

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD

England & Wales · Charity number 1154803

Details

Other names BRIGHTER SOUND

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [05100495](#)

Registered 2013-11-29

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Green Fish Resource Centre
46-50 Oldham Street
Manchester
M4 1LE

Phone 0161 546 5334

Email info@brightersound.com

Website www.brightersound.com

Activities

Objects: TO ACT AS A RESOURCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING IN [ENTER IF REQUIRED] BY PROVIDING ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE AND ORGANISING PROGRAMMES OF PHYSICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AS A MEANS OF:(A) ADVANCING IN LIFE AND HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE BY DEVELOPING THEIR SKILLS, CAPACITIES AND CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY AS INDEPENDENT, MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS; (B) ADVANCING EDUCATION, PARTICULARLY IN MUSIC; (C) RELIEVING UNEMPLOYMENT; (D) PROVIDING RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITY IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT WHO HAVE NEED BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABILITY, POVERTY OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF SUCH PERSONS. ADVANCING EDUCATION IN THE ARTS BY PROVIDING TRAINING IN MUSIC, INCLUDING WORKING WITH EMERGING MUSICIANS WHO HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND, OR NEED SUPPORT IN FINDING EMPLOYMENT.

Activities: Inspiring and creative music-making projects & activities including residencies, workshops, courses and training for children, young people, emerging professional musicians and adult learners. Consultation and support for the music education sector and strategic development of the music offer for the

region with emphasis on children in challenging circumstances and emerging musicians.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£631,556	£652,025	£131,462	12
2024-03-31	£658,215	£707,585	£151,936	13
2023-03-31	£544,324	£726,933	£201,306	13
2022-03-31	£728,164	£816,484	£383,915	13
2021-03-31	£753,251	£491,675	£472,235	11

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Virginia Ann Tandy	Chair	2020-06-29
Amalie Bronwen Briden		2025-06-10
Andy Lovatt		2016-12-08
Matthew Wilde		2016-09-22
Michael John Ball		2016-09-22
Rachel Davies		2021-08-05
Robert Matthew Shaw		2021-07-01
Sarah Biggerstaff		2025-09-03
Thomas Fazal Rabbani		2021-03-22
Wing Hon Anthony Lee		2021-07-01

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1154803

Accounts

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR

THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025**

INDEX

Chair's statement	1
Administrative information	2
Trustees' and Directors' annual report	3 – 9
Independent examiner's report	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Statement of cash flows	13
Notes to the financial statements	14 - 25

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
CHAIR'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025**

2024-25 has been a busy year at Brighter Sound and a year of change and growth. Headline highlights include the successful delivery of WOMEX 2024 (Worldwide Music Expo) in Manchester with a community-rooted wraparound programme to support young and emerging creatives in the region. We received the award for Promotion of Talent and Leadership at the Manchester Culture Awards and have delivered a wide-reaching programme of community outreach and engagement with activity for young people taking place in boroughs across Greater Manchester as well as the city centre.

Our practice has evolved through a deeper understanding of a trauma-responsive pedagogy which has enabled us to work in a meaningful way with young people who have experienced or are experiencing additional challenges in their lives.

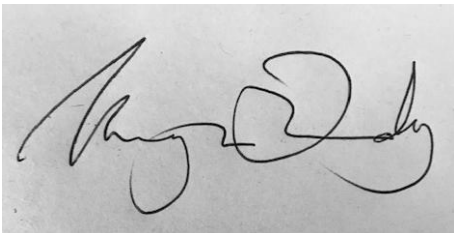
Our work with emerging artists has included a range of innovative commissions and events inspired by the presence of WOMEX, supporting new work that examines or challenges the future of the music industry and global music cultures.

Our gender equality work has focussed on leadership development through a new partnership with the Sony Justice Fund. The programme offers online workshops, action learning sets, a leadership retreat and community building events. We have expanded this area of our work further, through a partnership with the British Council, to offer a worldwide leadership development programme.

Alongside this broad and exciting programme of activity we continue to work strategically as the sector lead for Manchester Music City. Following the successful delivery of WOMEX, our focus turns to the development of a music strategy for the city.

Looking beyond Manchester our work as co-founders of the Northern Music Network has continued as we work to develop a collective strategy for talent development in the region: creating a blueprint for the way in which the sector can work more cooperatively in order to make a greater impact for artists in the region.

Across all our work we are bringing together local and global conversations, opening up new dialogues and finding points of connection and collaboration for people who are passionate about creating change and making our sector more accessible and equitable. This work wouldn't be possible without the unwavering support and advice of my fellow board members, the inspired and energetic Brighter Sound team including freelancers and for all our partners and funders: thank you to you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Virginia Tandy'.

