

THE VOICE PROJECT

The Voice Project - Directors' Report for The Voice Project to March 31st 2023

Introduction



The Voice Project is an innovative open-access choral theatre project, creating original community performances across Norfolk, Suffolk and Sussex. Our life-enhancing work brings people together to enjoy regular accessible arts activity. Our mission is to include and inspire, using the human voice as a starting point for collective acts of creative wonder and meaning. We know that singing in a group creates social bonds, reduces loneliness, improves mental and physical health. These benefits *“all occur alongside things like decreases in blood pressure, decreases in muscle tension, decreases in heart rate, and the activation of reward pathways in the brain,”* (Dr Daisy Fancourt at University College London’s Institute of Epidemiology & Healthcare)

'Being in The Voice Project Choir has reduced my sense of isolation and increased my access to creative arts, singing and keeping connected' (VP Choir member)

We offer regular, uplifting singing which supports people through all kinds of challenging life experiences. Many choir members have experienced ill health and bereavement and come to the Voice Project for support with physical and psychological recovery. It is cited by many of our project participants as 'a lifeline'.

The Voice Project has been creating large-scale, site-responsive performances since 2008. Both Directors have spent their careers working in arts learning and participation, often with disadvantaged groups of adults and children which has inspired the Project's open access principles. Over the next few years, we anticipate working with over 1000 participants in person and up to 2000 audience members with a greater reach online through streamed performances, rehearsals and workshops. The impact of our work is demonstrated by the overwhelmingly positive feedback we have received from participants, audience members, partners and professional colleagues, many of whom have been inspired and supported to create their own community projects, over 15 years, and a certain knowledge that we are an essential part of the social and cultural life of Norfolk, Suffolk and Sussex. We have created over 30 performance projects, each of which is built around a choir of over 100 singers, working alongside a team of professional musicians, performers and production staff.

We have won Eastern Daily Press People's Choice Award 2013/14, Music Award 2021 - Richmond USA Film Festival Award - Best Experimental Music Category 2022.

Every project starts with taster sessions designed to welcome new people into the group. Through our positive and caring creative process, participants learn new singing and performance skills, make new friends and surprise themselves by contributing to a very high quality final result, usually reserved for those with traditional music education.

Organisation

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Directors

Sian Croose and Jon Baker have continued in their roles as Co -Directors, designing and delivering the programme, project managing and fundraising as well as creating artistic content and rehearsing and directing performances.

Project Coordinator, Steph Potts has been working on course and project bookings, marketing, social media and day-to-day book-keeping.' Our financial management systems have worked to manage all the variations in income, expenditure and cash-flow effectively.

Joseph Nemeth has been employed as financial consultant/accountant.

Associate Artists

We have worked with our associate artists on performance projects as well as sharing information with our community regarding their other activities.

Funding

Successful funding bids

ACE Project Grant Arc of the Sky Live.

Crowdfunding for the Distance Between Us.

Norfolk County Council

Paul Bassham Trust

Sponsorship/Charitable Giving/Support in Kind

We have had generous donations from individuals as well as support in kind from local partners, Norwich Arts Centre.

We have continued to offer a donation rate that participants can pay when signing up to a project and this has been a successful part of our fundraising strategy.

We carried out a Finance Survey about possible ways in which we could make the Voice Project more financially secure and sustainable.

The conclusions we drew from the responses of over 100 people were that

- Many people were prepared to pay slightly more for projects,

- A joining fee wasn't a popular option.
- Crowdfunders are effective but should be kept as occasional events
- Ticket prices were fair and a few people would be prepared to pay more.

Programme April 2022 - April 2023

Arc of the Sky - Alfriston June

Arc of the Sky - Blythburgh July

Distance Between Us - Norwich Jan 2023

Distance Between Us - Brighton Feb 2023

Open Voices courses throughout the year



Arc of the Sky, funded by an Arts Council Project Grant was performed live at Blythburgh Church in Suffolk and at Alfriston Church in Sussex.

A substantial number of singers from Brighton took part in the Blythburgh show and singers from Norwich took part at Alfriston. In addition, singers who had rehearsed online came to perform in Blythburgh.

*...it was a fantastic experience...I always feel so privileged to be part of your work ...
I'm very grateful and appreciative. As ever in awe of your musical skills and your
generosity and commitment to sharing these in the community.
Friends and family who were part of the audience said: beautiful beautiful music;
relaxing; pastoral; perfect summer evening; gorgeous location; loved the way we*

*sang in different parts of the church ..let the layers of sound wash over them;
conducting was extraordinary;
still singing about the skylarks; moving; just wonderful.*
Arc of the Sky Alfriston

We presented The Distance Between Us at the Halls in Norwich and St George's Church Kemptown, creating a live show staged for the two very different venues and based on the film created in lockdown which was the recipient of an award - Best in Category at the Richmond International Film Festival, Virginia USA. We incorporated sound design, designed lighting and theatre/ installation to create an original piece of choral theatre.

