

The Nicholas Branston Foundation

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 30 September 2024

Reference and Administrative Details

- Charity name: *The Nicholas Branston Foundation*
- Charity number: 1140444
- Trustees during the year:
- Rachel Branston, Paul Branston, Victoria Mavromoustaki, Katherine Woolley, Anna Brooke

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is governed by its trust deed. Trustees are appointed in accordance with the governing document. The trustees met formally via Zoom on 30 September 2024 and have regular contact throughout the year.

Objectives and Activities

The charity's purpose is to facilitate music education for young people, particularly through the provision of residential music courses and the loan of instruments. Trustees confirm they have complied with their duty under section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

In 2024 the Foundation continued to support students by providing access to high-quality instruments. At year-end the charity held musical instruments with a value of approximately £26,000, on free loan to students.

The Foundation also organised and funded the annual residential courses in Cheltenham for The National Youth Percussion Orchestra and The National Youth French Horn Ensemble, now in their fourth year. Three concerts were presented:

- A French Horn Ensemble concert in the Princess Hall, Cheltenham Ladies College.
- A Thursday evening recital of solos and quartets at St Andrew's Church, Cheltenham, where the charity funded a pianist to accompany rehearsals and the performance.
- A percussion concert held in the Lower Hall of Cheltenham Ladies College, though trustees have agreed that future events should return to the Princess Hall due to the superior setting.

Feedback from both students and parents was highly positive, with strong appreciation for the opportunities provided. Two parents made donations totalling £5,300, including a significant gift of £5,000.

While the concerts and courses involved considerable costs, they successfully fulfilled the charity's aim of developing musical skills, performance experience, and a supportive community for young musicians.

Financial Review

At 30 September 2024 the charity held cash reserves of £12,294.69. Instruments owned or donated to the Foundation during the year totalled £26,000 (a marimba purchased for £20,000 and a French horn donated by Paxman Horns, valued at £6,000).

There were no debtors or creditors at the end of the year.

The trustees consider this a satisfactory position that provides a sound base for the continuation of the Foundation's objectives.

Reserves Policy

The trustees aim to maintain sufficient free reserves to cover annual operating costs and to provide a buffer against income fluctuations. The year-end cash balance is considered adequate to meet short-term commitments.

Plans for the Future

Trustees held extensive discussions on the way forward. RB and PB intend to step back gradually, with Tom Taffinder and Tim Thorpe expected to take greater responsibility for NYFHE, and Will Edwards and Kizzy Brookes for NYPO. The trustees believe this transition will provide continuity and fresh energy for the charity's work.

It was agreed that holding both courses simultaneously works well, providing students with a broader social and musical experience. Future events will continue to build on this model.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Approved by the trustees on 1 October 2024 and signed on their behalf:

Trustee



The Nicholas Branston Foundation - Balance sheet 2024

Balance Sheet	2024 (£)		2023 (£)	
ASSETS				
Cash at bank and in hand	£12,294.69		£23,609.73	
Debtors	£0.00		£0.00	
Musical instruments (fixed assets)	£26,000.00		£0.00	
Total Assets	£38,294.69		£23,609.73	
LIABILITIES				
Creditors due within one year	£0.00		£0.00	
Creditors due after more than one year	£0.00		£0.00	
Total Liabilities	£0.00		£0.00	
NET ASSETS	£38,294.69		£23,609.73	
FUNDS				
Unrestricted Funds	£38,294.69		£23,609.73	
Restricted Funds	£0.00		£0.00	
Endowment Funds	£0.00		£0.00	
Total Charity Funds	£38,294.69		£23,609.73	

NICHOLAS BRANSTON FOUNDATION 2023 - 2024

Statement of Financial Activities					
For the Year ended 30th September 2024					
	Year ended 30th September 2024			Year ended 30th September 2023	
RECEIPTS					
Donations	£5,680.00			£350.00	
NYPO Course	£11,980.00			£9,935.00	
NYFHE Course	£16,010.00			£14,310.00	
Total receipts		£33,670.00			£24,595.00
PAYMENTS					
Teaching staff	£11,477.74			£10,157.60	
Music	£123.90			£107.85	
Shirts etc	£0.00			£695.52	
School facilities hire	£11,004.00			£11,000.00	
Concert venue hire	£100.00				
Insurance	£273.00				
Transport	0			£192.00	
Bank charges	£10.40			£5.60	
Marimba purchase	£20,000.00				
Total payments		£42,989.04			£16,692.52
Current Ac. Balance brought forward 30th Sept		£18,962.68			£11,060.20
Net movement in period		-£9,319.04			£7,902.48
Current Account	£9,643.64			£18,962.68	
Reserve Account	£2,763.05			£2,763.05	
Paypal Account	£0.00			£0.00	
Total cash reserves, end of year.		£12,406.69			£23,609.73

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Nicholas Branston Foundation

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011,
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011, and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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 considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees about 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 below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011; have 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.

Name KRYS.TINA RENER

Date 12/1/2025

Address SEPTEMBER COTTAGE

COMPTON MARTIN

BRISTOL BS40 6JL

Signed 