

midsummer music

Charity Number 1145873

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the period

01 January 2023 - 31 December 2023

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 2023, 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 2023

2023 was a good year for Midsummer Music. Building on the return in confidence that the first post-pandemic festival in 2022 had engendered, Midsummer Music was able to plan its usual events.

The first event of the year was the Launch Concert held in London on 12 April at 33 Mansfield Street. This concert had a particular significance, as it was the first fundraising event Midsummer Music had organised since 2019. The event was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic restrictions, and no suitable date was found in 2022. So, it was lovely to be able to present a concert in 2023. It opened with two cello works by Fauré, *Après un Rêve* and *Élegie*, followed by Schumann's *Fantasy Pieces Op. 73* played by Bjørg Lewis with Madeleine Mattar. The evening then concluded with Schubert's monumental *A minor Sonata D845* played by Paul Lewis. The event is an occasion to connect with established audience members but also to promote the festival events in June to potentially new audience members. It is a valuable evening that encourages donations and generally raises the profile of Midsummer Music. The artists all gave their services for free in order to maximise the fundraising potential of the event.

This year's main event, the Midsummer Music June festival, was held from Wednesday 21 to Friday 23 June. It was the 14th edition and the first year in which online ticket sales via Ticketsource were offered. Ticket prices were held the same as the previous year (£30 and £20) with £5 tickets available for those aged 18 and under.

In selecting the artists for 2022, a great effort had been made to ensure that all were UK-based, so as to keep costs down. In 2023, some excellent artists from Europe were invited together with other UK artists. Along with the Artistic Directors, Paul Lewis and Bjørg Lewis, the team of musicians made a total of eight terrifically accomplished and established artists:

Claudia Ajmone-Marsan *violin*
Nicholas Bootiman *viola*
Berit Cardas *violin/viola*
Liza Ferschtman *violin*
Giovanni Gnocchi *cello*
Tim Horton *piano*
Bjørg Lewis *cello*
Paul Lewis *piano*

The format remained the same as in previous years: five concerts given over three days. The repertoire chosen to fill the concerts offered a significant amount of variety, with composers ranging from Bach, Beethoven and Brahms to Luise Adolpa le Beau, Nadia Boulanger, Elizabeth Maconchy and Sofia Gubaidulina. As an example, here are some of the works performed in 2023:

Bach Partita No. 3 in E major for solo violin
Sofia Gubaidulina Preludes for solo cello
Elizabeth Maconchy String Quartet No. 3
Brahms Sextet No. 2 in G major
Schubert Three Marches Militaires
Schoenberg *Verklärte Nacht* Op. 4 for string sextet
Schubert Piano Sonatas
Prokofiev Violin Sonata No. 2
Nadia Boulanger Three Pieces for cello and piano
Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4 in piano and string quartet arrangement

This is not a comprehensive list, but gives a flavour of the breadth of different composers, periods and sound worlds experienced. There were stellar performances all round, and the collegial manner in which the concerts were shared between the artists, made for a particularly rich concert experience. The artistic level

of the musicians was both excellent and inspiring and is the very essence of Midsummer Music. A warm informality is another hallmark of the festival; detailed and informed introductions to many of the lesser-known works were appreciated by the audience. Audience numbers were again strong this year and together with a very loyal core of audience members who have been devoted to the festival for many years, there were many discovering it for the first time. Grandparents now bring their children and grandchildren and there is a sense that the message of the visceral power of live music is being handed down.

