

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07129908 (England and Wales)  
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1138309

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND  
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023  
FOR  
THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**



**= GibsonBooth** LTD

Chartered Accountants, Business Advisers & Statutory Auditor

12 Victoria Road  
Barnsley  
South Yorkshire  
S70 2BB

## **THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

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## **THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023**

#### **TRUSTEES**

P R Beere  
D Bennett Trustee (resigned 15.9.22)  
Ms F Johnstone  
H A Stephenson  
N C Stevens  
Mrs J Beere Trustee (deceased 23.10.22)  
Ms M Bedford (appointed 1.4.22)

#### **REGISTERED OFFICE**

17 Montalbo Road  
Barnard Castle  
Co. Durham  
DL12 8BP

**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER** 07129908 (England and Wales)

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER** 1138309

#### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Gibson Booth Limited  
12 Victoria Road  
Barnsley  
South Yorkshire  
S70 2BB

## **THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2019).

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives and aims**

The Brass in Concert Championship is a charitable, brass band music festival and youth brass development organisation based in the North East of England at our resident auditorium of Sage Gateshead. As at the end of January 2023 the Brass in Concert organisation has successfully delivered 45 annual festivals and over the last 6 years has expanded its mission through a relationship with Newcastle and Northumberland music hubs (Music Partnership North) to deliver a growing number of elementary youth brass educational projects. The festival is widely considered the most prestigious brass band entertainment festival in the World and remains dedicated to supporting and promoting brass banding activities through showcasing the finest and World's highest ranked brass bands.

## **THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023**

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Significant activities**

The financial year 2022-23 saw further significant progress on the board's multi year phased and risk managed plan to return the festival to its pre pandemic size and scope on 18th and 19th November 2022. That multi year plan was also seen by the board as an opportunity to revisit each component of the festival, to inspect and as necessary change and improve the commercial viability, geographical location (for the Youth components only) and delivery model.

The 2021 festival gave us good financial data and both audience and competing band feedback that informed our plans on how to structure the festival for 2022 and beyond to ensure its ongoing viability and future development.

The two main conclusions from the 2021 festival review that informed our key decisions for 2022 were that:

(1) The move of the main Brass in Concert Championship from its historical norm of a Sunday event to a Saturday delivered:

- Our highest ever box office ticket sales - perceived as a vote from our ticket buying patrons that Saturday was preferable to Sunday for the Brass in Concert Championship
- Clear and unambiguous feedback from the majority of competing bands that they were more likely to accept invitations to the Brass in Concert Championship due to ease of travel and greater social convenience of a Saturday. Thus the risk of "target" highly ranked bands not accepting invitations is significantly reduced.

(2) Holding Youth Brass in Concert and Brass in Concert Championship on the same day was not feasible due to:

- The late finishing time of the Championship which led to reduced audience numbers later in the day
- No room for expansion of Youth Brass in Concert
- The length of the working day for staff and volunteers

Based on the above conclusions, in the financial year 2022-23 we presented the Brass in Concert Championship with 12 World class bands competing on Saturday 19th November 2022. Box office sales were again excellent with approximately 1400 paying patrons in attendance. Feedback from bands and patrons continued to be extremely positive regarding the change to a Saturday.

A festival party was introduced as a new concept and concluding element of the festival, enabling players and audience to mingle and socialise in the concourse areas. This proved a successful new initiative that the board intend to trial further in 2023.

Other new initiatives included a seeded draw for the Championship and a complimentary drink for each competing player. Both these initiatives were well received and the board intend to adopt the seeded draw as standard and review the complimentary drink initiative once ticket sales figures are known for 2023 and an accurate forecast for the financial year 2023/24 is available.

Our education programme was relaunched during October 2022 with workshops at various locations in Newcastle and Northumberland. The project was by far our biggest and most ambitious project to date.

## **THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023**

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

All 328 students performed on the main stage at the iconic Sage Gateshead auditorium to a near capacity audience of friends, families and local dignitaries. The concert itself was just the culmination in a complex project pulling together brass elementary and intermediate students from across the north east from a diverse range of backgrounds. The workshops that were held before the main event and were created and delivered by the inspirational leadership from one of the UK's finest brass educators and supported by local school and music hub brass teachers.

This was added to by the unique experience of being able to perform in such a prestigious venue. The feedback we have had from the students, their teachers and the parents is that this has gone a very long way to ensuring these students remain motivated to continue learning and practicing their instruments and we know that many of the students have already fed through to regular playing in local community and school bands and other musical ensembles that ensure the future of brass banding and music more generally in the whole geographical area is enriched and secured.

