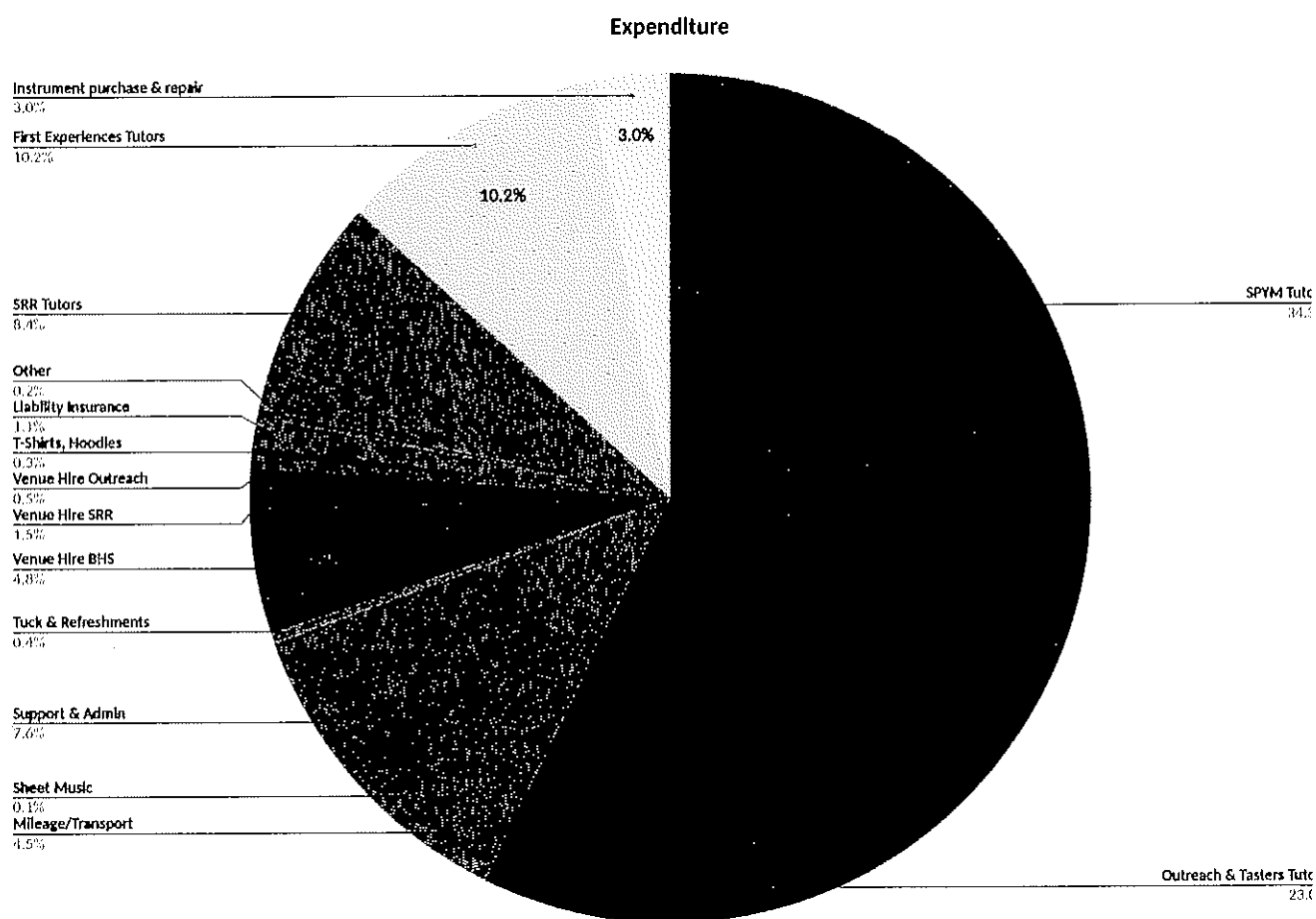
8% on management, support and administration

7% on venue hire for regular sessions and for SRR

5% on mileage

3% on instrument purchase & repair

2% on insurance, DBS checks, music & printing



Shake, Rattle & Roll

SRR	£ Expenditure	£ Income
Income - Subs		5155.50
Expenditure - tutors	4160.00	
Expenditure - venue hire	765.00	
Expenditure - admin	464.00	
Expenditure - TOTAL	5389.00	
Surplus/Deficit		(233.50)

Wednesday sessions

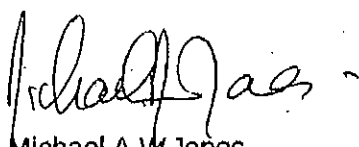
Regular Wednesday sessions - direct costs	£ Expenditure	£ Income
Income - Subs		8523.00
Income - National Plan for Music Education		6562.50
Income - PCC for brass tuition for BHS students		400.00
Income - TOTAL		15485.50
Expenditure - tutors	17006.67	
Expenditure - venue hire	2365.00	
Expenditure - rehearsal supervisor	1116.50	
	20488.17	
Surplus/Deficit		(5002.67)

Observations

It should be noted that although significant grants have been made available to SPYM through Powys County Council this year, none of this funding is guaranteed or ongoing. Continued fundraising through grant applications will be key to the ongoing stability of the SPYM balance sheet.

Due to the increase in interest rates, a portion of retained funds was transferred to a separate account in order to receive interest in the credit balance. We closed the year to August 31st 2023 with a balance of £71,823.84. This cash position remains healthy and is available to support SPYM into 2023/24, including the continuation of outreach work in the area, funded by reserves from the restricted funds.

I have examined the accounts for South Powys Youth Music, and have obtained all the information and explanations I have sought. In my opinion, the accounts are properly drawn up so as to give a fair reflection of the charity's affairs for the year ended 31st August 2023. I would, however, recommend for the purposes of both security and good financial management, that £50,000 is withdrawn from the bank and placed on deposit with another provider, with two signatories required for withdrawal. I would also recommend that a working sum of approximately £10,000 is kept in the current account, and the balance is held on deposit, again with the security of two signatories.



Michael A.W. Jones
MA (Cantab) FCCA

June 3rd 2024