

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07667445
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1143420

Sheffield Music Academy
Company Limited by Guarantee
Unaudited Financial Statements
31 July 2025

ALLEN, WEST AND FOSTER LIMITED
Chartered accountants
Omega Court
364-366 Cemetery Road
Sheffield
S11 8FT

Sheffield Music Academy
Company Limited by Guarantee
Financial Statements
Year ended 31 July 2025

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Sheffield Music Academy

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 July 2025

Sheffield Music Academy (the Academy) is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The Directors are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

The trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 July 2025 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Articles of Association, and the 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) issued in October 2019.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Date of incorporation	13 June 2011
Company registration no.	07667445
Date of registration	17 August 2011
Charity registration no.	1143420
Patrons	Ms E Watts Mr R Wigglesworth
Honorary President	Ms Trisha Cooper
Trustees during period	Ms A Brumpton <i>re-appointed 22 February 2024</i> Mr I Falconer (Treasurer) <i>re-appointed 18 January 2023</i> <i>(and Interim Chair from 01 August 2024)</i> Mrs M Gayford <i>appointed 16 December 2024</i> Mr N Ma <i>appointed 16 December 2024</i> Ms R Mallaband <i>re-appointed 22 February 2024, retired 31 July 2025</i> Ms E Pieters <i>re-appointed 16 December 2024</i> Ms S Unwin <i>appointed 31 January 2022</i>
Music Director	Mr M Cropper
General Manager & Company Secretary	Mr M Wigley
Registered office	Office 9, Shirley House 31 Psalter Lane Sheffield, S11 8YL
Accountants	Allen, West & Foster Limited Omega Court, 364-366 Cemetery Road Sheffield, S11 8FT

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Year ended 31 July 2025

Bankers

Virgin Money
66 Fargate
Sheffield
S1 2HE

Charities Aid Foundation
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill, West Malling
Kent ME19 4TA

The Co-operative Bank
Swindon
SN4 4PL

Sheffield Music Academy

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Purpose and objectives

Sheffield Music Academy (the Academy) exists to inspire young musicians to fulfil their potential and pursue a career in music should they choose to. Our charity's purpose, as set out in the objects contained in the company's Articles of Association (Articles), is to advance the education of young people of exceptional musical ability or potential who are aged between four and 19 years in all aspects of music and musicianship.

We are part of a network run under the auspices of the Department for Education's (DfE's) Music and Dance Scheme (MDS), which includes Centres for Advanced Training (CATs) in music and dance, Specialist Residential Schools and Conservatoire Junior Departments.

Our aim is to raise aspirations for young people passionate about any form of music in which they show above average aptitude and commitment, not necessarily for a career in music and the performing arts but in order that they may make the most of their skills and talents, develop their self-confidence and in their turn contribute to the musical activities of their schools and colleges, areas and communities. Our aim fully reflects the purposes that the charity was set up to further.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review covers the year ending 31 July 2025 and looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work during that period. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help.

The review also helps us ensure our aims, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The focus of our work

To ensure that all of our talented young musicians receive a comprehensive music education, we focus our work on:

- Tailor-made timetables - ensuring that every student receives individual support, choosing from several core and optional classes at our Sheffield-based Academy which runs for 30 Saturdays during term time.
 - Teaching Staff - employing highly skilled tutors in a wide range of classical instruments.
 - Shared music making - providing weekly opportunities to rehearse and play in orchestras, ensembles and choirs.
 - Performance classes – providing students with weekly opportunities to share their learning, practice performing and receive feedback and encouragement.
 - Informal lunchtime concerts – enabling students to practice performing to the whole of the SMA community in a friendly and supportive environment.
 - Workshops and masterclasses - welcoming experts in their fields to share their knowledge and expertise with students and staff.
 - Collaboration – partnering with other organisations to make the most of opportunities and share good practice.
-

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

- Fundraising - raising additional funds to supplement the grants made available through the Music and Dance Scheme. Grants are means tested using the Department for Education's criteria.