The project was funded through donations from our main sponsors and grants from trusts and foundations. The project cemented our strong partnership with both Music Partnership North (MPN) who project managed and administered the project and Brass Bands England who provided the musical direction and acted as the artistic advisors.

Youth Brass in Concert was postponed in 2022 whilst we undertook a strategic review of this element of the festival taking into account its historic audience numbers, ticket and other sources of income, number of competing youth bands, costs to run and our vision for its future etc. Our expectation was to complete that review in 2023 and to relaunch a redesigned and potentially relocated Youth Brass in Concert in 2024. This review will be done in partnership with Brass Bands England.

Similarly the reintroduction of a Gala Concert was deferred until 2023 whilst we gather more data on live event take-up post pandemic, particularly data in our brass band sector and the geography of NE England.

In terms of the overall evaluation of the festival by the sector press, the artists (the bands) and a significant amount of audience feedback the festival was once again heralded a success and the strategic changes to the format appear to have been positive and now form a foundation on which to further build in 2023.

## **THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023**

#### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **Charitable activities**

The Brass in Concert Championship continues to provide a platform for the finest brass bands in the world to entertain and display, free of artistic restriction, their excellence as performers of high-quality original and arranged brass band music.

This is achieved through creative and inspiring programmes and presentation reflecting the most current and progressive form of the genre, designed to appeal to both the general listener and enthusiasts of the discipline alike.

Our Youth and Education activities are progressively being designed to showcase all that is good in live music and deliver and support opportunity for young people to have the right to sample and learn a brass or percussion instrument regardless of background.

As reported in the Trustees report for the year ended 31 January 2022 a number of initiatives were undertaken in 2020 and 2021 to develop and modernise our core delivery processes and procedures and the board can now report these are now all documented and complete.

The formal partnering and service agreements that we began to put in place in 2021 are now maturing with our strategic partners to ensure the ongoing success of the festival. These relate to Music Partnership North (MPN) where the now signed agreement formalises the scope and operating arrangements of the partnership on Educational projects.

Similarly with Brass Bands England (BBE) we have now formalised and successfully utilised the support services partnership for the delivery of project management, grant writing, marketing and artistic advisory they provide to Brass in Concert. These partnership agreements have been duly approved by the board and authorised by the CEO and all financial implications have been included in the 2022/23 accounts and 2023/24 budgets by our Finance Director.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Reserves policy**

The reserves that we have set aside provide financial stability and the means for the development of our principal activity. We intend to maintain our reserves at a level which is at least equivalent to £25,000, rising to £40,000 over the next 10 years. We intend to use the reserves to invest in and develop the Brass in Concert Festival event over this time frame.

The Board annually review the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil our continuing obligations.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

## **THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023**

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Changes to the Board of Trustees**

In line with these objectives and activities the trustees have made the following changes to the board of trustees in the period:

Marie Bedford (FCCA) formally joined the board as the Finance Director after supporting Brass in Concert Championship Ltd in an advisory/project basis since late 2020. Gibson Booth Ltd continued to act as our accountants due to the experience they have of supporting organisations within the brass band sector.

The board was deeply saddened at the passing of Jacqueline (Jackie) Beere in October 2022, a long time Director of the company, wife of our Chairman Paul Beere and the administrative driving force behind the Brass in Concert Championship since its inception in 1977. Tributes were paid to Jackie and her service to Brass in Concert at various points of the 2022 festival but notably by Houghton Youth Band whose musical tributes will be long remembered.

During Paul Beere's absence from the board in 2022 David Bennett (Honorary President) acted as Interim Chairman. The board would like to sincerely thank David for taking on these additional responsibilities during this difficult time.

##### **Governance**

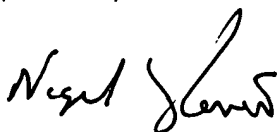
The board has continued to hold both trustee and operational meetings on-line during this financial year agreeing that it was continuing to deliver excellent results in conducting business effectively and in terms of cost savings. On site meetings at Sage Gateshead were limited to two occasions in the period.

##### **In Conclusion**

This year was again notable for the continuing successful delivery of the Brass in Concert Championship and its associated Educational Programme at Sage Gateshead. This was only made possible through the strengthening of the partnerships in place with our sponsors (World of Brass, Banks Group, Yamaha Music) our Educational Project partner (Music Partnership North) and our delivery partner (Brass Bands England).

