

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

Charity No: 1145873

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021



MIDSUMMER MUSIC

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

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MIDSUMMER MUSIC

Charity No: 1145873

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MIDSUMMER MUSIC

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 43 of the Charities Act 1993. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in my report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of s43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under s43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s41 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act 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.



C L H Alexander, ACMA CGMA

18th October 2022

Chartered Management Accountant

Alexander-Churchill LLP, Brandon House, 90 The Broadway, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, HP5 1EG

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR END 31st December 2021

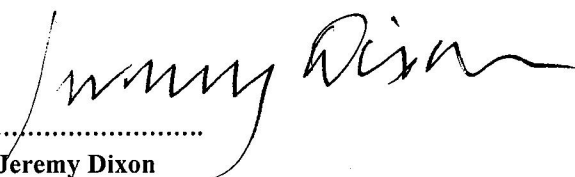
INCOMING RESOURCES	Notes:	31 December 2021	31 December 2020
		£ £	£ £
From Generated Funds:			
Fundraising Income		-	1,850
		<u>-</u>	<u>1,850</u>
From Charitable Activities:			
Ticket Sales		12,413	-
Supporters		7,630	23,732
Gift Aid		7,103	5,351
Phone final credit		-	100
		<u>27,146</u>	<u>29,183</u>
Total Incoming Resources		<u>27,146</u>	<u>31,033</u>
RESOURCES USED			
Cost of Generating Funds:	2a		
Fundraising Expenditure		<u>5,995</u>	<u>-</u>
Cost of Charitable Activities:			
Accountancy Fees		600	600
Artists' Fees	2b	5,095	-
Office Expenses and Printing		-	235
Staff Remuneration		15,000	15,000
Telephone		-	29
Website		83	53
Insurance	2c	369	341
Church Hire		600	-
Piano Removal and Tuning		1,682	-
Advertising and Publicity		-	275
Function Refreshments food		-	-
Stage & Lights		251	-
Cleaning & Extra Help		300	-
Storage		486	-
Sundries		55	-
Council Fees		-	-
Stage Equipment		-	-
PRS Fee		-12.59	-
Making Music Subs		-	378
		<u>24,508</u>	<u>16,910</u>
Total Resources Used		<u>30,503</u>	<u>16,910</u>
NET INCOMING /			
(- NET DEFICIT) / RESOURCES		<u><u>-3,357</u></u>	<u><u>14,124</u></u>
GENERAL FUND		£	£
Balance 1st Jan 2021		22,233	8,109
Balance 31st December 2021		18,876	22,233

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	<u>Notes:</u>	<u>31 Dec 2021</u>	<u>31 Dec 2020</u>
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>18,876</u>	<u>22,233</u>
		<u>18,876</u>	<u>22,233</u>
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>18,876</u></u>	<u><u>22,233</u></u>
 Financed by:			
GENERAL FUND			
Balance as at 1st January 2021		<u><u>22,233</u></u>	<u><u>8,109</u></u>
Net Income/(-Deficit) for year		<u><u>- 3,357</u></u>	<u><u>14,124</u></u>
Balance as at 31st December 2021		<u><u>18,876</u></u>	<u><u>22,233</u></u>

Approved by the Trustees on
and signed on their behalf:-



 Sir Jeremy Dixon
 Trustee

25th X 22

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR END 31st DECEMBER 2021

Note:

ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

1

[a]

Basis Of Accounting:

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.

[b]

General Funds:

The funds of the charity are entirely General Funds available for the objects of the charity, without restriction.

£

£

2

[a]

Fundraising Expenditure:

NPG Fundraisers

5995

5995

[b]

Artists' Fees and Expenses:

Fees (including Travel)

4370

Refreshments

515

Gifts

210

5095

[c]

Insurance:

Public Liability

369

369

midsummer music

Charity Number 1145873

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the period

01 January 2021 - 31 December 2021

**Charity's principal address:
56 Severalls Avenue
Buckinghamshire
Chesham
HP5 3EL**

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

Charity Number 1145873

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the period 01 January 2021 - 31 December 2021

Charity's principal address:

**56 Severalls Avenue
Chesham
Buckinghamshire
HP5 3EL**

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

**Sir Jeremy Dixon - Chair
Mrs Bjørg Lewis - Artistic Director
Mr Christopher Aldren**

Name of senior member of staff:

Mrs Madeleine Lister (Mattar) - Festival Director

Midsummer Music's governing document is a Trust Deed, which was executed on 21 December 2011. The objects of the charity as set out in its governing document are: "To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art of music through the presentation of public concerts and recitals, and for such other purposes as shall be exclusively charitable, as the trustees may from time to time decide."

The Charitable Trust is administered by three trustees. The trustees are appointed or re-appointed by the existing trustees. At the forefront of the trustees' decision-making, is a commitment to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. In 2021, the three trustees all gave their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other benefits in the period.