Safeguarding and wellbeing – ensuring teaching and non-teaching staff receive support and regular training and all appropriate checks.

HOW OUR ACTIVITIES DELIVER PUBLIC BENEFIT

All our charitable activities focus on the education of young people aged between four and nineteen of exceptional musical ability or potential and are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Who used and benefited from our services?

Our objects and funding enable us to provide services to students who reside mainly in a geographical area to include South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Northeast Lincolnshire and North Nottinghamshire.

Our main achievements that delivered public benefit in 2024-25 included:

- Providing weekly lessons to 124 young musicians in the main Academy (delivered via 175 individual sessions, 46 classes, senior and junior choir, various groups including our 35-piece chamber orchestra and a concert band of 30 students) and 85 students in the Infant Academy.
- Continuing to recruit staff of the highest calibre from around the UK.
- Attracting applications from a diverse group of potential students.
- Expanding our team to include more non-teaching staff, increasing our investment in the wellbeing of our students by providing non-musical activities and safe creative spaces for them to enjoy in their downtime, e.g. the art corner.
- Continuing our busy concert series, presenting 10 public performances at venues across South Yorkshire and Derbyshire including a large-scale performance at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

Sheffield Music Academy

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

ACADEMIC AND ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

During 2024-25 we welcomed 19 new students into the main Academy, and we said farewell to five students who graduated at the end of the previous academic year.

Highlights included:

- Benjamin Britten's 'The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra' featured as the inspiration for 2025's large-scale project. Students learnt about Britten's life and career through musical and visual art activities leading up to the end of year event. Staff created different arrangements of the work, enabling all students of the SMA family, across the infants, juniors and senior programmes, to perform at Sheffield Cathedral in July 2025.
- Along with members of the South Yorkshire Music Hub, 40 students and five staff from SMA took part in Music for Youth's Annual Proms celebrations at the Royal Albert Hall in November 2024. They developed a diverse repertoire and rehearsed this throughout the Autumn. The students were inspired by the experience of performing at one of the world's most celebrated venues.
- Our masterclass programme included a visit by international pianist Benjamin Frith, who mentored students on several works by Bach. Students in Concert Band were mentored by composer Lucy Armstrong as they rehearsed her work 'The Old Ship'.
- Young performers from the Academy led an incredibly exciting and poignant performance to mark the first event at Canada House, the home of Harmony Works, on 17 July 2025. As part of a fundraising event, SMA students joined forces with peers from South Yorkshire Music Hub to perform repertoire ranging from Vaughan Williams to Elbow, as well as accompanying local folk star duo Jon and Jackie Boden.
- The annual Infants and Juniors joint showcase brought together around 140 of our young students under 12 years old, confirming the value of investment in the region's young musicians.

Toolkit for Effective Practice

Continuing to develop and build upon our *Supporting First Generation Musicians* Initiative, a three-year project to support children who may not have previously been involved with music making at home, SMA's 167 project focuses on the learning between lessons and how students learn to practice productively. We have developed a toolkit to ensure students maintain healthy and efficient practice through:

- Individual Learning Plans – Tutors work closely with students to develop an Individual Learning Plan (ILP).
- Practice Diaries – SMA students receive a practice diary for each instrumental lesson, allowing tutors to outline weekly practice expectations. These diaries also serve as an effective communication tool for parents, keeping them informed about what is required at home. Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) are documented at the front of each diary for easy reference.
- Practice Material – the SMA portal and class mailing lists can be effectively used by SMA staff as platforms for sharing recommended listening, practice materials, and exercises.
- Open Door Days – parents and guardians are encouraged to attend their child's timetabled activities to gain a better understanding of learning goals, learn how to support practice at home, and ask any questions they may have about their child's studies.

