

South Powys Youth Music

Report of the Trustees
and Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st August 2024

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Information about the charity

TRUSTEES: Nicholas Gedge (Chair)
 Fiona Corbett
 Flora York Skinner
 Melanie Newton
 Barney Sampson
 Sally Raikes

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1121625

Report of the Trustees

For the year ended August 31st 2024

Structure Governance and Management

Governing Document

South Powys Youth Music is a registered charity governed by a 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 (i) Lloyds TSB, 54 Cross Street, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 5HB and (ii) The Charity Bank.

Trustees

The Trustees who served in the year ending 31st August 2024 were:

Nicholas Gedge (Chair)

Martyn King (until 30.05.24)

Fiona Corbett

Flora York Skinner

Jodine Fec (until 17.06.24 - Treasurer)

Melanie Newton (from 22.01.24)

Barney Sampson (from 17.06.24 – Treasurer)

Sally Raikes (from 17.06.24)

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 periodically participates in roadshows which visit schools in the area to give 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 2023 - 2024

Shortly before the start of the autumn term Tim Cronin, Musical Director of SPYM for many years, decided to step down from his role at SPYM. Tim had been an integral part of SPYM for around twenty years and had been musical director for more than half of that time. Under his expert direction SPYM made great progress and the quality and size of SPYO grew – especially in the heady days of around 2012 to 2014 when SPYM held residential courses with their counterparts from north Powys and would get together to form an all Powys Youth Orchestra – to a point where it could barely fit on the stage at Theatr Brycheiniog. Many young musicians in South Powys owe Tim an enormous debt of gratitude as indeed does SPYM and everyone associated with SPYM. He was an inspirational leader and a tireless champion for the cause of promoting musical education and musical opportunities for children and young people in the area. SPYM was enormously lucky to have him for that period and his departure was of course keenly felt.

SPYM's excellent team of tutors stepped up to fill the gap left by Tim's departure and worked – as ever – with tireless enthusiasm and dedication. We had some new recruits as well with Pedro Goncalves, Joanna Azevedo and Sue Bird all joining the team. Pedro and Joanna are both violinists and Sue a pianist. With her particular expertise and experience in teaching and enthusing young people Sue (who is director of Suzuki Piano for Wales and the UK) plays a vital role in accompanying and assisting in the work Jeni Stokes does with SPYM's youngest string players. Angharad McGreevy and Sarah Emmerson have also come into the tutor team. Both were previously SPYM volunteers who proved themselves to be essential to the running of the Percussion Group and Stringtastic and we are very lucky to have them on board.

There have also been changes of personnel behind the scenes with Jodine Fec departing from her role as trustee and treasurer and with Barney Sampson joining to replace her in those roles and with Sally Raikes and Mel Newton also joining us as trustees. All at SPYM have cause to be very grateful to Jodine for the work that she so kindly did and all at SPYM also are very grateful to Barney, Mel and Sally for coming on board too.

SPYM has, as usual, had a busy year. It started with SPYM tutors attending two days of Continuing Professional Development at the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea. It is – we

think – the first time that SPYM tutors have collectively had this opportunity and sincere thanks are due to Lynsey McCrohon, Powys Strategic Lead for Music and the Expressive Arts, for making this possible. Later in the autumn term SPYO, directed by Berri Munn, played at Theatr Brycheiniog in the Monday evening concert at the Brecon Baroque Festival. This was the first time they had done so since the 2019 Festival not long after which the activities of SPYM were so disrupted by the Covid pandemic. It is excellent that SPYM has resumed its association with this acclaimed festival and it is hoped that this will continue in the future.

The autumn term also featured Kath Davies running an outreach workshop for pupils and staff at a special school unit in Ystradgynlais for children with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. There was also the usual end of term SPYM Christmas concert, with a special rendition for Tim of 'Thank you for the Music' performed by all SPYM attendees, with words written by Kath and Alan Davies. That concert didn't bring the autumn term activities to an end as it was followed soon afterwards by SPYM's now annual appearance playing at the Brecon Christmas Farmers' Market. It was excellent also to see some of the younger children performing in small groups and also as soloists on this occasion. This is the first time that this has happened at that event and the children are to be applauded for their courage and confidence in performing on such a public stage.