The annual chamber music festival produced by Midsummer Music is led by two Artistic Directors: the pianist, Paul Lewis and the cellist, Bjørg Lewis (also a trustee), both of whom are internationally-renowned concert musicians and award-winning recording artists. The Artistic Directors received no remuneration or other benefit in the period - either for their work in planning the festival, or as fees for performing at the festival.

The Festival Director, Madeleine Lister (Mattar) is self-employed. The Festival Director's responsibilities include all administration, charitable compliance, fund-raising, financial management, marketing, ticket sales, festival production and general management.

Midsummer Music in 2021

Midsummer Music in 2021 was an extraordinary festival. It was held over three days from 22 - 24 June at St Mary's Church in Old Amersham at a time when many COVID-19 restrictions were still in place. On 21 June, the day before the festival was due to start, the government road map was due to have moved to Step 4 (the effective end of lockdown), but however, the date was pushed back. Fortunately - purposefully - Midsummer Music was planned following the guidelines of Step 3 of the road map and was able to proceed. So, a reduced capacity audience (65 per concert), socially-distanced seating, compulsory mask-wearing, shorter concerts with no interval or refreshments, enhanced cleaning were the all measures to which we strictly adhered. It was extremely important that the audience felt able to gather in a safe environment. There was still a feeling of the need for great caution amongst concert-goers of all ages.

The artistic directors, Paul Lewis (piano) and Bjørg Lewis (cello) planned four hour-long concerts which were each performed twice, thereby maximizing the number of people able to attend. Paul and Bjørg were joined by just four musicians: violinists Alina Ibragimova and Annabelle Meare; violist Ruth Gibson and pianist Charles Owen. The repertoire spanned chamber music works from Telemann and Mozart to Dvorak, Ravel and Mussorgsky. It was a very special and moving event. For most of the audience, it was their very first trip out to hear a live concert since March 2020 when the first lockdown was imposed. There was absolutely no compromise in the artistic quality of the music performed. Despite the restrictions - or maybe indeed because of them - the performances were very powerfully felt and extremely memorable. Many of the comments from the audience echo the same sentiment: that music is about being present, listening together in the moment as a community and also appreciating in close-up the enormous skill and talent of the artists performing live. Midsummer Music 2022 was only about the music. It was a world-class event and an absolute credit to the town of Old Amersham. It was a great privilege for all involved to be able to play a part in the post-lockdown renaissance of live artistic events.

Nothing more eloquently conveys how important Midsummer Music has been to the audience in 2021, than their own responses. Here is a selection of the feedback from audience members:

*"We just wanted to say how much we enjoyed the wonderful recitals this year and, despite the awful restrictions imposed upon the organising of Midsummer Music, what a moving event it was. The atmosphere was intimate, the acoustic impressive and as for the artists – what can one say other than *thank you*"*

"We did enjoy the concert last night. It is such a joy to have Midsummer Music back and to hear live music again."

"The concert was great of course and I was very pleased that my 6-year-old music pupil was seated right next to the piano! That's an experience he's unlikely to forget in a hurry!"

"Just a quick email to congratulate you on your fantastically organized concert tonight. Hearing Paul Lewis in particular, was hearing the most extraordinary playing, and in an acoustic to die for. I will be back!"

"Thank you so much for organizing so excellently, Midsummer Music. We had a wonderful memorable day yesterday. Please pass on to all the wonderful players our thanks for music we will long remember. It was very special to be part of their playing in such a good acoustic"

"Such an uplifting and intense musical experience – how so few can raise the rafters with their passion, precision and awesome programme, delivered with joy."

"It was the first live music I've heard for months, and made me realise again how essential it is to life. Your programmes are so enterprising, and the performances, of course, world class."

“As for the music: magically superb! It was so glorious, at last, to see real human musicians giving us a wonderful live experience after such an empty year.”

“I have finally come back down to earth after the wonderful days of music in Old Amersham.”