Dr Virginia Tandy - Chair, Brighter Sound

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025**

DIRECTORS

M Ball
R Davies
J Harvie (resigned 31 January 2025)
W H A Lee
A G Lovatt
T F Rabbani
L O Shaw
R M Shaw
Dr V A Tandy - Chair
M Wilde

K Lowes
G Davies (resigned January 2025)

Chief Executive
Head of Operations & Finance

KEY STAFF

R Horn

Head of Marketing & Communications

**REGISTERED OFFICE AND
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS**

Green Fish Resource Centre
46-50 Oldham Street
Manchester
M4 1LE

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
& ACCOUNTANTS**

Stacy Mason
HGA Accountants & Financial Consultants Ltd
t/a **Chittenden Horley** – Chartered Accountants
Hyde Park House
Cartwright Street, Newton
Manchester SK14 4EH

BANKERS

Lloyds Bank Plc
42-46 Market Street
Manchester M1 1PW

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025**

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

REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019), referred to as the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable objects

1. The Charity is established to act as a resource for young people, living in the UK by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities as a means of:
 - a. advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals;
 - b. advancing education, particularly in music;
 - c. relieving unemployment;
 - d. Providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for young people living in the area of benefit who have need by reason of their youth. Age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.
2. Advancing education in the Arts by providing training in music, including working with emerging musicians who have been unable to find, or need support in finding employment.

Aims and Objectives for the year ending 31st March 2025

- Develop the next generation of musicians
- Engage and support young people through music
- Increase audience engagement in the support of new and emerging talent
- Become an impactful player across the broader music industry with a national and international profile
- Increase diversity and access within the music offer for young people and emerging musicians

ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Objective 1: To act as a resource for young people living in the UK by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational or other activities:

Highlights for this year include:

- **WOMEX Young Producers Training Programme**
- **Trauma informed music making at Tameside Copley Academy and Rochdale Music service**
- **Wythenshawe music workshops and Live Night**

Objective 2: Advancing education in the Arts by providing training in music including working with emerging musicians who have been unable to find or need support in finding employment.

Highlights for this year include:

- **We, The Leaders Creative Commissions:** As part of our wraparound programme for WOMEX24 we commissioned three new creative works from emerging artists:
- **Here to Remember with Daytimers:** Three South Asian and South Asian mixed heritage artists spent the summer and early autumn working on new music exploring their heritage and relationship to archives and memory.
- **Change the Record:** A gender equality Leadership Programme

Manchester Music City

Brighter Sound continues to be the sector lead organisation for Manchester Music City (MMC). MMC is a member of the international Music Cities Network and represents Manchester at their regular meetings and summits across Europe.

Highlights for this year include:

- **Local host partner for WOMEX24:** MMC managed strategic relationships whilst overseeing the global budget, marketing and PR with oversight of all event delivery and production.
- **WOMEX Opening night showcase performances**
- **Future Forming Symposium at WOMEX:** with over 100 attendees to the day long symposium
- **Grass Roots Research:** MMC has managed an extensive research project led by the Hub to better understand what a venue-friendly approach to policy and strategy could look like.

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025**

Public Benefit

The Charity has concern for the guidance for the charity commission guidance on Public benefit and Trustees and Management Personnel act and make decisions accordingly in line with this guidance. The Charity delivers a wide range of activities in the Public Benefit, described in detail above. In summary, our work in the public benefit includes reaching children and young people through music in order to give them personal, musical and life skills that can enable them to pursue a personal passion with support and training, improve their personal wellbeing, engage with other like-minded young musicians, and become aware, social, skilled and confident people.

Reach, Marketing and Communications

Brighter Sound had a strong presence at WOMEX 24 (including countless mentions in speeches). There is no doubt that being at the front and centre of such a large international event elevated Brighter Sound publicly - giving us the opportunity to reach new audiences, strengthen relationships with key stakeholders, and make connections with new potential partners and supporters.

WOMEX also reiterated the importance of clarity around our USP, value and impact - in order to better advocate and communicate moving forward. Post WOMEX the comms team have developed systems and processes (including improvements in internal comms) to ensure 'business as usual' tasks such as call-outs and events are delivered in the most efficient way, freeing up time to progress in other areas of our communications strategy. We have explored a more strategic approach to video content and PR to better tell the story of Brighter Sound, demonstrate our impact and reposition the organisation in its 25th year. We will look to work with suppliers on a regular retainer basis, rather than contracting videographers/PR on a project by project basis which can lead to communication about our work being too focused on one area, and not representing what we do more broadly.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

This year we are reporting a small surplus of £7,440 on unrestricted funds and combined with the continued amortisation of the website - which is our fixed asset included in unrestricted funds - means our unrestricted fund stands at £57,760 – with free reserves comprising £38,201 of that figure. Alongside depreciation of our new website, something pivotal to our operations, we will aim to continue rebuilding free reserves in the upcoming financial years.

Core expenditure has remained largely similar to prior years and given the continued challenging funding environment, decisions were made in early 2025 to reduce committed core expenditure, giving the opportunity to increase flexibility of resource capacity and skillset going forward to match demand. We continue to practice close cost management, and review our fixed vs discretionary spend on a regular basis to ensure that costs remain within target.

We continued to deliver restricted fund activities for which surplus funds were accrued in prior years including Sony Social Justice fund and funding in relation to delivery of WOMEX 2024, which explains the in year restricted funds deficit for the year and reduced restricted reserves at year end.