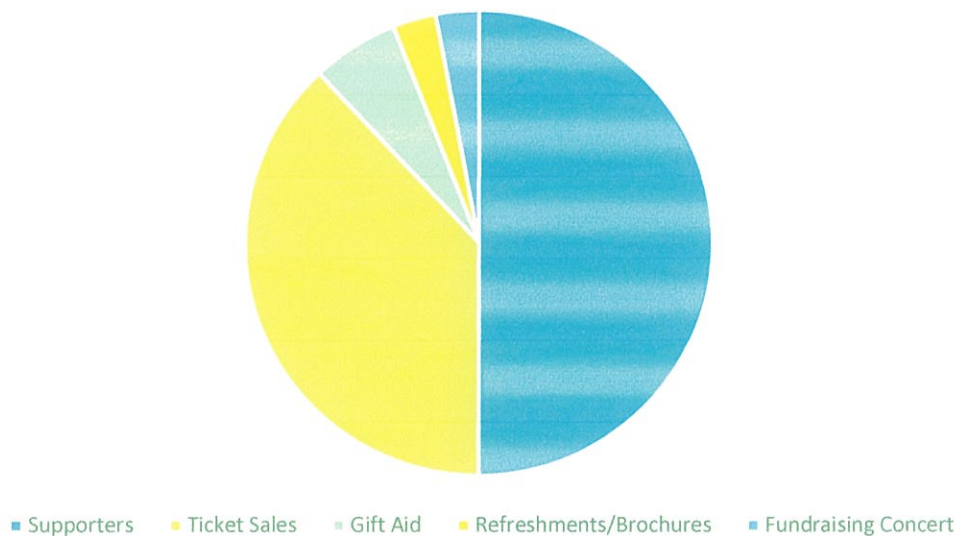
In 2023, Midsummer Music re-established its link with the local school linked to the church venue: St Mary's Church of England Primary School. The Artistic Directors, Paul Lewis and Bjørg Lewis strongly believe that it is vital for children to experience hearing live music being created in an engaging space and also for the children to be able interact with the musicians and have the chance to ask them questions and share their understanding of the music. We are especially grateful to Berit Cardas, Bjørg Lewis and Tim Horton, who gave a wonderfully varied concert of music for all of the school's Key Stage 2 children – those aged 7 to 11. The children are was absolutely packed, with a great sense of atmosphere. There were works by Schubert, Chopin and Nadia Boulanger and then the concert finished with a brilliant rendition of Ferdinand the Bull given by the irrepressible Berit Cardas. The work is a classical violin piece by Alan Ridout with story narrative and much comedic effect! It went down brilliantly and the whole concert was hugely appreciated by the children, headteacher and staff alike. The invitation to the school will be extended again in 2024. It is really important that Midsummer Music is as accessible as possible to the local community and we will always seek to foster positive relationships with schools in the local area.

To conclude, 2023 was another fantastic year of concerts and outreach work. The supportive community which has built up around Midsummer Music is its most valuable asset. We are all particularly grateful to the church community who so generously allow Midsummer Music to set its festival in their beautiful and very busy church. St Mary's in Old Amersham is an absolutely perfect space in which to perform and hear music, and we all appreciate how accommodating the clergy and the parish are for the week that we are setting up, rehearsing and putting on the concerts. We are proud to attract an audience locally, nationally and internationally. The presence of the festival in the town of Old Amersham is a positive factor, boosting the local economy and lending an air of anticipation and excitement. Over the past 14 years, Midsummer Music has built a reputation as a world-class classical music event. It is uplifting and inspiring. It is fortunate to be led by two incredibly passionate advocates for music and its transformative power, Paul and Bjørg Lewis. It promotes the art of classical music-making in an inviting and uplifting manner and is true to its mission to both educate and entertain. We are proud to be associated with Midsummer Music and always aspire to make its benefits accessible to as many people as possible.

Midsummer Music generates income from the five sources below:

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

Income sources in 2023




Midsummer Music ended the year in a steady financial position. Significantly, it was the second year in a row to close with a net incoming resource. At the close of the 2023 financial year, Midsummer Music held cash at the bank of £31,999, all of which is unrestricted funds. In order to meet unforeseen circumstances (another pandemic, 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 UK's cultural landscape, making the event as accessible as possible to the local community and to those who travel long distances to attend. Above all, everyone associated with Midsummer Music is determined to maintain 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

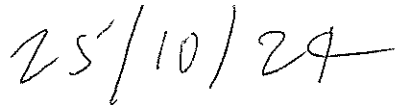
Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Dixon', with a stylized, flowing script.

