

midsummer music

Charity Number 1145873

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the period

01 January 2022 - 31 December 2022

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

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

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Charity's principal address:

56 Severalls Avenue
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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 2022, the three trustees all gave their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other benefits in the period.

The main focus of Midsummer Music's work is to produce an annual chamber music festival. This 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 2022

Midsummer Music 2022 was held from Tuesday 21 to Thursday 23 June at St Mary's Church in Old Amersham. It was a significant year in that it was the first time that the music festival was able to return to pre-pandemic conditions. This ability clearly had an impact on how the festival could be planned and produced.

The 2021 festival the previous year had been greatly affected in all areas: a reduced number of artists performing; a much smaller number of audience members; physical restrictions imposed by social-distancing; shorter concert lengths; no printed programme notes; the absence of interval and post-concert hospitality. All these government guidelines meant that there was great caution in the planning process. The reality of the event was that there was a great thirst amongst the audience to be able to experience live music in person. The 2021 concerts were significant for many of those who had grown used to online, streamed concerts and who wondered when they might ever be able to return to attending concerts in person.

So, post-pandemic, the runup to Midsummer Music in 2022 was altogether freer and provoked much discussion about how would be best to return and if any elements of the festival needed rethinking. In the end, it was decided to restore all elements of the festival as had previously been in place: five concerts over a three-day period, comprising a diverse mix of classical chamber music. The artistic directors, Paul Lewis (piano) and Bjørg Lewis (cello) invited nine other artists, making a significant sized team of eleven musicians who went on to share the concert programmes. The fantastically talented and well-established line-up of artists were as follows:

Ben Aldren *clarinet*
Sascha Bota *viola*
Adrian Brendel *cello*
Hélène Clement *viola*
Michael Gurevich *violin*
Natalie Klouda *violin*
Bjørg Lewis *cello*
Paul Lewis *piano*
Mark Padmore *tenor*
Wu Qian *piano*
Alexander Sitkovetsky *violin*

The standard of playing was exceptional. At the heart of Midsummer Music's ideals is a commitment to excellence. The quality of the music making and the calibre of the artists must aspire to be outstanding. This year did not disappoint. Together the various artists performed works by Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Faure, Chausson, Debussy and Ravel. The audience numbers were strong and it was good to see all generations represented: the £5 tickets for those aged 18 and under are clearly appreciated by families.

Educational work is very important to Midsummer Music and it was satisfying to be able to reintroduce this aspect of Midsummer Music's outreach. We were proud to put on a unique event for the local secondary school, Dr Challoner's Grammar School. International concert pianist, Paul Lewis presented a special performance of Beethoven's Pathétique Sonata to a large group of year 10 and year 11 GCSE Music students the day before the festival started. This work is one of the set works for GCSE and most of the children present would never have had access to a live performance, but would rather have only listened to recordings. It was thrilling for the children to hear close up in the intimate surroundings of St Mary's Church just how exciting and visceral an experience this could be. Paul was able to discuss the work and explain it from his perspective as a creative artist. He also answered the students' many questions about Beethoven's work and also his own life as a concert artist.