It allowed me to re-establish a long-dormant, and previously traumatic, relationship with music. Because of it I took up instrumental playing again. It also re-connected me to a love for singing, and for poetry - directly as a result of the setting of poetry to such beautiful music.

I have recently changed to singing Soprano, having suffered depression for the past 22 months the change (to Sop) was wonderfully uplifting, giving me a new experience for my voice and revitalising my enjoyment for singing again. Thank you.

I feel the singing lessons as we are taught and learn the songs has really developed my own voice and given me greater range and confidence with my own performance. I have also started writing poetry again, inspired by the project.

The confidence I gained from achieving this standard of singing has lead to improved well being in all areas of my life and I have now occasionally taught simple harmony songs to others.

I have always been told I was tone deaf and therefore discouraged from singing. Joining the choir has given me so much more confidence to enjoy music and singing as never before.

Being part of and observing how a performance is created, from start to finish, teaches you to expect more from yourself, as your contribution matters in making the whole piece.

Other Activities

We attended Caravan Assembly at the Brighton Festival, which enabled us to meet with international mentors with a view to take The Voice Project to international venues and audiences. We made some good contacts, which we would hope to be able to follow up when we have the resources.

Future Plans

As a company, we are committed to continuing to provide innovative, life-enhancing creative adventures for our community - a community that expands, evolves and develops with each work of art we produce. We will continue to offer opportunities for live singing in projects and courses whilst also keeping an online component to the organisation.

Future Funding plans

Arts Council England Project Grants

Case for Support to send to a range of Trusts and Foundations

Application to PRS - Open fund for Organisations

To support

Research and Development for a Summer Project with potential partners First Light/
Waveney and Blyth Arts / Brighton Festival /Holt Festival

Research and Development for Winter Songs featuring Errollyn Wallen and Michael Henry.
Scenius - our CPD programme expanded into a longer programme.

Participants and Audience

As the Voice Project evolves, the singers involved have the opportunity to contribute and develop a whole range of skills and are becoming more involved in the creative process. New partnerships in North Norfolk and East Suffolk will enable us to extend our reach and build audiences and recruit new participants.

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Conclusion

We had some great successes during this period, producing work that we are proud of and sustaining and expanding our supportive community of participants as well as developing our audiences .

We are rising to the challenges we face. We aim to re- resource the organisation, with more team members on projects to deliver the work at the level that we want to, maintaining standards, and looking after the wellbeing of our core team. With some time and dedicated resources we aim to develop a strategy that will ensure that the organisation is sustainable.

Sian Croose and Jonathan Baker

Directors – The Voice Project.

November 2023

THE VOICE PROJECT LIMITED

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**REGISTERED IN ENGLAND AND WALES
COMPANY NO. 06571713**

THE VOICE PROJECT LIMITED

COMPANY NUMBER	06571713 (ENGLAND AND WALES)
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	J.P.A. BAKER S.E. CROOSE
SECRETARY	S.E. CROOSE
REGISTERED OFFICE	90 UPPER ST GILES STREET NORWICH NORFOLK NR2 1LT
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1127925
REPORTING ACCOUNTANT	ACCOUNTANCY 121 56 ST WILLIAMS WAY THORPE ST ANDREW NORWICH NR7 0AP

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE VOICE PROJECT LIMITED

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 5.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43 (2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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

- examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act;
to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission
- under section 43 (7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF 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 statement below.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

ACCOUNTANCY 121
56 ST WILLIAMS WAY
NORWICH
NR7 0AP

THE VOICE PROJECT LIMITED

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

The Directors present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the company is to advance the education of the public in the arts and to promote health through involvement in health activity.

DIRECTORS

The Directors who served during the year were:-

J.P.A. Baker
S.E. Croose

STATUS

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital.
The company is a registered charity.

