

SOUTH DOWNS SUMMER MUSIC INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Charity registration number: 1151916

**Trustees' Report and Accounts
for the year to 31st December 2024**

SOUTH DOWNS SUMMER MUSIC INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

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Trustees' Report

For the year to 31st December 2024

Objectives and Activities

The purpose of the charity as set out in the governing document is to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music, in particular by the organising of a festival of music to be held annually for public attendance in and around Alfriston, East Sussex.

The charity promotes and produces the annual South Downs Summer Music International Festival, a varied programme of music in and around the village of Alfriston, featuring both world class and up and coming young artists. During the festival week each July the charity provides a programme of master classes and performance opportunities for a group of young musicians. The charity has close ties with the Hastings International Piano, a prize winner of which is invited to perform at the festival.

The charity also organises an informal spring concert in Alfriston to promote the festival and encourage engagement with supporters in the local community.

The trustees, artistic directors and festival management would like to thank the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Andrew's with Lullington, Reverend Prebendary Stephen Stuckes and his Benefice Team and the church wardens for their permission and support to stage the festival. Their assistance and understanding is invaluable. The superb acoustic of St Andrew's and quirkiness of Lullington provide unique venues for a week of world class music in the South Downs National Park.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

The 2024 festival, the 18th since the festival was founded, successfully presented a full programme of 10 concerts with performances by invited distinguished musicians, the Festival Orchestra and the Piatti Quartet. Laura Sheerin (soprano) joined the Benyounes Piano Trio for a concert of French music. Catrin Finch (harp) and Aoife Ní Bhriain (violin) took the Friday audience on a captivating journey inspired by the cultures of their home countries, Ireland and Wales. Curtis Phill Hsu was welcomed as the 2024 Hastings International Piano first prize winner and Kyan Quartet benefited from the residency. Jeremy Young and Simon Callaghan presented a piano concert for children with Kate O'Flynn narrating The Story of Babar and The Carnival of the Animals. A relaxed evening of New Orleans jazz by The Ticklers introduced a new venue, The Longman Brewery, on Saturday night.

Financial Review

This Trustee Report and the Accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis as permitted under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

Overall income for the year of £30,320, excluding Gift Aid relating to previous periods, represents a fall of 10% compared to the period to 31st December 2023 (£33,821). This is disappointing following the post-pandemic bounce experienced in the 2023 festival and highlights the importance of continuing to nurture the support of individual backers and improve the

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commercialisation of the festival. This is being reviewed by the trustees and management. The payments associated with the provision of charitable activities increased 7% to £34,692 leaving a net movement of funds for the year of £(1,740) (£1,296 31/12/23). Total cash funds held at 31st December were £13,230.

Reserves policy

Money is held in reserve to cover continuing expenditure throughout the year arising from booking artists and facilities for the current and future festivals and charitable activities. No specific monetary value is ascribed to reserves or designated by the trustees but the level of funds is regularly monitored by the trustees.

Risk management

The Trustees consider that the principal risks and uncertainties are:

- Late cancellation or indisposition of booked artists
- Failure to attract and retain sponsorship and donations
- External conditions (e.g. pandemic, extreme weather) affecting ticket sales.

These risks are managed by the Artistic Directors and the Festival Manager, reporting as necessary to the Trustees.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity was established by a Constitution adopted on 17th February 2013, amended in 2018 to adopt the present name of the charity. The charity is an unincorporated Trust registered with the Charity Commission, registered number 1151916. The day-to-day management of the charity is delegated to a committee comprising the Trustees with the Artistic Directors and Festival Manager.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name: South Downs Summer Music International Festival

Registered charity number: 1151916

Charity's principal address: 8 Heath Road, Great Brickhill, Buckinghamshire MK17 9AL

Trustees

Jeremy Young (Chair)

Paul Bendit

Violet Hancock

Anthony Davy ACA (Appointed 23/1/2024)

None of the trustees received remuneration during the period in respect of their role as trustee. Jeremy Young received performance fees and expenses as detailed in Note 2 to the accounts.

Artistic Directors

Zahra Benyounes

Emily Holland

Festival Manager

Orsi Torják

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Website and email

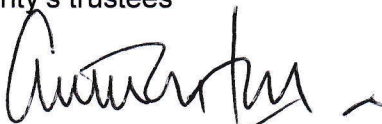
<https://www.southdownssummermusic.co.uk/>
southdownssummermusic@gmail.com

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature:



Full Name:

Anthony Davy

Position: Trustee

Date: 27th October 2025

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Receipts and Payments

For the year to 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	<i>Prior period</i>
Receipts:					
Donations and gifts	£11,000	-	-	£11,000	£13,448
Gift Aid	£2,632	-	-	£2,632	£0
Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	£2,210	-	-	£2,210	£870
Ticket and programme sales	£16,930	-	-	£16,930	£19,113
Programme adverts	£180	-	-	£180	£390
Gross Income	£32,952	-	-	£32,952	£33,821
Payments:					
Charitable activities	£34,692	-	-	£34,692	£32,525
Total Payments	£34,692	-	-	£34,692	£32,525
Net movement in funds	£(1,740)	-	-	£(1,740)	£1,296
Total funds last year end	£14,970	-	-	£14,970	£13,675
Total funds this period end	£13,230	-	-	£13,230	£14,970

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Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period 31st December 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior period
Cash funds:					
Cash at bank and in hand	£13,230	-	-	£13,230	£12,987
Santander	£0	-	-	£0	£1,983
Lloyds					
Total cash funds	£13,230	-	-	£13,230	£14,970
Other monetary assets:					
Debtors and Prepayments	£2,200	-	-	£2,200	£2,632
Liabilities:					
Accruals and deferred income	£0	-	-	£0	£(2000)

Signed on behalf of all the trustees:

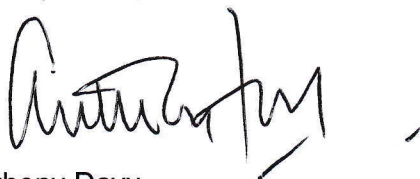


Signature

Print Name Jeremy Young

Date 27th October 2025

Signature



Print Name Anthony Davy

Date 27th October 2025

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1.1 Basis of accounting

This Trustee Report and the Accounts have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis as permitted under section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity.

1.2 Going concern

These accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis and the charity has sufficient liquid funds to continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

2. Related parties

Paul Bendit is a trustee and a director of Metro Drinks Limited, a major sponsor of the festival under their brand Folkington's. Metro Drinks Limited made a cash donation of £905 (£874 2023).

Jeremy Young, trustee, received festival performance fees and expenses of £1,000 (£1,044 2023).

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Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees of South Downs Summer Music International Festival (Registered Charity no 1151916) on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024 set out on pages 1 to 6

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 21 October 2025

Name: Crispin Patrick Freeman

Relevant professional qualification: Chartered Accountant

Address:
Sanctuary
Winton Street
Alfriston
BN26 5UL