Full Name: Sir Jeremy Dixon

Position: Chairman of the Trustees

Date:

A handwritten date '25/10/24' in black ink, with a stylized, flowing script.

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

Charity No: 1145873

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Alexander  **Churchill**
Chartered Management Accountants

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

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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2	Statement of Assets and Liabilities
3	Receipts and Payments Account
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 2023, 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.

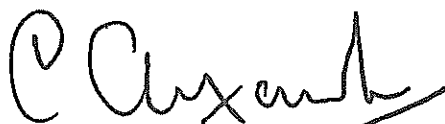
Independent examiner's statement

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

15th October 2024

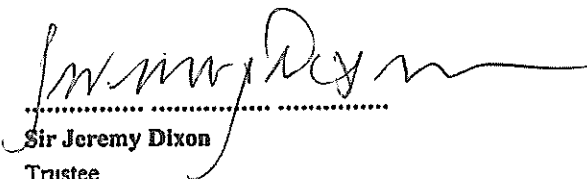
Chartered Management Accountant

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

MIDSUMMER MUSIC
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	<u>Notes:</u>	<u>31 Dec 2023</u>	<u>31 Dec 2022</u>
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash at Bank and In Hand		<u>31,999</u>	<u>27,562</u>
		<u>31,999</u>	<u>27,562</u>
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>31,999</u></u>	<u><u>27,562</u></u>
 Financed by:			
GENERAL FUND			
Balance as at 1st January 2023		<u><u>27,562</u></u>	<u><u>18,876</u></u>
Net Income/(-Deficit) for year		<u><u>4,437</u></u>	<u><u>8,686</u></u>
Balance as at 31st December 2023		<u><u>31,999</u></u>	<u><u>27,562</u></u>

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


.....
Sir Jeremy Dixon
Trustee

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10
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MIDSUMMER MUSIC

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the Year-Ended 31st December 2023

INCOMING RESOURCES

	Notes:	31 December 2023		31 December 2022	
		£	£	£	£
From Charitable Activities:					
Ticket Sales		18,570		19,275	
Supporters		24,091		20,358	
Gift Aid		2,849		3,423	
Total			45,510		43,056
From Other Activities:					
Fundraising Concert		1,657		0	
Sale of Drinks & Programmes		1,534		1,160	
Total			3,191		1,160
From Charitable Donation:					
Shanly Trust		0		1,500	
Total			0		1,500
Total Incoming Resources			48,701		45,716

RESOURCES USED

Cost of Generating Funds:					
Fundraising Expenditure	2a	415		0	
Total			415		0
Cost of Charitable Activities:					
Accountancy Fees		678		618	
Artists' Fees	2b	13,958		12,182	
Bank Charges		186		92	
Office Expenses and Printing	2c	1,236		1,525	
Staff Remuneration		15,000		15,000	
Website		320		115	
Insurance	2d	325		325	
Hiring Charges	2e	1,551		1,048	
Piano Removal and Tuning		4,112		373	
Stage & Lights		2,946		2,945	
Extra help		1,090		915	
Storage		1,134		993	
Sundries		428		433	
Licence Fee for Selling drinks		21		21	
Drinks		865		445	
Total			43,850		37,030
Total Resources Used			44,264		37,030

NET INCOMING / (- NET DEFICIT) - RESOURCE:	Total	4,437	8,686
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GENERAL FUND

	£	£
Balance 1st January 2023	27,562	18,876
Balance 31st December 2023	31,999	27,562

MIDSUMMER MUSIC

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the Year-End- 31st DECEMBER 2023

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:		
		Fundraising Concert	415	
				415
	[b]	Artists' Fees and Expenses:		
		Fees (including Travel & Accomodation)	12,277	
		Refreshments	1,524	
		Gifts	157	
				13,958
	[c]	Office Expenses and Printing:		
		Office Supplies and Sundries (Program notes)	300	
		Printing:	936	
				1,236
	[d]	Insurance:		
		Public Liability	325	
				325
	[e]	Hiring Chages:		
		Church Hire	1,311	
		Portaloo Hire	240	
				1,551