In preparing the above report, the Directors have taken advantage of special exemptions applicable to small companies.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS:



.....
J.P.A. BAKER
DIRECTOR

Approved by the Board:

19th June 2023

THE VOICE PROJECT LIMITED

Balance Sheet - 31st March 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	2	1,696	3,393
Current Assets			
Debtors and Prepayment		510	360
Cash at Bank and in Hand		7,667	9,343
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		8,177	9,703
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors and Deferred Income		1,498	11,592
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		6,679	(1,889)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Assets		£ 8,375	£ 1,504
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Financed by:-			
Profit and Loss Account	10	£ 8,375	£ 1,504
		<hr/>	<hr/>

For the year ending 31st March 2023 the company was entitled to an 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 in question in accordance with section 476.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility 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 provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Signed on behalf of the
Board of Directors:



.....
JPA Baker
Director

Approved by the Board: 19th June 2023

The Notes on pages 3 to 5 form part of these Accounts

THE VOICE PROJECT LIMITED

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2023

Notes	2022/23			2021/22
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
Income and Expenditure				
Incoming Resources				
Ticket Sales (Event Income)	15,039	-	15,039	570
Project Participants Courses	34,083	-	34,083	13,913
Grants (Trusts and Foundations) 1d	25,250	-	25,250	23,995
Commission Fees	941	-	941	34,940
Donations	11,119	-	11,119	3,333
CD Sales and Downloads	789	-	789	1,374
Open Voices Courses	10,119	-	10,119	-
Total Incoming Resources	£ 97,340	-	97,340	78,125
Resources Used				
Direct Charitable Expenditure				
Artist Fees and Casual Labour	21,358	-	21,358	28,434
Commission Fees	1,101	-	1,101	728
Directors' Fees	28,000	-	28,000	22,750
Production, Film & Stage Management	3,260	-	3,260	2,202
Merchandise Costs -Recording Choir CDs	1,718	-	1,718	645
Travelling, Accommodation & Subsistence	8,367	-	8,367	8,327
Hire Of Equipment	1,281	-	1,281	-
Catering	1,612	-	1,612	-
Room and Venue Hire	6,232	-	6,232	421
	72,929	-	72,929	63,507
Other Expenditure				
Administration and Management	3 15,843	-	15,843	25,344
Depreciation	2 1,697	-	1,697	1,697
	17,540	-	17,540	27,041
Total Resources Used				
	90,469	-	90,469	90,548
Net Incoming Resources				
	6,871	-	6,871	(12,423)
Balances brought forward as at 1st April 2022				
	1,504	-	1,504	13,927
Balances carried forward as at 31st March 2023				
	£ 8,375	-	£ 8,375	£ 1,504

The Notes on pages 3 to 5 form part of these Accounts

THE VOICE PROJECT LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost accounting convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities and incorporate the results of the principal activity which is described in the Directors' Report and which is continuing.

(b) Cash Flow

The accounts do not include a cash flow statement because the company, as a small reporting entity, is exempt from the requirement to prepare such a statement under Financial Reporting Standard 1 "Cash Flow Statements".

(c) Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of all tangible fixed assets, over their estimated useful lives at the following annual rate:-

Office Equipment	25% reducing balance
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(d) Grants and Sponsorships

Grants and Sponsorships are credited to the Profit and Loss account in accordance with the accruals concept.

(e) Unrestricted Funds

These are funds available to the charity for its general purposes, and use of such funds remains at the discretion of the charity's management committee.

(f) Restricted Funds

These are funds subject to the conditions proposed by the donor or by the specific terms of the appeal under which the funds are realised.

2. Tangible Assets

	Office Equipment	Total
Cost - 31.03.2022	8,498	8,498
Additions	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cost - 31.03.2023	8,498	8,498
	-----	-----
Depreciation - 31.03.2022	5,105	5,105
Charge in the year to 31.03.2023	1,697	1,697
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation - 31.03.2023	6,802	6,802
	-----	-----
Net Book Value - 31.03.2022	3,393	3,393
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Book Value - 31.03.2023	1,696	1,696

THE VOICE PROJECT LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

3. Administration and Management

	2023	2022
Coordinator and Administrator Fees	11,120	6,964
Bookkeeping & Accounting Fees	1,230	1,974
Organisational Development	-	10,800
Insurance	507	479
Marketing & Promotion	2,045	112
Web Maintenance and IT Costs	531	3,838
Repairs and Renewals- Equipment	50	510
Bank Charges	40	5
Sundry	45	349
Stationery, Postage and Office Consumables	275	313
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 15,843	£ 25,344
	<hr/>	<hr/>

4. Surplus on Ordinary Activities is stated after Charging:-

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation - Owned Assets	1,697	1,697
Directors' Remuneration	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

5. Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is not subject to Corporation Tax.

6. Creditors Due within one year

	2023	2022
Deferred Income	445	8,560
Creditors	1,053	3,032
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 1,498	£ 11,592
	<hr/>	<hr/>

7. Contingent Liabilities

There were no Contingent Liabilities

8. Capital Commitments

At the end of the financial period the Directors have neither contracted for nor authorised the commitment of any capital expenditure.

