



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Charity name: The Bloomsbury Music Group

Charity registration number: 1139541

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objects of the Bloomsbury Music Group (BMG) are to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>The benefits to the public from the Group fall into five categories.</p> <p><b>1. For participants, we involve wind players at all levels of competence and experience in a creative, enjoyable and fulfilling educational activity, providing them with opportunities to develop their instrumental technique and their understanding of the musical repertoire for wind groups large and small.</b></p> <p>The membership of both ensembles has remained consistent throughout the year. The Bloomsbury Woodwind Ensemble (BWE) had 40-45 members and the Bloomsbury Band had around 20 members.</p> <p>A number of former Bloomsbury Band members also returned and played as part of the tenth anniversary concert in May 2022.</p> <p>In London, where people come and go, we always expect a steady turnover of members which means that we provide opportunities for a substantial number of people to develop their playing skills on wind instruments during each year.</p> <p>Potential members email us throughout the year and they are usually put on a waiting list. The Group does not audition for either ensemble. We generally recruit in the order</p>

		<p>that people contact us. Potential new members are invited to a trial rehearsal which allows them to decide whether or not they are suited to the music we play, the style of the rehearsals and the character of the membership.</p> <p>Both ensembles rehearse on regular evenings in Bloomsbury – the Bloomsbury Band rehearse on Mondays and the Bloomsbury Woodwind Ensemble rehearse on Tuesdays. Over the year, the two groups each held 40-45 rehearsals. During the April 2022 to March 2023 period, the Bloomsbury Band changed their rehearsal venue from Lumen to St Mary's Church.</p> <p><b>2. For ourselves, and for other wind ensembles, we increase the repertoire of music available by commissioning new arrangements and original compositions.</b></p> <p>The majority of music performed by the Bloomsbury Music Group consists of arrangements specially commissioned from a large team of musicians. Our musical directors contribute arrangements and so do members of the Bloomsbury Band. Further information is available on the <a href="#"><u>music section</u></a> of our website.</p> <p>Between April 2022 and March 2023, the Bloomsbury Woodwind Ensemble performed two new compositions and two pieces specially arranged for the ensemble:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Infernal Train – composed for the ensemble by former musical director, Shea Lolin.</li> <li>• Murder on the Orient Express – composed by Richard Rodney Bennett and arranged for the ensemble by Christopher Hussey.</li> <li>• The Chairman Dances – a chamber piece for members of the ensemble, composed by Shea Lolin for the ensemble's former chair, Andrew Hunt.</li> <li>• Romance, from Vaughan Williams Symphony No. 5 – transcribed for the ensemble.</li> </ul> <p>During the same time period, the Bloomsbury Band celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert in May 2022, (which was delayed by 2 years because of Covid.)</p> <p>The winter concert, held in December 2022, included three works commissioned from Jeremy Bridle by the Alexandra Palace Band</p>
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		<p>London and now arranged for the Band by the composer. Another highlight was <i>Wassail!</i> - an arrangement of traditional tunes by Roger Cawkwell who had also arranged the two pieces by Frank Bridge played earlier in the programme.</p> <p>The Spring concert, held in March 2023 with the theme of New Beginnings was held at our new venue, St. Mary's Church. This concert included a number of traditional pieces by European composers music of German origin to honour our new venue (St. Mary's Lutheran Church).</p> <p><b>3. For audiences, we present exciting, innovative and high quality performances which should always be a pleasurable cultural experience, but will sometimes challenge them and educate them by extending their musical knowledge.</b></p> <p>From April 2022 to March 2023, the Bloomsbury Music Group presented six concerts. This included three concerts by the Bloomsbury Woodwind Ensemble and three by the Bloomsbury Band.</p> <p>The Group planned a joint Christmas carols event at St Pancras Station in December 2022, however this unfortunately was cancelled due to railway strikes.</p> <p>See 'Achievements and Performance' below for more information on our performances.</p> <p><b>4. We regularly organize concerts to raise money to support other charities. Our two ensembles also participate in community events that advance the well-being of local people.</b></p> <p>The Christmas carols event usually raises money for charity, but as mentioned above this was unfortunately cancelled. As a result, the Bloomsbury Music Group were unable to raise money for any charities during April 2022 to March 2023. However the Group will make up for this during the April 2023 to March 2024 period.</p> <p><b>5 In addition to the public educational benefits mentioned above, the Trustees are committed to ensuring that the Society's activities are affordable, and so concessionary rates are available for both membership subscriptions and audience tickets. Any member with financial difficulties can privately discuss a special reduced subscription arrangement with the Treasurer.</b></p>
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		The principle of offering concessionary rates was applied to membership subscriptions and concert tickets. Special arrangements were made, in confidence, to help a very small number of individual members.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	In carrying out the duties, the Trustees of the Bloomsbury Music Group have had regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	The charity does not give grants.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	Social investments are not included among the activities of the charity.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The charity is run by volunteers drawn from its membership.
Other		

### Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
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<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>The Bloomsbury Music Group organised and performed six concerts between April 2022 and March 2023. At these concerts, the members and musical directors of the two ensembles shared their enthusiasm for a range of musical styles with a public facing audience.</p> <p>Concerts are promoted and tickets are available on BMG's <a href="#">website</a> and <a href="#">Facebook page</a>. These two platforms also helps people decide whether to join the Group and keeps members and the public well informed about the activities of the two ensembles.</p> <p>A summary of the events organised by the Bloomsbury Music Group are summarised below:</p> <p><b>Bloomsbury Woodwind Ensemble concert (14 May 2022)</b>  This was Michael McGowan's first concert as BWE's new musical director. The programme featured a range of compositions inspired by or related to trains. The programme included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premiere of a new work composed by Shea Lolin (BWE's former musical director) – The Infernal Train</li> <li>• Pacific 231 by Arthur Honegger</li> <li>• Three Southern Sketches by James Rae</li> <li>• An arrangement for the ensemble of Richard Rodney Bennett's Murder on the Orient Express</li> </ul> <p><b>Bloomsbury Band concert (21 May 2022)</b>  BB's tenth anniversary concert featured new works as well as favourites from the ensemble's first decade. Roger Cawkwell who has been a very good friend of the Band. He arranged two of the items played in the first half of the concert: Overture from Mozart's <i>Magic Flute</i> and Gournod's <i>Marionette's Funeral March</i>. The Band also premiered his new composition <i>Mirror Maze</i>. Another work that received its premiere at this concert was <i>Écoutez</i> by Jenni Pinnock which was played during the first half of the concert.</p> <p><b>Bloomsbury Woodwind Ensemble</b></p>
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		<p><b>bandstand concert (24 July 2022)</b></p> <p>BWE returned to Victoria Park under the direction of Greg Waters, who covered while BWE's musical director was away. The ensemble performed a variety of popular tunes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By the Sleepy Lagoon by Eric Coates</li> <li>• Crown Imperial by William Walton</li> <li>• Selections from Porgy and Bess by George Gershwin</li> <li>• Tico Tico by Zequinha Abreu</li> <li>• Colonel Bogey by Kenneth Alford</li> </ul> <p><b>Bloomsbury Woodwind Ensemble concert (26 November 2022)</b></p> <p>The ensemble performed works that focused on the idea of transformations. The programme introduced the audience to music written primarily after the 19<sup>th</sup> century, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Premiere of a chamber work – The Chairman Dances, written by Shea Lolin for bass clarinet and 6 reed instruments</li> <li>• Bright Lights, composed for wind instruments by Charlotte Harding in 2010.</li> <li>• An arrangement for the ensemble of Vaughan William's Romance</li> <li>• 4' 33" by John Cage</li> <li>• Even When He is Silent by Kim Arnesen</li> <li>• November Woods by Arnold Bax</li> </ul> <p><b>Bloomsbury Band concert (3 December 2022)</b></p> <p>The winter concert included vocal and saxophone solos by members of the ensemble who usually play clarinet and flute. The programme included further arrangements for the ensemble including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three works (Rush Hour, Waters of the Forest, Together) by Jeremy Bridle for the Alexandra Palace Band London, arranged for BB by the composer.</li> <li>• Corpus Christi Carol, arranged by David Morris (BB's musical director)</li> <li>• Troika from the Lieutenant Kijé Suite by Prokofiev</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wassail! - an arrangement of traditional tunes by Roger Cawkwell</li> </ul> <p><b>Bloomsbury Band concert (25 March 2023)</b></p> <p>This was the ensemble's first concert at their new rehearsal venue, St Mary's Lutheran Church and so the theme for the concert was 'New Beginnings'. To honour the new venue, BB performed music of German origin as well as a number of other European composers, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Movement 1 from J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No.3</li> <li>Beethoven's Alla Danza Tedesca</li> <li>Grieg's (The Ravens' Wedding in Kråkalund and three Norwegian Legends) Smetana's (themes from Vltava / die Moldau)</li> <li>Jeremy Bridle's Together – composed for the ensemble</li> </ul>
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#### **Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	The charity does not engage in fundraising apart from putting on charity concerts as described above.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	The charity has no investments.
Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Our income during this period was approximately £32,422 and our expenditure was £21896. We were therefore able to replenish our reserves, giving reserves at the end of the period of about £13500.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Trustees normally maintain a modest reserve equivalent to about 20% of annual expenditure in the Bloomsbury Music Group's bank account. Reserves this year are greater due to the unexpected Orchestra Tax Relief uplift to 50%. We plan to use some of this increased surplus for events during 2023-2024.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£13,500
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	The charity is confident that it will continue to thrive.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	The main income of the charity comes from members' subscriptions with the associated gift-aid. Further contribution come from Orchestra Tax Relief (paid by HMRC to the company, BMG Productions Limited) and ticket sales at concerts.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	The charity does not make investments.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Maintaining a full membership of both ensembles is crucial to the financial health of the charity. The large population of London means that recruitment has not been a problem throughout the life of the charity but this is an issue that the trustees attend to carefully. Any changes to Gift Aid or Orchestra Tax Relief policies could have a significant impact but not big enough to imperil the stability of the charity.
Other		



## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	Para 1.25	Society
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Appointed as committee members by election at the Annual General Meeting of members.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	The charity has detailed guidance documents for new trustees. In this small charity, other induction and training is carried out on a one-to-one basis with the more experienced members of the BMG Committee.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	<p>In the period covered by this report the Group ran two wind ensembles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Bloomsbury Woodwind Ensemble (BWE), founded in 1993 for about 45 adult amateur players of flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon and saxophone.</li> <li>• The Bloomsbury Band of flutes and clarinets (BB), formed in 2010 for about 25 adult players in response to the growing demand for opportunities to play from players of these two popular wind instruments.</li> </ul> <p>The charity is overseen by the members of the Bloomsbury Music Group committee. Separate committees of volunteers work with the two music directors to manage the operations of the two ensembles.</p>
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	Not applicable
Other		

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Bloomsbury Music Group
Other name the charity uses	-
Registered charity number	1139541

Charity's principal address	Tower Mill Newchurch Romney Marsh Kent TN29 0EB
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### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Andrew Hunt	BMG & BWE Chair	Until June 2022	
2	Christopher Woodroffe	BMG Chair	From June 2022	
3	Liz Watson	BB Chair		
4	Colin Izod	BWE Chair	From June 2022	
5	Sarah Kirk	BMG Treasurer		
6	Ann George	BMG Secretary	Until June 2022	
7	Clare Thompson	BMG Secretary	From June 2022	
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### Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

### Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

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## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Musical Directors: Michael McGowan (BWE) and David Morris (BB).

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

## Other optional information

## Declarations

**The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.**

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

<b>Signature(s)</b>	Clare Thompson	
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<b>Full name(s)</b>	Clare Thompson	
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<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Secretary	
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<b>Date</b>	14/01/24
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Combined accounts for Bloomsbury Music Group and BMG Productions Ltd

## EXPENDITURE

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

## BANK RECONCILIATION

[illegible]



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Bloomsbury Music Group

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31 March 2023

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1139541

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2023.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

**Signed:**

**Date:**

4 Sept 2023

**Name:**

Michael John Winterburn

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

**Address:**

58 Lammas Park Road

London

W5 5JB