SPYM's activities continued as usual in January 2024 with the term's work culminating in an end of term Easter concert. SPYM's AGM in January found itself in a new home at Brecon Guildhall. It was a venue which worked really well and, whether coincidentally or not, attendance at the AGM was significantly higher than it had been for many years.

The summer term included an appearance by SPYM Choir, led by Kath and Alan Davies at a Welcome Event at Brecon High School, organised by Hay, Brecon & Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugees. The choir sang to the visiting families and not only did the choir give them a warm and lovely welcome, they also invited them to join in with some of the singing. The term concluded with a Summer concert at which the annual SPYM Trophy was awarded jointly to Lewis Papageorgiou and Catherine

Morris both of whom had been keen SPYM members for some time and who were both leaving school to head for pastures new.

Later in the summer members of SPYM choir, along with other children from local primary schools, met in The Foundry in Brecon over three weeks to rehearse songs to perform at the Brecon Choir Festival. Much hard work was done and much fun was had learning new music in such a short time, and the resulting 'Foundry Choir' led by Angharad sang in St Mary's Church over the Brecon Choir Festival weekend in July. This was a free event for the families involved.

Further summer activities included a holiday workshop in Kensington Chapel led by Jeni Stokes and Louise Hogan that was open to all our young violinists. This also focused on musical notation and theory, and at the end of the session there was a short performance for parents. This, again, was an event that was free for families. Also during the summer Sue Bird held a series of lunchtime concerts in Brecon Cathedral, one of which also featured Alan Davies and it was excellent to see young SPYM members in the audience at these concerts.

Shake, Rattle & Roll also, under the inspirational leadership of Kath and Alan Davies, continued to hold regular weekly sessions in Kensington Chapel throughout the year. These sessions are immensely popular, and are regularly booked up within 10 minutes of the booking opening each week and provide an important "way in" to music for toddlers in the area.

SPYM also has a stock of instruments which has over time grown in size thanks to various donations. Many are stored in Brecon Guildhall, and our thanks go to Brecon Town Council for helping SPYM in this way. Jeni Stokes, Alan Davies and Sally Morris have made a start on cataloguing and auditing SPYM's instruments and ensuring that they are in good repair and arranging for any necessary repair work to be carried out. The full audit will take some time to complete but it is an important task given the importance of SPYM having instruments available for young learners to hire. Thanks must go to Jeni, Alan and Sally for their work in this regard.

SPYM has also been fortunate to receive some very generous donations this year. The most significant of these has been a commitment by Di Walker – originally from the Brecon area but now living elsewhere – to give SPYM £10,000 in this year and in each of the next four years. This extraordinarily generous gift has, as it is a long term commitment, given SPYM a good deal of confidence to plan for – and hopefully expand in – the coming years. There have also been very kind donations from Brecon Baroque Festival, Aberhonddu and District Male Choir and Crickhowell Choral Society. There was also an extremely generous donation of £5,000 from an anonymous donor. In addition to this there are a number of regular friends and supporters of SPYM who gave generously too. SPYM is enormously grateful to all of these extremely kind and generous donors,

In terms of numbers the autumn term of 2023 saw twenty new recruits joining SPYM following the first “try it for free” week to which twenty four children had responded. SPYM’s regular Wednesday groups consisted of choir, percussion, - Stringtastic (beginner strings), String Machine (intermediate strings), beginner cello group and orchestra (SPYO). SPYM ended the Spring term with a healthy number of 71 members attending regularly. That number inevitably fell a little in the summer due to fewer older members attending because of impending GCSEs and A levels but SPYM looks forward with confidence to the year starting in September 2024.

As ever I would like to express my thanks to the excellent group of tutors that SPYM is so lucky to have. Thanks are due too to the dedicated group of adult volunteers who do so much to help SPYM function as it does. I would also like to express my thanks to SPYM’s trustees who do so much work – often unseen – in the background. Finally I would like to express my very personal thanks to Sally Morris who is really the most superb administrator. She is hugely efficient and extraordinarily adept at identifying issues – or potential issues – long before they arise. SPYM really is extremely lucky to have her.