Instrument Rental

We recognise that barriers to children taking up a musical instrument and continuing with it are not purely financial but also concern levels of family confidence in supporting their children in music

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

making. By continuing to invest in our stock of instruments, we ensure that all students and their families have access to good quality, suitable instruments that are well maintained without requiring an initial financial outlay. This provides families the opportunity to save for a good quality instrument when required.

Infant Academy

Established in 2017–18, the Infant Academy welcomes students from as young as four years old. In 2024–25, it enrolled 85 students from more than 30 schools across the region and continued to deliver exceptional music provision. By offering classes on Saturdays at Birkdale Prep School and on Monday afternoons at Millhouses Church, it further improved accessibility for families.

Most of our infant students continue studying an instrument beyond Infant Academy, with many students progressing to the Junior Programme at SMA.

Becca Francis, Head of the Infant Academy since its inception, stepped down on 31 July 2025. The Academy is extremely grateful for her dedicated leadership which has helped to ensure it is now a fully integrated part of our programme.

Other highlights

- All our 2024–25 graduates went on to study in higher education. Graduate destinations included the Universities of Durham, Bristol and York, and Leeds Conservatoire of Music.
- This year, for the first time, we set up a community project in Buxton, where local young musicians were invited to attend rehearsals and join our Buxton Festival performance of Benjamin Britten's 'The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra'.
- The Art Corner continues to go from strength to strength, fostering a sense of community between the young people and supporting student wellbeing. Students continue to produce great works of visual art which are being used by SMA for both printed and social media.

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

	2024-25			2023-24		
	Income £	Expenditure £	Net movement before transfers £	Income £	Expenditure £	Net movement before transfers £
Core activities	479,151	469,096	10,055	468,974	475,534	(6,560)
Harmony Works *	-	-	-	50,095	34,477	15,618
Total	479,151	469,096	10,055	519,069	510,010	9,058

* A new charitable organisation, the Harmony works Trust (HWT) was registered on 29 August 2023. The Academy and HWT signed a business transfer agreement on 25 March 2024, confirming that HWT was responsible for all outstanding liabilities of the transferring business and indemnifying the Academy accordingly.

Core activities

Our total income for core activities in the 12-month period was £479,151, a slight increase on what we received in 2023-24.

Our total expenditure on core activities was £469,096, slightly less than what we spent in 2023-24. This can be attributed to a smaller teaching team as well as well-considered financial choices.

As a result of these year-on-year changes in income and expenditure, the overall net movement in our funds from unrestricted core activities was an increase of £16,615 before transfers.

We remain proud that the MDS grants from the DfE, together with the Student Support bursaries that we are able to offer from our own funds, mean that around two-thirds of students in the Main Academy receive some sort of support with their fees. And our Infant fees are also subsidised, with every student paying about 15% less than the cost of their provision.

In 2024-25 we were able to limit to the average increase in our fees to RPI and, mindful of the increasing financial pressure on families, we remain committed to finding ways to ensure that SMA remains accessible to all in the future.

Principal funding sources

The principal funding sources for the core activities of the Academy are grants from the DfE's Music and Dance Scheme, and fees paid by parents and guardians of our students.

While our dependence on income from the MDS Scheme has reduced significantly over the last decade (from 72 per cent to 51 per cent of our core income in 2024-25) because of concerted efforts to increase our sources of voluntary income and other grants, our non-MDS income was 7% (£18,061) lower in 2024-25 than the year before. This, together with a freeze in MDS rates for 2025-26, puts increasing pressure on our fundraising efforts going forward if we are to be able to maintain our student support at its current levels. We are therefore extremely grateful for the continued support of the Friends of Sheffield Music Academy, our business sponsors and local grant giving trusts.

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

Investment Policy

The donations we receive enable the Academy to maintain its reserves for core activities at a prudent level. Until we have sufficient funds for long-term investment, our reserves will continue to be split between three separate banks to ensure they remain protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Reserves Policy

The trustees are risk averse as regards the Academy's reserves and aim to maintain sufficient free reserves in unrestricted funds (net current assets and assets that can be readily converted to cash) to ensure that the Academy's main operations can continue for a period of six months, or 26 weeks.