Given what has been a busy and challenging year, we are pleased to have navigated this period positively, from a financial perspective, with a good amount of secured income and a stable core cost base, which will provide a strong base on which to build our delivery plans.

Risk management

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises: a rolling review of the risks the charity may face; the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan; and the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise. The full board reviews this plan on a quarterly basis, focusing on new items and on anything scored as high risk.

During the financial year, our Finance Sub-committee has continued to meet monthly to provide increased scrutiny of our finances, and to ensure that risk is effectively managed in a timely manner. This forum has continued to provide invaluable advice and ensured that decisions could be stress tested before implementation.

Reserves

The company has targeted a level of free reserves (unrestricted reserves not invested in fixed assets or otherwise designated) of £60,000, approximately three months fixed running costs. At the end of the year of this set of accounts (2024/25) the unrestricted fund sat at £57,760, with free reserves comprising £38,201 of that figure. As we continue the depreciation of our website, the balance of free reserves improves in terms of readily realisable funds, but we are aware that, although improved, free reserves remain lower than target. Given our limited fixed liabilities, and flexibility around certain secured funds and contracts, we are comfortable that alongside strategy work we are doing to review the structure of our work and the team needed to deliver it, we can continue to rebuild reserves over the next couple of years to the level we have targeted.

Going concern

Whilst the changes to our relationship with historical regular funders continue to be embedded, they also help create opportunities to refocus our multi-year funds. As we approach the third year of these agreements, we continue business planning to ensure that we have plans which are not solely reliant on trusts and public funding, or indeed any one individual funder. Diversifying our income streams and looking at more opportunities for earned income and donations has continued to be a particular focus. With work secured, and a revised business and fundraising plan we have no issues around declaring the organisation a viable going concern.

Pricing policy

Wherever possible, we offer our provision - workshops, residencies, masterclasses, mentoring, and support – Free of Charge to the end user. This is to ensure that finance is not a barrier to access, and to allow us to broaden the reach of our work.

FUTURE PLANS

We are looking forward to an inspiring 2025-26 as we continue to grow our work on a local, national and international scale. We plan to:

- bring **youth voice** more closely into the heart of the company by connecting young people with decision making processes and strengthening our delivery of co-created, high-quality & inclusive activities for young creatives. Through this strand, we are looking to develop our Amplify Wythenshawe activity and expand this model to other areas of Greater Manchester. Also, we will deliver a music education strand for The BRITs Fringe Programme, working in collaboration with schools and Further and Higher Education partners from across Manchester
- work more closely and collaboratively with a network of partners from across the region to strengthen the cultural offer in the North, **support talent retention** and build stronger progression routes into **positive skills and development opportunities**. For this strand, the BRITs Fringe Programme will offer FRINGELAB for emerging music creators to inspire and spotlight the next wave of creators that are and will shape tomorrow's music industry and culture.
- support the growth of **creative practice & risk-taking** through our commissions and residencies; placing an emphasis on reaching underrepresented communities. Through this strand, Bradford multimedia artist m3UNTITLED and Manchester experimental duo GOMID will perform *Bantam's Drift*, their New Music Biennial commission. at Bradford City of Culture and the Southbank Centre
- grow our international connections and establish stronger development and **export pathways for creatives from the region**. Through this strand, we are unifying our sector voice by combining the MMC steering group and Greater Manchester (GM) Music Commission, followed by the joint development of a music strategy for GM. The pilot programmes for this combined way of working will include a GM Music Strategy and Pilot Export Bursary Programme

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS

The Brighter Sound strategic vision for 2026 – 2030 sets the direction for over the next five years. Built on 25 years of experience, learning and sector insight, it is our 'North Star'; a tool to guide us, unite us, and keep us moving forward together. Organised around three interconnected outcomes New Voices, New Work, and Next Steps – it is grounded by a Theory of Change that shows how our programmes, partnerships, and ways of working combine to create real impact.

We will use this strategic vision to further develop our business plan to focus on our key priorities: Financial and operational stability, Refining key messages, Programme delivery and evaluation, and Research and business development.

For Manchester Music City (MMC), the priorities for 2025-26 include:

- Combining the MMC steering group and Greater Manchester (GM) Music Commission
- Joint development of a music strategy for GM
- Recruitment of a temporary Transition Chair
- Finalise and launch the WOMEX one-year-on report and the Pilot Export Bursary Programme
- Continuing to deliver our regular major events programme: The BRITs Fringe Programme 2026-27, Grass Roots Music Venues Report Action Plan, the MOBOs Fringe Programme 2026, and supporting the reciprocal La Merce event at Manchester Day.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is a company limited by guarantee governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated April 13 2004, as amended by special resolution(s) dated October 11 2013. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

Members of the company

The members of the company comprise the Directors and such other persons who have been admitted to membership by the Directors in accordance with the Articles of Association. The minimum number of members is three and the maximum eleven.

Appointment of trustees/directors

The Trustees (who are also directors of the company) are appointed by the members in general meetings. The Directors have the power to co-opt.