NICK GEDGE
CHAIR OF SPYM
JANUARY 2025

SPYM Treasurer's Report 2023/24

South Powys Youth Music

Profit and Loss Account for year ended 31 August 2024

Income	Un-restricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Subs	10,213		10,213
Powys CC Funding		4,995	4,995
Other Grants	2,500		2,500
Concert Income	1,627		1,627
SRR	6,352		6,352
Refreshments/Tuck	620		620
Instrument Hire	1,380		1,380
Workshops		333	333
Donations/ Friends	17,930		17,930
T-Shirts/Hoodies	550		550
Tim's Collection moneys (not for P&L)			
Gift Aid			-
Baroque Festival	1,561		1,561
Raffles	743		743
Farmers Market fee	120		120
Farmers Market collection	97		97
Bank interest	713		713
TOTAL	44,405	5,328	49,733
Expenditure	Un-restricted £	Restricted £	Total £
SPYM Tutors	23,231		23,231
SRR Tutors	5,810		5,810
Outreach & Taster tutors		1,472.00	1,472
First experiences tutors		1033	1,033

Instruments Purchase / Repair	247		247	
Mileage/Transport	11,746	226.00	11,972	
Sheet Music	10		10	
Stationery & Copying	98		98	
Support & Admin	4,227		4,227	
Tuck & Refreshments	369		369	
Venue Hire BHS	-		-	
Venue Hire SRR	645		645	
Venue Hire outreach	-		-	
T shirts/Hoodies	617		617	
Liability insurance	600		600	
DBS checks	295		295	
Training/First Aid/Child protection	124		124	
Other	40		40	
TOTAL	48,288	2,731	51,018	
				Restricted
				Un-restricted £ £ Total £
Surplus/Deficit for the year				(8,653) 2,598 (6,055)
Balance Sheet				
Balance at start of year	71,823.84			
Surplus / deficit	(1,285.08)			
Closing balance	70,538.76			

Summary of Income

The majority of income received came from weekly subs from SPYM and Shake, Rattle and Roll, and also from donations from friends of SPYM, including one very generous donation of £10,000, the first of five similar consecutive annual donations. 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

Funding from Powys County Council was specifically for the 'First Experiences' programme, part of the National Plan for Music Education, and delivered by SPYM tutors in Llangynidr, Crickhowell, Llanidloes and Maesydderwen. This accounted for 10% of the income. No core funding was received for regular or outreach sessions.

Remaining income comprised

5% other grants (see below)