The annual operating cost of our core activities in 2025-26 is budgeted at £479,300. Net current assets in general funds amounted to £86,678 on 31 July 2025 and we held fixed asset instruments with a net book value of £96,844 that we considered to be readily convertible to cash, giving free reserves in unrestricted funds of £195,522, sufficient to cover our main operations for 21.2 weeks (17.1 weeks in 2023-24).

While we were able to maintain a higher level of free reserves this year than in 2023-24, they are not yet back to their desired level. However, the 26 week target was last reviewed in July 2018, when our operating budget was almost 60% lower (£200,000) than it is today. The Board therefore plans to review its Reserves Policy in 2025-26, seeking professional advice on a prudent level going forward.

Going Concern

The Board is reassured that the Academy almost continued to live within its means during 2024-25, generating a small (2.1%) surplus of income over expenditure. We have approved a balanced budget for the 2025-26 financial year and our latest forecast, based on the outturn to November 2025, confirms we remain on target to deliver it. The DfE has confirmed its support for the Music and Dance Scheme until July 2026, and we are satisfied that should the DfE grant funding no longer be available after that date, the Academy's main operations could continue for at least five months, i.e., until December 2026.

For these reasons, the Board continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

The Board also considers that external events are unlikely to have a material impact upon the Academy's ability to achieve its charitable objectives in the next 12 months. Nevertheless, the trustees and the Music Director will continue to monitor and respond to the risks of operating the Academy on an ongoing basis. The Academy has robust business continuity plans, risk management and financial management processes and so is well placed to respond to future uncertainty in a timely manner.

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The Academy is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The company was established and is governed under Articles of Association that established the objects and powers of the charitable company and are based upon the Charity Commission's model with only very slight modification. In the event of the company being wound up its members are each required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Patrons

We have two Patrons supporting Sheffield Music Academy:

- Elizabeth Watts is one of Britain's leading sopranos and is much in demand throughout the world as a recitalist and concert singer. She was a chorister at Norwich Cathedral and studied archaeology at Sheffield University before attending the Royal College of Music.
- Ryan Wigglesworth is a composer, conductor and pianist and Chief Conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. He was born in Wincobank, Sheffield and attended King Edward VII School and was a Cathedral choirboy.

Recruitment and Appointment of Board of Trustees

The Academy's Articles state that we must have no less than three trustees but there is no maximum number. One third of the Trustees who have been longest in office must retire each year but may offer themselves for re-election or further co-option.

Our trustees must be aged 18 years or over, not disqualified under the Companies Act or Charities Acts, and must either be recommended by the trustees or be nominated for election by a member of the Charity. The trustees may co-opt individuals to the Board during the year for their expertise (e.g., financial or legal advice) through an ordinary resolution of the Board, but a co-opted trustee holds office only until the next AGM.

Every trustee must sign a declaration of willingness to act as a charity trustee of the Charity before they are eligible to vote at any Board meeting.

The Trustees of the Charity for the year ended 31 July 2025 are listed on page 1.

All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee remuneration or expenses were paid in the year. One trustee registered a conflict of interest during 2024-25:

- On 11 July 2024 the trustees agreed to co-opt our fundraising officer, Mary Gayford, to the Board and her appointment was confirmed on 16 December 2024. Mary's partner, Chris Gayford, is also a member of the Academy's teaching staff. As both their employments occurred before Mary's co-option, the Board is satisfied that their salaries are not a benefit arising from her trusteeship.

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Year ended 31 July 2025

In accordance with the Academy's Conflicts of Interest Policy all payments to Mary are disclosed in the Academy's Annual Report and Financial Statements. Mary agreed to declare the existence of her contract of employment in her Trustee Declarations of Interest, published on the Academy's website.