Co-opted directors/trustees hold office until the next AGM and are then eligible for election.

No Director can serve for more than six years, unless as a serving director they are elected chair in the fourth year of serving as a Director. In which case they may serve for up to a maximum of eight years providing they continue as chair of the Board.

New Trustees are nominated by existing Trustees and can be put forward by the company's executive team for consideration by the board.

Trustee induction and training

Potential trustees are invited to meet the board and the executive team before attending a trustees' meeting as an observer. Following this process, suitability is assessed, and suitable candidates are invited to become Trustees. On joining new Trustees are given an induction and a set of resources to support their introduction to the company and provide guidance on their obligations and responsibilities as a trustee, and their role for the Charity including the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Trustees are expected to attend training when requested including whole company visioning, and fundraising training relevant to their role as trustees.

Organisation

The minimum number of directors is three and the maximum fourteen. The board meets quarterly and there is a finance sub-committee.

An executive Director is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity.

To facilitate effective operations, the executive Director has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and artistic performance related activity. The Director leads the executive team consisting of two senior managers (Head of Programmes and Head of Operations) three project managers associated with activity delivery, a communications coordinator, projects coordinator and a digital marketing apprentice

Pay and remuneration for senior staff

Pay and remuneration of key management personnel is agreed by trustees by ordinary resolution in relation to a company pay scale. Any changes to the level of pay or significant changes in working hours are agreed by trustees by ordinary resolution.

Related parties

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their trustee role with the charity other than travel expenses which must be claimed. In the current year, two trustees claimed expenses.

Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a production company, contracted supplier, practitioner or beneficiary must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. The Charity has a Conflict-of-Interest Policy which is provided to all Trustees and adhered to by all parties.

If trustees undertake work for the charity outside of their role as trustees, they may not in any way influence or take part in the decision of trustees to engage their services and must declare in full any arrangements with the charity.

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025**

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The trustees (who are also directors of Brighter Sound Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the 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 financial year, 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:

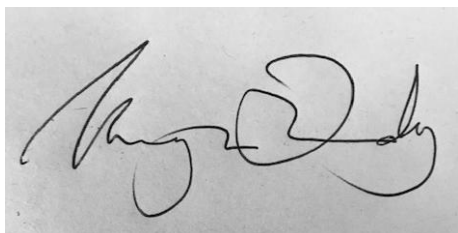
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will 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 for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS AND APPROVAL

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Virginia Tandy', written on a light-colored background.

Dr Virginia Tandy - Chair, Brighter Sound

Date: 19/12/2025

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended March 31 2025 which are set out on pages 11 to 24.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts 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 your company'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 company'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 *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 that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts 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 accounts 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).

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.

<p><i>Stacy Mason</i> Stacy Mason For and on behalf of: HGA Accountants & Financial Consultants Ltd t/a Chittenden Horley - Chartered Accountants</p> <p>Hyde Park House Cartwright Street, Newton Manchester SK14 4EH</p>	<p>Date: 18/12/2025</p>
---	-------------------------

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Donations	2	174,469	20,000	194,469	241,110
Charitable activities	3	13,204	423,883	437,087	417,100
Other trading income	4	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		<u>187,673</u>	<u>443,883</u>	<u>631,556</u>	<u>658,210</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Costs of raising funds	5	14,687	-	14,687	14,242
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	165,546	471,792	637,338	693,343
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>180,233</u>	<u>471,792</u>	<u>652,025</u>	<u>707,585</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS					
		7,440	(27,909)	(20,469)	(49,375)
Transfers between funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		7,440	(27,909)	(20,469)	(49,375)
TOTAL FUNDS :					
BROUGHT FORWARD	14	<u>50,320</u>	<u>101,611</u>	<u>151,931</u>	<u>201,306</u>
CARRIED FORWARD	14	<u>57,760</u>	<u>73,702</u>	<u>131,462</u>	<u>151,931</u>

The notes on pages 14 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT MARCH 31 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	10		-		
Intangible Assets	11		<u>19,555</u>		<u>27,124</u>
			19,555		27,124
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	74,518		72,173	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>61,720</u>		<u>93,144</u>	
		136,238		165,317	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due in one year	13	<u>24,331</u>		<u>40,505</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>111,907</u>		<u>124,812</u>
NET ASSETS			<u><u>131,462</u></u>		<u><u>151,936</u></u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted					
General fund	14		57,760		50,320
Restricted	14		<u>73,702</u>		<u>101,611</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u><u>131,462</u></u>		<u><u>151,931</u></u>

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

For the year ending March 31 2025, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and no notice has been deposited under section 476 requiring the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question.