20% SPYM subscriptions

13% Shake Rattle and Roll subscriptions

36% Donations/Friends of SPYM

16% income from concerts, instrument hire, Gift Aid and other small amounts

Grants

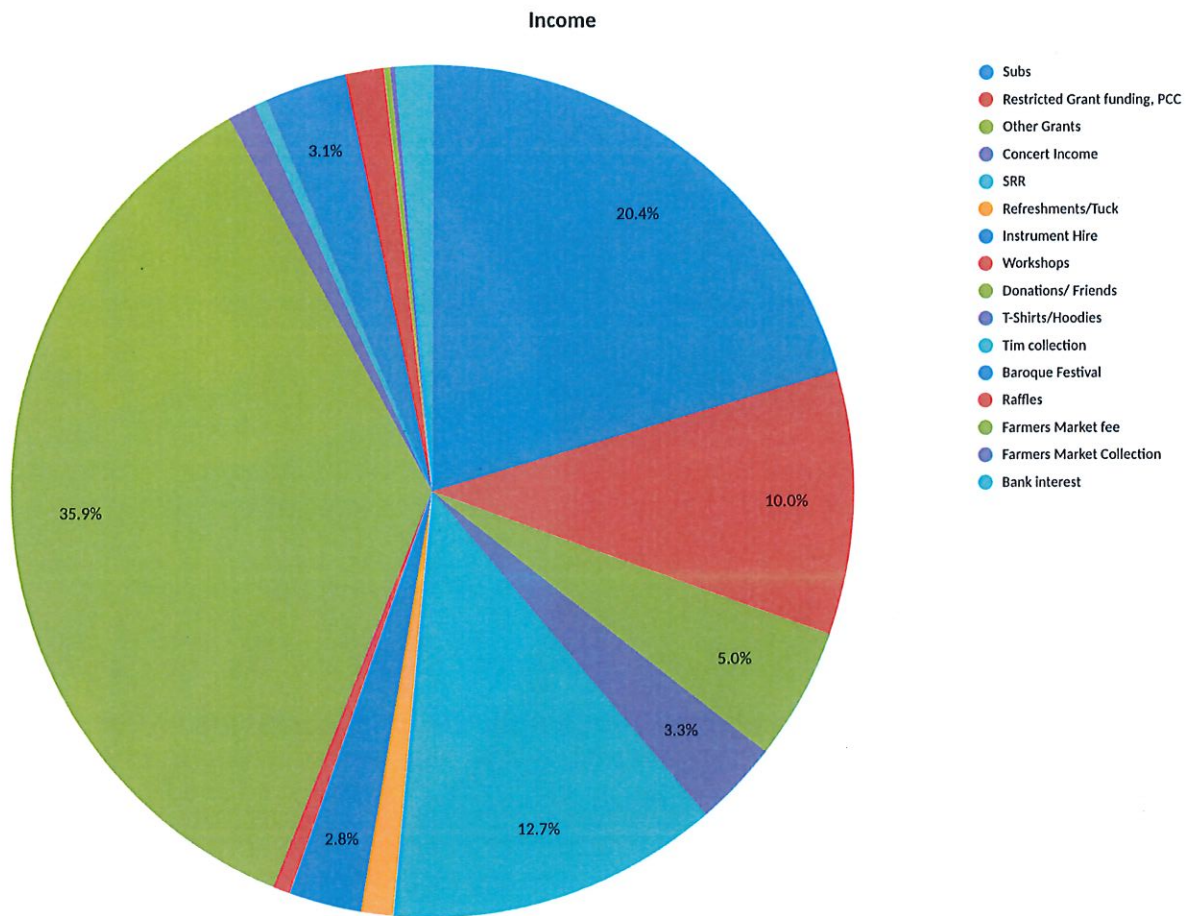
A further grant of £2500 was received from the Mid Wales Music Trust towards tuition in SPYM sessions and subsidised music lessons. We are most grateful to the MWMT for their continuing support.

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 £18,174 remains available entering the financial year 2024/25.

South Powys Youth Music Profit and Loss Account - Restricted funds for year ended 31 August 2024

Income	Restricted £s
First experiences outreach - tutors	4769
First experiences outreach - mileage	226
Workshops	333
TOTAL	5328
Expenditure	
First experiences - tutors	1033
First experiences - mileage	226
Workshops - tutor costs	1472
TOTAL	2731
Balance Sheet	
Balance at start of year	15577
Surplus/deficit	2598
Closing balance	18174