Although not a Conflict of Interest, for the sake of openness, the Board wishes to highlight that Emily Pieters is employed by the Harmony Works Trust as its Project Director, and that Ian Falconer acts as SMA's nominated representative on its Board of Trustees.

Organisational structure

The Academy's Board met four times during 2024-25. At our Board meetings we agree the broad strategy and areas of activity for the Charity, including consideration of grant making, investment, reserves and risk management policies and performance.

Throughout 2024-25 we have continued to supplement our Board meetings with regular informal catchups with management, supporting the Music Director and his team as they determined the Academy's response to the constantly changing external environment. We are grateful for the considerable extra time that individual trustees have invested to support the charity during this period.

We have delegated the day-to-day administration of the Academy's activities, including its curriculum, staffing and student recruitment to the Music Director and his small administrative team.

Risk Management

The trustees keep the major risks to which the charity is exposed under regular review and have established systems and procedures to manage them.

With the transfer of the Harmony Works Project to the Harmony Works Trust in August 2023, we consider that major financial risks facing the Academy remain the possible loss or reduction in the Academy's major source of core funding (i.e. the grant provided by the Music and Dance Scheme) and its over-reliance on that one source of funding. Donations and grants received during the year helped to mitigate these risks, and we continue to review alternative future strategies.

The most significant non-financial risks remain:

- *that the Academy fails to meet its legal responsibilities concerning safeguarding, data protection and employment law, and that it fails to protect its IT systems and data.* The Board includes trustees with practical experience of safeguarding, employment law and cyber and data protection issues and has previously commissioned independent IT and estates advice that will help mitigate these risks.
- *that the Academy's teaching premises are not accessible nor fit for future purpose, in terms of capacity and quality.* In the short term we have been able to hire alternative premises for face-to-face ensemble tuition when our usual premises have not been available. And in the longer term these risks are being addressed by the Harmony Works Project.

Sheffield Music Academy

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

THE ACADEMY'S PLANS FOR 2025-26 AND BEYOND

Looking to the future, the Sheffield Music Academy has plans to:

- Further develop a consistent teaching and learning approach across its Core and Infant schemes – better supporting staff to reflect and share best practice and continuing to develop a library of resources for staff, students and parents to facilitate the goal of a common approach and to facilitate the best practice at home.
- Build on our new database system, further integrating data collection, input and processing to streamline and facilitate the management of SMA.
- Continue to develop our new learning scheme for parents and children, part of the *Supporting First Generation Musicians* project, including the completion of accessible video resources forming an archive of information and advice to support student progression.
- Develop closer links with our partners, as we progress towards moving into our new home at Harmony Works.
- Working closely with South Yorkshire Music Hub to pilot its Progression Strategy, developing clearer pathways between Sheffield Music Academy and Sheffield Music Service to ensure students receive the most relevant and high-quality music education provision, with each young person receiving the right support for their musical ambitions.
- Share SMA's benchmarking and pathways with partners, working closely with organisations such as CSYO to support student progression.
- Further develop our partnership with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority that in September 2024 launched a new South Yorkshire Music Hub (SYMCA), in partnership with the four local Music Hubs across the region, in Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. This new collaboration, led by SYMCA and funded by Arts Council England (ACE), is part of an ambitious national program to provide high-quality music education for all children and young people.

Sheffield Music Academy

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Trustees (who are also directors of Sheffield Music Academy for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each accounting period, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the charitable company will not continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps or the prevention and detection of fraud and irregularities. The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the Academy's website.

The Trustee's Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The company is currently exempt from a statutory audit because its annual gross income does not exceed £1 million.

Approved by the Trustees of Sheffield Music Academy on 1 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Ian Falconer
Interim Chair & Treasurer
Sheffield Music Academy

Sheffield Music Academy

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Sheffield Music Academy

Year ended 31 July 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Sheffield Music Academy ('the charity') for the year ended 31 July 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements 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 the 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 statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), which is one of the listed bodies.