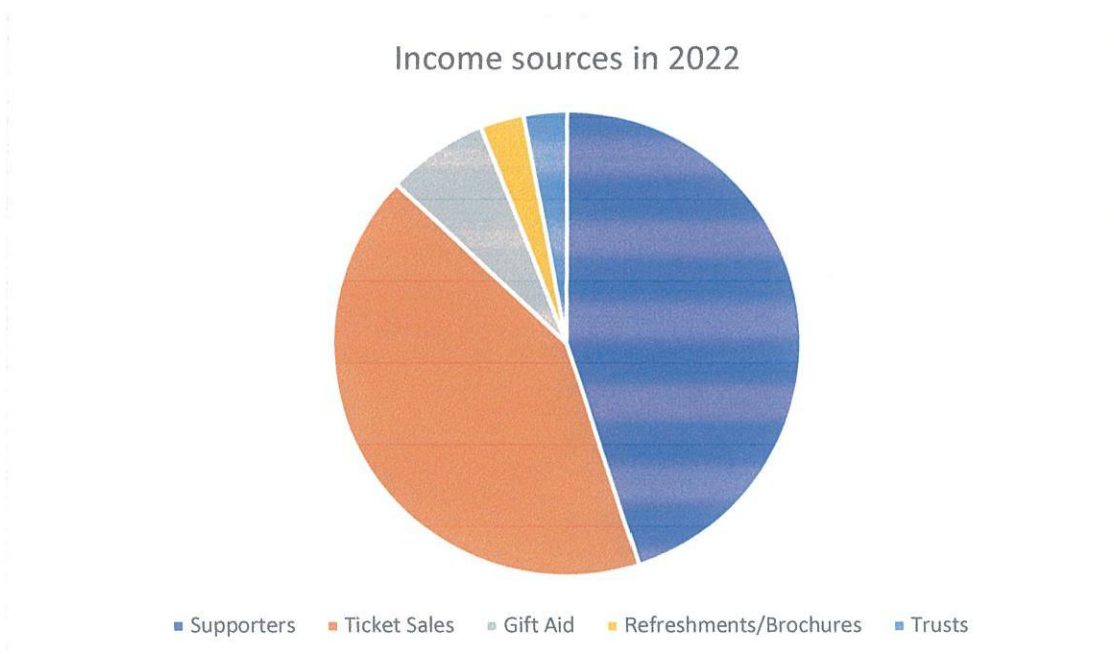
A-level Music and German students from the same school all attended a festival performance of Schubert's *Winterreise* song cycle performed by the hugely celebrated tenor Mark Padmore together with pianist Paul Lewis. We know just how important it is to extend this kind of invitation to local students. The experience of listening to live music is an immeasurably enriching one. We are committed to fostering our links with local schools and opening out this event to as many young people as possible.

In summary, it has been an excellent year of concerts, outreach work and community. The audience this year were also able to meet and socialize as normal and the return of concert intervals and post-concert gatherings was warmly welcomed. It was the first time since 2019 that audience members from further afield in the UK and also from abroad were able to attend the festival and bring benefit to local hotels, restaurants and cafés. The church in which the festival is held is an especially important partner and is very embracing of Midsummer Music's work. We are truly appreciative for their involvement, as the evocative and atmospheric space of St Mary's Church makes a perfect setting for classical music. Clearly the core audience is a local one and Midsummer Music remains very much a local event that needs a supportive community around it. Our aspiration is that everyone who experiences Midsummer Music can be uplifted by this this world-class classical music event.

Midsummer Music usually generates income from the five sources below:

- 1) Fundraising concert
- 2) Donations from Supporters
- 3) Ticket sales from the festival
- 4) Gift Aid
- 5) Refreshment and brochure sales during the festival

However, it was not possible to hold a fundraising concert as a date couldn't be found. In 2022, Midsummer Music was grateful to receive the support of The Shanly Foundation which supports local charities and community causes in the Buckinghamshire area.



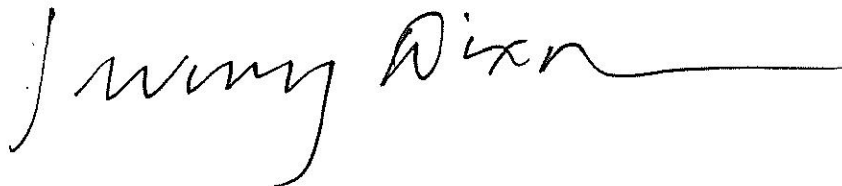
Midsummer Music ended the year in a good financial position. At the close of the 2022 financial year, Midsummer Music held cash at the bank of £27,562, all of which is unrestricted funds. In order to meet unforeseen circumstances (a cancelled festival, a drop in Supporter donations, reduced ticket sales), the reserve level remains set at £10,000.