THE VOICE PROJECT LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

9. Company Status

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital.

10. Profit and Loss Account

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Balance at 1 st April 2022	4	1,500	1,504	13,927
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	6,871	-	6,871	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31 st March 2023	£ 6,875	£ 1,500	£ 8,375	£ 13,927
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

THE VOICE PROJECT LIMITED

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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COMPANY NO. 06571713**

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S.E. Croose

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SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD
OF DIRECTORS:



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J.P.A. BAKER
DIRECTOR

Approved by the Board:

19th June 2023

THE VOICE PROJECT LIMITED

Balance Sheet - 31st March 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	2	1,696	3,393
Current Assets			
Debtors and Prepayment		510	360
Cash at Bank and in Hand		7,667	9,343
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Creditors and Deferred Income		1,498	11,592
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Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		6,679	(1,889)
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Net Assets		£ 8,375	£ 1,504
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Profit and Loss Account	10	£ 8,375	£ 1,504
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The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Signed on behalf of the
Board of Directors:



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JPA Baker
Director

Approved by the Board: 19th June 2023

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THE VOICE PROJECT LIMITED

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Incoming Resources				
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Commission Fees	941	-	941	34,940
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Total Incoming Resources	£ 97,340	-	97,340	78,125
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Travelling, Accommodation & Subsistence	8,367	-	8,367	8,327
Hire Of Equipment	1,281	-	1,281	-
Catering	1,612	-	1,612	-
Room and Venue Hire	6,232	-	6,232	421
	72,929	-	72,929	63,507
Other Expenditure				
Administration and Management 3	15,843	-	15,843	25,344
Depreciation 2	1,697	-	1,697	1,697
	17,540	-	17,540	27,041
Total Resources Used				
	90,469	-	90,469	90,548
Net Incoming Resources				
	6,871	-	6,871	(12,423)
Balances brought forward as at 1st April 2022				
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Balances carried forward as at 31st March 2023				
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THE VOICE PROJECT LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

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(b) Cash Flow

The accounts do not include a cash flow statement because the company, as a small reporting entity, is exempt from the requirement to prepare such a statement under Financial Reporting Standard 1 "Cash Flow Statements".

(c) Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of all tangible fixed assets, over their estimated useful lives at the following annual rate:-

Office Equipment	25% reducing balance
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(d) Grants and Sponsorships

Grants and Sponsorships are credited to the Profit and Loss account in accordance with the accruals concept.

(e) Unrestricted Funds

These are funds available to the charity for its general purposes, and use of such funds remains at the discretion of the charity's management committee.

(f) Restricted Funds

These are funds subject to the conditions proposed by the donor or by the specific terms of the appeal under which the funds are realised.

2. Tangible Assets

	Office Equipment	Total
Cost - 31.03.2022	8,498	8,498
Additions	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cost - 31.03.2023	8,498	8,498
	-----	-----
Depreciation - 31.03.2022	5,105	5,105
Charge in the year to 31.03.2023	1,697	1,697
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation - 31.03.2023	6,802	6,802
	-----	-----
Net Book Value - 31.03.2022	3,393	3,393
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Book Value - 31.03.2023	1,696	1,696

THE VOICE PROJECT LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

3. Administration and Management

	2023	2022
Coordinator and Administrator Fees	11,120	6,964
Bookkeeping & Accounting Fees	1,230	1,974
Organisational Development	-	10,800
Insurance	507	479
Marketing & Promotion	2,045	112
Web Maintenance and IT Costs	531	3,838
Repairs and Renewals- Equipment	50	510
Bank Charges	40	5
Sundry	45	349
Stationery, Postage and Office Consumables	275	313
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 15,843	£ 25,344
	<hr/>	<hr/>

4. Surplus on Ordinary Activities is stated after Charging:-

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation - Owned Assets	1,697	1,697
Directors' Remuneration	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

5. Taxation

The company is a registered charity and is not subject to Corporation Tax.

6. Creditors Due within one year

	2023	2022
Deferred Income	445	8,560
Creditors	1,053	3,032
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 1,498	£ 11,592
	<hr/>	<hr/>

7. Contingent Liabilities

There were no Contingent Liabilities

8. Capital Commitments

At the end of the financial period the Directors have neither contracted for nor authorised the commitment of any capital expenditure.

THE VOICE PROJECT LIMITED

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

9. Company Status

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital.

10. Profit and Loss Account

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Balance at 1 st April 2022	4	1,500	1,504	13,927
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	6,871	-	6,871	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31 st March 2023	£ 6,875	£ 1,500	£ 8,375	£ 13,927
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>