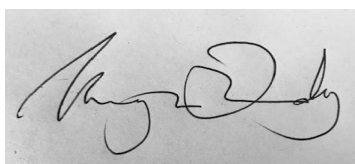
Directors' responsibilities

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The notes on pages 14 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Board and authorised for issue on: 19/12/2025

And signed on their behalf by:



BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
AS AT MARCH 31 2025

		2025	2024
	notes	£	£
Cash used in operating activities	16	<u>(31,418)</u>	<u>40,210</u>
Cashflows from investing activities			
Purchase intangible fixed assets		<u>(6)</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>(6)</u>	<u>5</u>
Cashflows from financing activities			
Repayment of borrowing - Finance lease		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash used in financing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents in the year		(31,424)	40,215
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		93,144	52,929
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		<u><u>61,720</u></u>	<u><u>93,144</u></u>
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:			
Cash at bank and in hand		61,720	93,144
		<u><u>61,720</u></u>	<u><u>93,144</u></u>

Details of the movements in net debt are given in note 18.

The notes on pages 13 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared: under the historic cost convention; in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) effective January 1 2019 (second edition – October 2019); FRS102; and the Companies Act 2006. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The accounts are prepared in £ sterling, which is the functional currency.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. The following applies to particular types of income:

Grants, whether of a capital or revenue nature, are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met and it is probable that the income will be received.

Donations from individuals and other bodies (not being of the nature of a grant) are recognised when receivable.

Earned income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for services and goods supplied, net of discounts and VAT.

Deferred income

Income is only deferred and included in creditors when:

- The income relates to a future accounting period
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and there is no contractual entitlement to the income until the work has been done
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions which assist the work of the charity either by supporting the delivery of charitable activities or by supporting the generation of funds. They include staff costs; depreciation; legal and financial costs; marketing, network, research & organisational costs; office, equipment & IT cost; and property costs. The basis of allocations is set out in note 6.

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025
1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Individual fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful lives on a straight-line basis as set out below.

Depreciation rates are as follows:

Equipment	10% p.a
Computer equipment	33%pa

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets costing more than £500 are capitalised. The charity's website is classified as an intangible fixed assets and the costs of its development have been capitalised. The website is being amortised over its useful economic life of five years on a straight-line basis.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due and prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

Financial instruments

The charity has only basic financial instruments which are initially recorded at cost, subsequently measured at their settlement value.

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.

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025

	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2 DONATIONS						
ACE	170,234	-	170,234	213,766	-	213,766
Esmée Fairbairn	-	-	-	-	-	-
GMCA - grant re staffing	-	20,000	20,000	-	22,488	22,488
MCC	-	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
Donations						
General donations	4,235	-	4,235	2,856	-	2,856
	<u>174,469</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>194,469</u>	<u>218,622</u>	<u>22,488</u>	<u>241,110</u>

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025

	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES						
Youth Music	-	79,681	79,681	-	79,700	79,700
Emerging Musicians	-	89,787	89,787	-	115,336	115,336
Workshops, consultancy & other	13,204	254,415	267,619	70,413	151,651	222,064
	<u>13,204</u>	<u>423,883</u>	<u>437,087</u>	<u>70,413</u>	<u>346,687</u>	<u>417,100</u>

Income is analysed as follows:

Youth Music

Granada Foundation	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
Youth Music Grant	-	74,700	74,700	-	74,700	74,700
D'oyly Carte	-	4,981	4,981	-	-	-
Fees and other income	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	<u>79,681</u>	<u>79,681</u>	-	<u>79,700</u>	<u>79,700</u>

Emerging Musicians

ACE - WOMEX Symposium	-	17,370	17,370	-	-	-
Manchester CC	-	31,217	31,217	-	31,217	31,217
MCC - Danish Cities	-	-	-	-	-	-
PRS New music Biennial	-	15,200	15,200	-	-	-
PRS Foundation	-	26,000	26,000	-	12,000	12,000
Other grants	-	-	-	-	72,119	72,119
	-	<u>89,787</u>	<u>89,787</u>	-	<u>115,336</u>	<u>115,336</u>

Workshops, consultancy & other activities

British Council	-	6,640	6,640	-	50,000	50,000
Manchester Music City / GMCA - WOMEX	-	235,574	235,574	-	92,614	92,614
MCC - Danish Cities	-	3,081	3,081	-	-	-
My Hub Music trust - Manchester	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
Experimental orchestra	-	-	-	-	7,037	7,037
National Lottery Community Fund	-	9,120	9,120	-	-	-
Other income	13,204	-	13,204	70,413	-	70,413
	<u>13,204</u>	<u>254,415</u>	<u>267,619</u>	<u>70,413</u>	<u>151,651</u>	<u>222,064</u>

4 OTHER TRADING INCOME

Sponsorship - mentoring programme	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025

5 COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs	1,941	-	1,941	216	-	216
Support costs	12,746	-	12,746	13,996	-	13,996
	14,687	-	14,687	14,212	-	14,212

6 CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

Youth Music	59,722	75,457	135,179	130,172	119,615	249,787
Emerging Musicians	11,863	95,621	107,484	231,778	73,894	305,672
Workshops, consultancy & other	113,961	280,714	394,675	(60,047)	197,931	137,884
Staffing funding	(20,000)	20,000	-	(22,488)	22,488	-
	165,546	471,792	637,338	279,415	413,928	693,343

Expenditure is analysed as follows:

	Direct Costs	Direct Salaries	Support Costs	Total
	£	£	£	£
2024/25				
Youth Music	28,322	44,135	62,722	135,179
Emerging Musicians	38,262	6,500	62,722	107,484
Workshops, consultancy & other	158,965	118,979	116,731	394,675
	225,549	169,614	242,175	637,338
2023/24				
Youth Music	96,427	70,066	83,294	249,787
Emerging Musicians	136,238	58,375	111,059	305,672
Workshops, consultancy & other	46,578	19,738	71,568	137,884
	279,243	148,179	265,921	693,343

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025

7 SUPPORT & GOVERNANCE COSTS

					Total 2025 £
	Fundraising £	Youth Music £	Emerging Musicians £	Other Activities £	
2024/25					
Support costs					
Staff costs	7,918	39,590	39,590	71,261	158,359
Depreciation & amortisation	378	1,892	1,892	3,406	7,568
Legal & financial	290	1,451	1,451	2,612	5,804
Marketing	462	2,310	2,310	4,158	9,240
Network, research and organisational	1,231	6,155	6,155	11,079	24,620
Office, equipment and IT	520	2,598	2,598	4,676	10,392
Property costs	1,495	7,476	7,476	13,457	29,904
	<u>12,294</u>	<u>61,472</u>	<u>61,472</u>	<u>110,649</u>	<u>245,887</u>
Governance costs					
Staff costs	250	1,250	1,250	2,250	5,000
Professional fees	202	-	-	3,832	4,034
	<u>452</u>	<u>1,250</u>	<u>1,250</u>	<u>6,082</u>	<u>9,034</u>
	<u>12,746</u>	<u>62,722</u>	<u>62,722</u>	<u>116,731</u>	<u>254,921</u>

					Total 2024 £
	Fundraising £	Youth Music £	Emerging Musicians £	Other Activities £	
2023/24					
Support costs					
Staff costs	9,498	56,986	75,982	47,489	189,955
Depreciation & amortisation	378	2,271	3,028	1,892	7,569
Legal & financial	33	199	265	166	663
Marketing	1,306	7,833	10,444	6,528	26,111
Network, research and organisational	700	4,199	5,599	3,499	13,997
Office, equipment and IT	458	2,745	3,660	2,288	9,151
Property costs	1,260	7,561	10,081	6,301	25,203
	<u>13,633</u>	<u>81,794</u>	<u>109,059</u>	<u>68,163</u>	<u>272,649</u>
Governance costs					
Staff costs	250	1,500	2,500	750	5,000
Professional fees	113	-	-	2,155	2,268
	<u>363</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,905</u>	<u>7,268</u>
	<u>13,996</u>	<u>83,294</u>	<u>111,559</u>	<u>71,068</u>	<u>279,917</u>

Support costs are allocated on the following basis:

Area	basis
Staff costs, training and recruitment	estimate of staff time
Office rent and service charge	head count based on estimate of staff time.
Other costs	estimate of resources used.

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025

8 STAFF INFORMATION	2025	2024
	£	£
a Employees		
Salaries and wages	304,936	320,203
Employer's pension contributions	5,897	6,190
Employers NI allowance	(5,000)	(5,000)
Employer's NI contributions	27,140	27,931
	<u>332,973</u>	<u>349,324</u>

No employees earned more than £60,000 p.a. in either year.

b Key management personnel

The key management of the charity comprise the trustees and senior staff (as set out on page1).

The trustees do not receive any remuneration for their services.

The total employee benefits, including employer pension and NI contributions, of other key management were as follows:

	<u>136,643</u>	<u>114,167</u>
--	-----------------------	----------------

c Average staff numbers

The average number of employees was as follows:-

	Average number	Average number
	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>

9 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS (for the Group)	2025	2024
	£	£
This is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Independent examiners & accountants fees:		
Examination	850	850
Accountancy fees	1,000	970
Other services	180	180
Depreciation of fixed assets	-	-
Amortisation of intangible assets	7,569	7,569
Trustees remuneration	-	-
Trustees expenses	311	-
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>
Trustees claiming expenses	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computers & Office		Total £
	Equipment £	Equipment £	
Cost or valuation			
As at April 1 2024	16,624	24,034	40,658
Additions	-	-	-
As at March 31 2025	16,624	24,034	40,658
Depreciation			
As at April 1 2024	16,624	24,034	40,658
Charge for the year	-	-	-
As at March 31 2025	16,624	24,034	40,658
Net Book Value			
As at March 31 2025	-	-	-
As at March 31 2024	-	-	-

11 INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Website	Total
	£	£
Cost		
As at April 1 2024	37,845	37,845
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
As at March 31 2025	37,845	37,845
Amortisation		
As at April 1 2024	10,721	10,721
Charge for the year	7,569	7,569
Disposals	-	-
As at March 31 2025	18,290	18,290
Net Book Value		
As at March 31 2025	19,555	19,555
As at March 31 2024	27,124	27,124

12 DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	53,671	42,513
Income receivable	19,000	27,766
Prepayments	1,846	1,894
	74,517	72,173