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 charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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 financial statements 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).

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Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Sheffield Music Academy

(continued)

Year ended 31 July 2025

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.



Stephen Allen ACA, FCCA
Independent Examiner

Omega Court
364-366 Cemetery Road
Sheffield
S11 8FT

Sheffield Music Academy

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Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 July 2025

			2025		2024
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	5,725	16,500	22,225	89,198
Charitable activities	6	456,135	-	456,135	426,330
Investment income	7	791	-	791	3,541
Total income		<u>462,651</u>	<u>16,500</u>	<u>479,151</u>	<u>519,069</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Costs of raising donations and legacies	8	3,274	-	3,274	6,056
Expenditure on charitable activities	9,10	449,322	16,500	465,822	503,955
Total expenditure		<u>452,596</u>	<u>16,500</u>	<u>469,096</u>	<u>510,011</u>
Net income and net movement in funds		<u>10,055</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,055</u>	<u>9,058</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		175,185	-	175,185	166,127
Total funds carried forward		<u>185,240</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>185,240</u>	<u>175,185</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 19 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

Sheffield Music Academy
Company Limited by Guarantee
Statement of Financial Position
31 July 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	15	98,562	100,357
Current assets			
Debtors	16	41,265	35,122
Cash at bank and in hand		88,042	80,062
		<u>129,307</u>	<u>115,184</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>42,629</u>	<u>40,356</u>
Net current assets		<u>86,678</u>	<u>74,828</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>185,240</u>	<u>175,185</u>
Net assets		<u>185,240</u>	<u>175,185</u>
Funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds:			
Revaluation reserve		32,279	32,279
Other unrestricted income funds		152,961	142,906
Total unrestricted funds		<u>185,240</u>	<u>175,185</u>
Total charity funds	19	<u>185,240</u>	<u>175,185</u>

For the year ending 31 July 2025 the charity was entitled to 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 financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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

The statement of financial position
continues on the following page.
The notes on pages 19 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

Sheffield Music Academy

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position *(continued)*

31 July 2025

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Ian Falconer
Interim Chair & Treasurer

The notes on pages 19 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

Sheffield Music Academy

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31 July 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net (expenditure)/income	10,055	9,058
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	6,318	5,866
Other interest receivable and similar income	(791)	(3,541)
Interest payable and similar charges	2,036	177
Accrued expenses	629	1,212
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Trade and other debtors	(6,143)	35,973
Trade and other creditors	1,644	(155,420)
Cash generated from operations	13,748	(106,675)
Interest paid	(2,036)	(177)
Interest received	791	3,541
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	<u>12,503</u>	<u>(103,311)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	(4,523)	(139)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(4,523)</u>	<u>(139)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	7,980	(103,450)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>80,062</u>	<u>183,512</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>88,042</u>	<u>80,062</u>

The notes on pages 19 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

Sheffield Music Academy

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 July 2025

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Office 9, Shirley House, 31 Psalter Lane, Sheffield, S11 8YL.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Sheffield Music Academy

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Sheffield Music Academy

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Tangible assets *(continued)*

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Working instruments	- 10 years straight line or no depreciation
Equipment	- 5 years straight line

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Sheffield Music Academy

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Defined contribution plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

4. Limited by guarantee

Sheffield Music Academy is a charitable company in the United Kingdom limited by guarantee. In the event that the charity is wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