The Trustees and Artistic Directors would like to express their gratitude to everyone who helps Midsummer Music thrive: the amazing artists, loyal audience and especially the Supporters of Midsummer Music. Their generosity and love of music remains the foundation of all that the festival can achieve. We remain committed to building on Midsummer Music's contribution to the cultural landscape, making the event as accessible as possible to the local community and maintaining the highest standards of artistic excellence in live classical music performance.

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, reading 'Jeremy Dixon', followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Full Name: Sir Jeremy Dixon

Position: Chairman of the Trustees

Date: 27 / 10 / 23

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

CONTENTS

1	Independent Examiner's Report
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4	Notes to the Accounts

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 2022, 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.

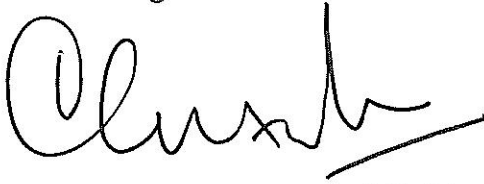
Independent examiner's statement

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

16th October 2023

Chartered Management Accountant


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

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	<u>Notes:</u>	<u>31 Dec 2022</u>	<u>31 Dec 2021</u>
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>27,562</u>	<u>18,876</u>
		<u>27,562</u>	<u>18,876</u>
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>27,562</u></u>	<u><u>18,876</u></u>
Financed by:			
GENERAL FUND		<u><u>18,876</u></u>	<u><u>22,233</u></u>
Balance as at 1st January 2022			
Net Income/(-Deficit) for year		<u>8,686</u>	<u>- 3,357</u>
Balance as at 31st December 2022		<u><u>27,562</u></u>	<u><u>18,876</u></u>

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



Sir Jeremy Dixon
Trustee

27/10/23

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the Year-Ended 31st December 2022

INCOMING RESOURCES

	<u>Notes:</u>	31 December 2022		31 December 2021	
		£	£	£	£
From Charitable Activities:					
Ticket Sales		19,275		12,413	
Supporters		20,358		7,630	
Gift Aid		3,423		7,103	
Total			43,056		27,146
From Other Activities:					
Profit from Programmes		603		0	
Profit from Sale of Drinks		557		0	
Total			1,160		0
From Charitable Donations:					
Shanly Trust		1,500		0	
Total			1,500		0
Total Incoming Resources			<u>45,716</u>		<u>27,146</u>

RESOURCES USED

Cost of Generating Funds:					
Fundraising Expenditure	2a	0		5,995	
Total			0		5,995
Cost of Charitable Activities:					
Accountancy Fees		618		600	
Artists' Fees	2b	12,182		5,095	
Bank Charges		92		-	
Office Expenses and Printing	2c	1,525		-	
Staff Remuneration		15,000		15,000	
Website		115		83	
Insurance	2d	325		369	
Hiring Charges	2e	1,048		600	
Piano Removal and Tuning		373		1,682	
Stage & Lights		2,945		251	
Cleaning & Extra Help		915		300	
Storage		993		486	
Sundries		433		55	
Licence Fee for Selling drinks		466		0	
PRS Fee		-		-13	
Total			37,030		24,508
Total Resources Used			<u>37,030</u>		<u>30,503</u>

NET INCOMING /

(- NET DEFICIT) - RESOURCE:

Total	<u>8,686</u>	<u>-3,357</u>
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GENERAL FUND

	£	£
Balance 1st January 2022	18,876	22,233
Balance 31st December 2022	<u>27,562</u>	<u>18,876</u>

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the Year-End- 31st DECEMBER 2022

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

£ £

-
-

[b] Artists' Fees and Expenses:

Fees (including Travel)

11,409

Refreshments

625

Gifts

148

12,182

[c] Office Expenses and Printing:

Translations

75

Office Supplies and Sundries (Program notes)

300

Printing:

1,150

1,525

[d] Insurance:

Public Liability

325

325

[e] Hiring Chages:

Church Hire

978

Band Hall Hire

70

1,048