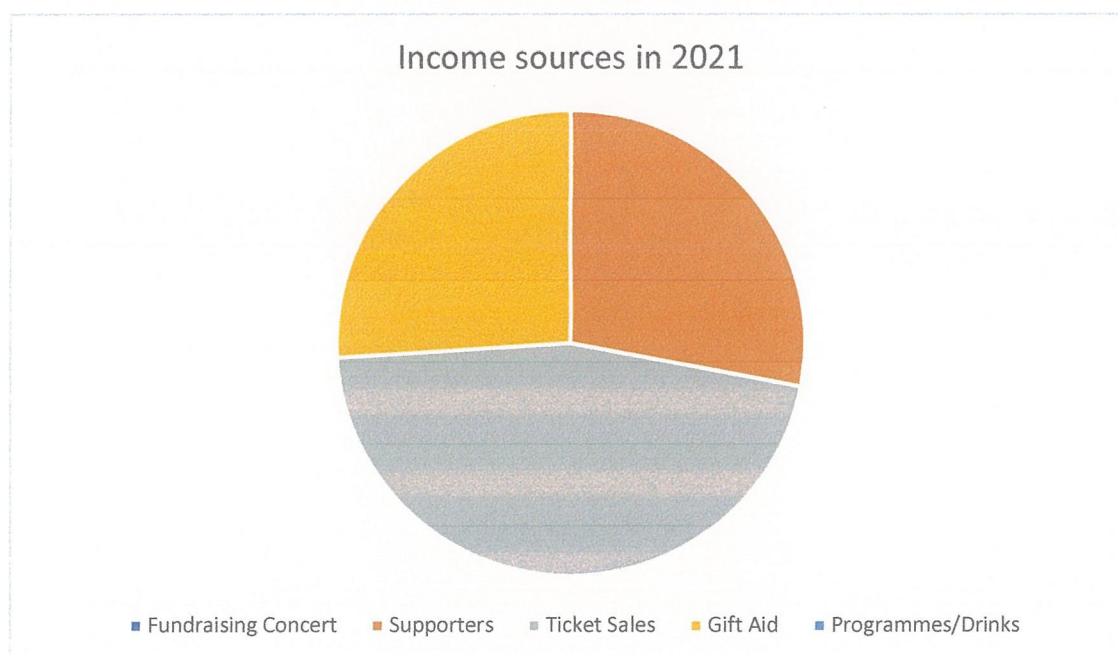
“As always, the concerts lived up to the very high standard of musicianship maintained by Midsummer Music over the years.”

“Thank you and all the musicians for giving us such a treat, not least in view of the difficulties of organizing such an event at present.”

In a normal year, Midsummer Music usually generates income from five sources as follows:

- 1) Fundraising Concert
- 2) Supporters' donations
- 3) Ticket Sales from the June festival
- 4) Gift Aid
- 5) Advertising revenue, brochure sales and refreshment sales during the June festival

However, in 2021, Midsummer Music was only able to receive income from three out of five of those sources. Ticket Sales (significantly reduced because of the limit on audience numbers allowed), Supporters' donations and Gift Aid claims for three financial years:



As regards spending, the first key goal in 2021 was to present a scaled-down festival on the tightest budget. The second goal was to try to save money for 2022 when a return to normality might occur and a full-scale festival could be produced. Therefore, all costs were greatly reduced in planning the 2021 festival. The four invited artists plus the two Artistic Directors were all UK-based and all agreed to travel home after concerts, obviating the need to use hotels. Catering costs for the artists were kept to a minimum. Production costs were lowered by not using any staging and only using minimal lighting. Because of the restrictions, it was decided not to print the usual brochure, but instead to send out pdfs of the individual programmes, which could be printed at home.

There was an immense satisfaction in having achieved a top-quality festival with a minimal amount of money. Moreover, it gives confidence to know that in the most extreme circumstances, with careful and judicious planning, we can still achieve our charitable goals.

Due to limiting production costs on the 2021 festival and also, in great measure due to the continued generosity and loyalty of Supporter donations throughout the year, Midsummer Music ended the year in a reasonable financial position. At the close of the 2021 financial year, Midsummer Music holds cash at the bank of £18,876, all of which is unrestricted funds.

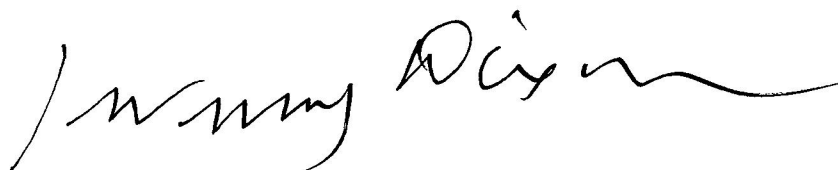
The reserve level remains set at £10,000. Reserves are clearly essential for Midsummer Music in order to meet unforeseen circumstances: another pandemic, a reduction in Supporters' donations; reduced ticket sales from socially-distanced concerts; the possibility of another cancelled festival.

Looking back on 2021 gives a feeling of pride in all that was achieved in the most difficult circumstances. The support and involvement of the audience members was crucial. Their willingness to abide with the lockdown restrictions in order to participate in the concerts was appreciated. Although each concert's attendance was restricted to very few in number (65), what was clear was that the atmosphere was undimmed and the sense of performance was as exciting and powerful as in any previous year. The Trustees and Artistic Directors would like to express their gratitude to all the audience and especially to those who joined the Supporters of Midsummer Music. Their generosity and love of music remains the bedrock of all that the festival can achieve. Looking forward to 2022, we hope we will be able to re-introduce our programme of outreach work with local schools, as it was sadly impossible to offer such output this year. As is the case every year, we continue to build on Midsummer Music's commitment to the highest level of live classical chamber music performances given by world-class artists.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Dixon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Full Name Sir Jeremy Dixon

Position Chair

Date

25 ~~8~~ 22