Sheffield Music Academy

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Donations			
Concert donations	255	—	255
Other donations	470	—	470
Arts Council Lottery	—	—	—
The Tramlines Trust	—	—	—
Grants			
Philip King Trust	—	16,500	16,500
Postlethwaite Foundation	1,000	—	1,000
Sheffield City Council - Harmony Works	—	—	—
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	—	—	—
Bursaries - Future Talent	—	—	—
Harrison Frank Foundation	4,000	—	4,000
	<u>5,725</u>	<u>16,500</u>	<u>22,225</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Concert donations	539	—	539
Other donations	10,300	—	10,300
Arts Council Lottery	—	10,865	10,865
The Tramlines Trust	1,000	—	1,000
Grants			
Philip King Trust	—	16,500	16,500
Postlethwaite Foundation	—	—	—
Sheffield City Council - Harmony Works	—	50,000	50,000
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	—	(256)	(256)
Bursaries - Future Talent	—	250	250
Harrison Frank Foundation	—	—	—
	<u>11,839</u>	<u>77,359</u>	<u>89,198</u>

Sheffield Music Academy

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fees paid by Department for Education	245,511	245,511	217,273	217,273
Fees paid by parents	194,966	194,966	205,594	205,594
Artistic Projects	1,380	1,380	2,000	2,000
Instrument Hire	4,020	4,020	1,080	1,080
Other income	411	411	383	383
Examination recharges	9,847	9,847	—	—
	<u>456,135</u>	<u>456,135</u>	<u>426,330</u>	<u>426,330</u>

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
SMA music activities bank interest	791	—	791
Harmony Works bank interest	—	—	—
	<u>791</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>791</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
SMA music activities bank interest	3,190	—	3,190
Harmony Works bank interest	—	351	351
	<u>3,190</u>	<u>351</u>	<u>3,541</u>

8. Costs of raising donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fundraising costs	<u>3,274</u>	<u>3,274</u>	<u>6,056</u>	<u>6,056</u>

Sheffield Music Academy

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

9. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Charitable activities	443,044	16,500	459,544
Support costs	6,278	–	6,278
	<u>449,322</u>	<u>16,500</u>	<u>465,822</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Charitable activities	416,008	81,225	497,233
Support costs	6,722	–	6,722
	<u>422,730</u>	<u>81,225</u>	<u>503,955</u>

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2025 £	Total fund 2024 £
Charitable activities	459,544	–	459,544	497,233
Governance costs	–	6,278	6,278	6,722
	<u>459,544</u>	<u>6,278</u>	<u>465,822</u>	<u>503,955</u>

Governance costs consist of independent examination fees of £2,772 (2024: £1,800), grant audit of £978 (2024: £930) and payroll services/bookkeeping support of £2,528 (2024: £3,992).

11. Net (expenditure)/income

Net (expenditure)/income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>6,318</u>	<u>5,866</u>

12. Independent examination fees

	2025 £	2024 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	2,772	1,800
Other assurance services	978	930
	<u>3,750</u>	<u>2,730</u>

Sheffield Music Academy

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

13. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	344,030	348,063
Social security costs	8,798	13,149
Employer contributions to pension plans	3,765	3,612
Other employee benefits and other staff costs	18,495	24,199
	<u>375,088</u>	<u>389,023</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 36 (2024: 40). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Permanent staff	<u>36</u>	<u>40</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2024: Nil).

14. Trustee remuneration and expenses

The trustees were not paid or received any benefits from employment with the charity in the year for their role as trustees (2024: £nil). In the year to 31 March 2025 M Gayford was reimbursed travel expenses of £65. No other trustees were reimbursed expenses during the year (2024: £nil).

No other charity received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2024: £nil).

Key management, consisting of trustees and the Music Director, received total employee benefits of £44,590 during the year (2024: £43,429).

During the year a total of £3,272 (2024: £6,056) was paid to Mary Gayford for freelance work towards the charity's fundraising activities. Further details are given within the Trustees' Report.