The board have worked diligently throughout this financial year to continue the progress made in 2021 to overcome multiple challenges in terms of much needed modernisation and reform to the way we manage and deliver the festival. We now have significantly better financial management reporting, formal service delivery contracts with our strategic partners which provide professional skills and advisory services to the board. This continues to provide a firm foundation on which to build further sources of funding, build appropriate reserves and ensure we remain connected and relevant to a changing brass band sector.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 30 June 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



N C Stevens - Trustee

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Brass In Concert Championship ('the Company')**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 January 2023.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

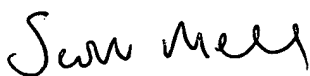
## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

### Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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
4. 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.



Scott Mell

Gibson Booth Limited  
12 Victoria Road  
Barnsley  
South Yorkshire  
S70 2BB

Date: ..... 3 July 2023 .....

# THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

	Notes	31.1.23 Unrestricted fund £	31.1.22 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies		<b>22,249</b>	42,998
Other trading activities	2	<b>73,959</b>	64,542
<b>Total</b>		<b>96,208</b>	107,540
 <b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Provision of events		<b>86,512</b>	61,666
 <b>NET INCOME</b>		<b>9,696</b>	45,874
 <b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward		<b>23,403</b>	(22,471)
 <b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>33,099</b>	23,403

The notes form part of these financial statements

# THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

## BALANCE SHEET 31 JANUARY 2023

	Notes	31.1.23 Unrestricted fund £	31.1.22 Total funds £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	4	1,298	7,041
Cash at bank		35,656	20,263
		<u>36,954</u>	<u>27,304</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	5	(3,855)	(3,901)
		<u>33,099</u>	<u>23,403</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
		<u>33,099</u>	<u>23,403</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>33,099</u>	<u>23,403</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>33,099</u>	<u>23,403</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	6		
Unrestricted funds		33,099	23,403
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u>33,099</u>	<u>23,403</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 January 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

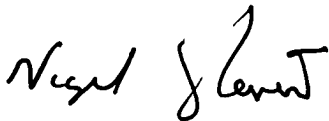
The notes form part of these financial statements

## THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

### BALANCE SHEET - continued 31 JANUARY 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 30 June 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel J Stevens'.

N C Stevens - Trustee

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Significant judgements and estimates**

No judgements have been made in the process of applying the below accounting policies that have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

There are no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

**Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

## THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

#### 2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	31.1.23	31.1.22
	£	£
Ticket and programme sales	45,854	40,352
Media and advertising	1,975	2,085
Sponsorship and streaming	22,780	19,405
Prize donations	1,500	1,500
School hub match funding	500	-
Coach parking	100	100
Performance lighting	1,200	1,100
Rehearsal room hire	50	-
	<u>73,959</u>	<u>64,542</u>

#### 3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 January 2023 nor for the year ended 31 January 2022.

##### Trustees' expenses

The reimbursement of trustees expenses during the year was £1,569 (2022 - £442).

#### 4. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.1.23	31.1.22
	£	£
Trade debtors	1,224	130
VAT	74	6,911
	<u>1,298</u>	<u>7,041</u>

# THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

### 5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.1.23	31.1.22
	£	£
Trade creditors	97	2,401
Accruals and deferred income	3,758	1,500
	<u>3,855</u>	<u>3,901</u>

### 6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.2.22	Net movement in funds	At 31.1.23
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	23,403	9,696	33,099
	<u>23,403</u>	<u>9,696</u>	<u>33,099</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>23,403</u>	<u>9,696</u>	<u>33,099</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	96,208	(86,512)	9,696
	<u>96,208</u>	<u>(86,512)</u>	<u>9,696</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>96,208</u>	<u>(86,512)</u>	<u>9,696</u>

### Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.2.21	Net movement in funds	At 31.1.22
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	(22,471)	45,874	23,403
	<u>(22,471)</u>	<u>45,874</u>	<u>23,403</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>(22,471)</u>	<u>45,874</u>	<u>23,403</u>

# THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023

### 6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	107,540	(61,666)	45,874
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>107,540</u>	<u>(61,666)</u>	<u>45,874</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.2.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.1.23 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	(22,471)	55,570	33,099
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>(22,471)</u>	<u>55,570</u>	<u>33,099</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	203,748	(148,178)	55,570
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>203,748</u>	<u>(148,178)</u>	<u>55,570</u>

## **THE BRASS IN CONCERT CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2023**

#### **7. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

During the year, the Trustees made donations to the charity totalling £Nil (2022 - £37,800).

During the year £1,000 (2022 - £1,000) was paid to Aruba Blue Limited in respect of financial management services. Ms M Bedford, Trustee, is also a director of Aruba Blue Limited