13 CREDITORS falling due within one year

Trade creditors	16,315	32,685
Other taxes and social security	5,242	5,820
Accruals	2,774	2,000
Finance lease creditor	-	-
Income and grants in advance	-	-
	24,331	40,505

14 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	2023/24				b/f and c/f 31/03/24 01/04/24 £	2024/25			
	01/04/2023	Income	Expenditure	transfers		Income	Expenditure	transfers	31/03/2025
	£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds:									
General fund	51,447	289,035	(290,162)	-	50,320	187,673	(180,233)	-	57,760
Total unrestricted funds	51,447	289,035	(290,162)	-	50,320	187,673	(180,233)	-	57,760
Restricted Funds:									
GMCA - staffing	-	22,488	(22,488)	-	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Youth Music	66,995	79,700	(123,110)	-	23,585	79,681	(75,457)	-	27,809
Emerging Musicians	3,005	115,336	(73,894)	-	44,447	89,787	(95,621)	-	38,613
Other activities	79,859	151,651	(197,931)	-	33,579	254,415	(280,714)	-	7,280
Total restricted funds	149,859	369,175	(417,423)	-	101,611	443,883	(471,792)	-	73,702
	201,306	658,210	(707,585)	-	151,931	631,556	(652,025)	-	131,462

Restricted funds

All the grants will be used to support the ongoing projects in 25/26

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025

14 STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

	2023/24				b/f and c/f 31/03/24	2024/25			
	01/04/2023	Income	Expenditure	transfers		04/01/2024	Income	Expenditure	transfers
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Youth Music									
Granada Foundation	-	5,000	(1,000)	-	4,000	-	(4,000)	-	-
Prince's Trust	2,495	-	(2,495)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Music Grant	64,500	74,700	(119,615)	-	19,585	74,700	(67,976)	-	26,309
D'Oyly Carte	-	-	-	-	-	4,981	(3,481)	-	1,500
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	66,995	79,700	(123,110)	-	23,585	79,681	(75,457)	-	27,809
Emerging Musicians									
ACE - WOMEX Symposium	-	-	-	-	-	17,370	(17,370)	-	-
Manchester CC	-	31,217	(31,217)	-	-	31,217	(31,217)	-	-
PRS new music biennial	-	-	-	-	-	15,200	(9,629)	-	5,571
PRS Foundation	3,005	12,000	(15,005)	-	-	26,000	(26,000)	-	-
Other grants	-	72,119	(27,672)	-	44,447	-	(11,405)	-	33,042
	3,005	115,336	(73,894)	-	44,447	89,787	(95,621)	-	38,613
Other activities									
British Council - Womex	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-	6,640	(6,640)	-	-
British Council - We are equals	3,220	-	(3,220)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manchester Music City / GMCA - WOMEX	74,261	92,614	(137,023)	(498)	29,354	235,574	(264,858)	-	70
MCC - Danish Cities	2,378	-	(2,876)	498	-	3,081	(3,081)	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	-	-	-	-	9,120	(1,910)	-	7,210
Experimental orchestra	-	7,037	(2,812)	-	4,225	-	(4,225)	-	-
My Hub	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	79,859	151,651	(197,931)	-	33,579	254,415	(280,714)	-	7,280

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025

15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Company fund balances at March 31 2025

are represented by:-

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	
	£	£	£	£
Intangible fixed assets	19,555	-	-	19,555
Net current assets	38,205	-	73,702	111,907
	<u>57,760</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>73,702</u>	<u>131,462</u>
Free Reserves:				
Net current assets		<u>38,205</u>		

Company fund balances at March 31 2024

are represented by:-

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Intangible fixed assets	27,124	-	-	27,124
Net current assets	23,201	-	101,611	124,812
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	-	-
	<u>50,325</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>101,611</u>	<u>151,936</u>

16 RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASHFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure)	(20,469)	(49,370)
Add back depreciation	-	-
Add back amortisation intangible assets	7,569	7,569
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(2,344)	80,332
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(16,174)	1,684
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities	<u>(31,418)</u>	<u>40,215</u>

17 MOVEMENT IN NET DEBT

	at 31/3/24	cashflows	finance leases	other non cash	as 31/3/25
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents					
Cash at bank and in hand	93,144	- 31,424	-	-	61,720
Debt					
Finance lease obligations	-	-	-	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents net of debt	<u>93,144</u>				<u>61,720</u>

18 CONSTITUTION

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. In the event of the Company being wound up the members are committed to contributing £1 each.

19 TAXATION

The company is a registered charity and is entitled to claim annual exemption from UK corporation tax under sections 466 to 477 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010.

20 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The company had no capital commitments at the year end (2024 - none)

21 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions in either year which are required to be disclosed.

22 LEASE COMMITMENTS

The company had no commitments under operating leases (2024 - none).