Sheffield Music Academy

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

15. Tangible fixed assets

	Working instruments £	Equipment £	Instrument collection £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 August 2024	109,559	10,040	40,000	159,599
Additions	4,523	–	–	4,523
At 31 July 2025	114,082	10,040	40,000	164,122
Depreciation				
At 1 August 2024	51,930	7,312	–	59,242
Charge for the year	5,308	1,010	–	6,318
At 31 July 2025	57,238	8,322	–	65,560
Carrying amount				
At 31 July 2025	56,844	1,718	40,000	98,562
At 31 July 2024	57,629	2,728	40,000	100,357

16. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	14,342	23,834
Prepayments and accrued income	2,056	2,368
Other debtors	24,867	8,920
	41,265	35,122

17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	5,100	2,975
Accruals and deferred income	7,122	6,493
Social security and other taxes	3,933	3,841
Other creditors	26,474	27,047
	42,629	40,356

18. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £3,765 (2024: £3,612).

Sheffield Music Academy

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

19. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 Aug 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2025 £
General funds	142,906	462,651	(469,096)	136,461
Revaluation reserve	32,279	—	—	32,279
	<u>175,185</u>	<u>462,651</u>	<u>(469,096)</u>	<u>168,740</u>

	At 1 Aug 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2024 £
General funds	130,333	441,359	(428,786)	142,906
Revaluation reserve	32,279	—	—	32,279
	<u>162,612</u>	<u>441,359</u>	<u>(428,786)</u>	<u>175,185</u>

Restricted funds

	At 1 Aug 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2025 £
Ensemble 360 Academy Project	—	—	—	—
Harmony Works	—	—	—	—
First Generation Musicians Project	—	16,500	(16,500)	—
Student bursary funds	—	—	—	—
Proms In The Playground	—	—	—	—
	<u>—</u>	<u>16,500</u>	<u>(16,500)</u>	<u>—</u>

	At 1 Aug 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2024 £
Ensemble 360 Academy Project	5,000	—	(5,000)	—
Harmony Works	(15,618)	50,095	(34,477)	—
First Generation Musicians Project	14,133	16,500	(30,633)	—
Student bursary funds	—	250	(250)	—
Proms In The Playground	—	10,865	(10,865)	—
	<u>3,515</u>	<u>77,710</u>	<u>(81,225)</u>	<u>—</u>

Sheffield Music Academy

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

19. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Ensemble 360 Academy Project

This project is funded by Sheffield Town Trust, The Freshgate Trust Foundation and JG Graves Charitable Trust.

First Generation Musicians Project

During 2022-23 we launched a three year initiative to support children aged between four and eight years old who may not have previously been involved with music-making at home on their journey to learn a musical instrument. The project involves instrument lessons and musicianship classes, support to parents via workshops and videos, subsidised tickets to professional orchestral concerts for young musicians and their families and the purchase of child-sized instruments for their use. It is funded by grants from D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, John Thaw Foundation, Philip King Trust, Postlethwaite Music Foundation and Schroder Trust.

Student bursary funds

The Amber Trust provides Music Awards to support blind and partially sighted children and young people, who may also have other disabilities or special educational needs, until the age of 18. Its grant has been transferred to discount the fees of such students at the main Academy. In the year to 31 July 2024 a further bursary of £250 was received from Future Talent towards the tuition fees of a student.

Harmony Works

Money is being raised towards the feasibility stage of the Harmony Works project (see the trustees' report for further detail). The negative fund balance as at 31 July 2023 was supported by a £100,000 loan from Sheffield City Council - see other notes. Expenditure of £34,477 in 2023-24 includes the balance of £29,427 transferred to the Harmony Works Trust on 29 August 2023.

Proms In The Playground

Money was raised from grant providers towards a collaborative music education project focused on brass ensemble playing and group singing directly into Sheffield Primary schools during summer 2023.

Sheffield Music Academy

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds
	2025	
	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	98,562	98,562
Current assets	129,307	129,307
Creditors less than 1 year	(42,629)	(42,629)
Net assets	185,240	185,240

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds
	2024	
	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	100,357	100,357
Current assets	115,184	115,184
Creditors less than 1 year	(40,356)	(40,356)
Creditors greater than 1 year	—	—
Net assets	175,185	175,185

21. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 Aug 2024	Cash flows	At 31 Jul 2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	80,062	7,980	88,042