Summary of Expenditure

44% of expenditure was spent on tutoring fees during regular SPYM sessions

5% on Outreach including First Experiences

11% on Shake, Rattle & Roll (SRR) tutors

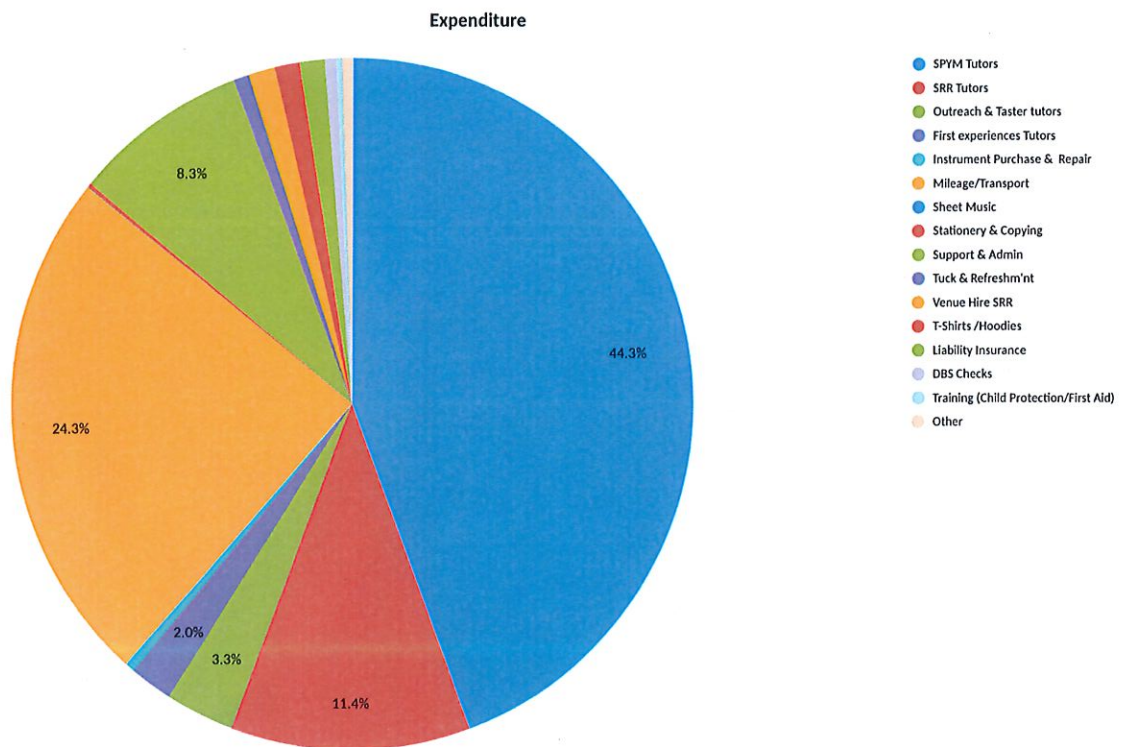
8% on management, support and administration

1% on venue hire for SRR (no invoices were received from BHS during this period)

24% on mileage & transport (this includes the Hay bus hire for two years)

2% on insurance & DBS

5% on other items



Shake, Rattle & Roll

SRR	£ Expenditure	£ Income
Income - Subs		6352
Expenditure - tutors	5810	
Expenditure - venue hire	645	
Expenditure - admin	584	
Expenditure - TOTAL	7039	
Surplus/Deficit		(687)

Wednesday sessions

Regular Wednesday sessions - direct costs	£ Expenditure	£ Income
Income - Subs		10,213
Concert income & raffles		2,370
Tuck income		620
Income - TOTAL		13,203
Expenditure - tutors	23,231	
Expenditure - venue hire	0	
Expenditure - rehearsal supervisor	1280	
Tuck expenditure	369	
Expenditure - Hay bus (1 year)	5,100	
	29,980	
Surplus/Deficit		(16,777)

Observations

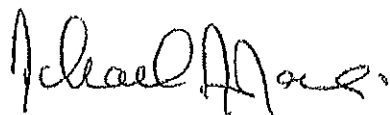
SPYM's cash position remains healthy with a closing balance of £65,538, largely thanks to two extremely generous donations, one of which is the first of a series of five similar donations, giving us confidence to plan, and expand where we can. It should be noted however, that the expenditure shows two years' of costs for the Hay bus; this is for the two years ending August 2023, as no invoice has as yet been received for 2023/24. In addition, no invoices were received for the hire of Brecon High School for the weekly SPYM sessions; this is contrary to expectations.

The above table of expenses for the Wednesday sessions show a large deficit of over £16K; this would not be sustainable without our generous donors, who allow us to keep our weekly subs low, making our sessions as accessible as we can. In addition through the year we have supported between five and seven families eligible for free school meals whose children have attended sessions and borrowed instruments at no charge. Furthermore, there is no charge for the use of the bus which brings children from Fairfield and Hay schools every week; this again has been to aid accessibility. Between 11 and 14 youngsters use the bus. However, the trustees have agreed that in future, parents of children using the bus will be invited to make a donation towards the cost, if they would like and are able to do so.

It is widely acknowledged that many schools are unable to provide a broad musical education, and there have been no subsidised instrumental lessons, nor a county music service in Powys for some years. SPYM has been working closely with Lynsey McCrohon, the Powys Strategic Lead for Music and the Expressive Arts, to give all children the opportunity to experience making music together. Continued efforts must now be made to increase the number of children attending SPYM, to

experience the joys and benefits of music making, and in so doing increasing our weekly income allowing us to continue our low cost, high quality, group music provision.

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 2024.



Michael A.W. Jones
MA (Cantab) FCCA

February 3rd 2025