The company has the following commitments under finance lease:

Payable within one year	-	
Payable between 2 and 5 years	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
Less interest	-	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1154803

Accounts

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR

THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024**

INDEX

Chair's statement	1
Administrative information	2
Trustees' and Directors' annual report	3 – 9
Independent examiner's report	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Statement of cash flows	13
Notes to the financial statements	14 – 24

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
CHAIR'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024**

2023-24 has been a busy year at Brighter Sound and a year of change and growth. We have delivered a wide-reaching programme of community outreach and engagement with activity for young people taking place in boroughs across Greater Manchester as well as the wider north.

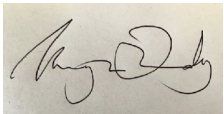
Highlights from our programme include the development of our Digital Natives programme to upskill young content creators and bring youth voice more centrally into our communications strategy. We also celebrated the first iteration of Here to Remember, a new commissioning initiative for artists from the global majority to explore their heritage and diasporic narratives in folk music. We have taken positive steps to strengthen the pipeline between our outreach / community work with progression and development opportunities and our practice has evolved through a deeper understanding of trauma-responsive pedagogy. This has enabled us to work in a meaningful way with young people who have experienced or are experiencing additional challenges in their lives.

Our gender equality work has focussed on leadership development through a new partnership with the Sony Justice Fund. This new programme of work will offer online workshops, action learning sets, a leadership retreat and community building events. We have expanded this area of our work further, through a partnership with the British Council and look forward to offering a worldwide leadership development programme in the year ahead.

We continue to work strategically on the Board of our local music education hubs, as active members of the Greater Manchester Music Commission and in our role as sector lead for Manchester Music City (MMC). Headline highlights for MMC include securing Manchester as the host city for WOMEX 2024 (Worldwide Music Expo) and developing new partnerships to support the development of a community-rooted wraparound programme for young and emerging creatives in the region.

Looking beyond Manchester we have worked collaboratively to co-found the Northern Music Network. The Network has been developed to explore and strategise opportunities to strengthen talent development in the region: creating a blueprint for the way in which the sector can work more cooperatively.

Across all our work we are bringing together local and global conversations, opening up new dialogues and finding points of connection and collaboration for people who are passionate about creating change and making our sector more accessible and equitable. This work wouldn't be possible without the unwavering support and advice of my fellow board members, the inspired and energetic Brighter Sound team, including freelancers, and all our partners and funders: thank you to you all.



Dr Virginia Tandy - Chair, Brighter Sound

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024**

DIRECTORS

M Ball
R Davies
J Harvie
W H A Lee
A G Lovatt
T F Rabbani
S Rahim (resigned 22 March 2024)
L O Shaw
R M Shaw
Dr V A Tandy - Chair
M Wilde

K Lowes Chief Executive
G Davies Head of Operations & Finance

KEY STAFF

R Horn Head of Marketing & Communications

REGISTERED OFFICE AND

Green Fish Resource Centre

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS

46-50 Oldham Street
Manchester
M4 1LE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Stacy Mason

& ACCOUNTANTS

HGA Accountants & Financial Consultants Ltd
t/a **Chittenden Horley** – Chartered Accountants
Hyde Park House
Cartwright Street, Newton
Manchester SK14 4EH

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024**

BANKERS

Lloyds Bank Plc
42-46 Market Street
Manchester M1 1PW

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended March 31 2024 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019), referred to as the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable objects

1. The Charity is established to act as a resource for young people, living in the UK by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities as a means of:
 - a. advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals;
 - b. advancing education, particularly in music;
 - c. relieving unemployment;
 - d. Providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for young people living in the area of benefit who have need by reason of their youth. Age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.
2. Advancing education in the Arts by providing training in music, including working with emerging musicians who have been unable to find, or need support in finding employment.

Aims and Objectives for the year ending 31st March 2024

- Develop the next generation of musicians
- Engage and support young people through music
- Increase audience engagement in the support of new and emerging talent
- Become an impactful player across the broader music industry with a national and international profile
- Increase diversity and access within the music offer for young people and emerging musicians

ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Objective 1: To act as a resource for young people living in the UK by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational or other activities:

Highlights for this year include:

- **Get Started With Music** (9 participants aged 18 - 25) - delivered in partnership with Prince's Trust, we provided young people from Greater Manchester who were not currently in full-time education, employment or training, a chance to explore the world of music. Over 5 days, the participants: took part in songwriting and collaboration workshops, learnt about job roles and how to make money from music, and explored style and artist identity culminating in a professional photoshoot
- **MADE Health & Wellbeing Project** (6 participants aged 11 - 14) - a trauma informed project working in Our Lady's RC High School in Blackley, North Manchester working with young people who have additional educational needs. The project focused on production, song / lyric writing, singing / spoken word. The outcomes included a recorded track(s) that can be used in a follow up project delivered by Afrocats that will focus on movement / dance to the recorded track and inform their visual art based work. The wellbeing themes are around coping in challenging times, resilience, self esteem, and thinking positively.
- **Trauma informed project at Copley Academy** (6 participants aged 11 - 16) Working in partnership with Tameside Music Service, we codesigned music sessions with a group of young people all living in challenging circumstances. The aims of the project were well-being focussed improve emotional resilience, increase self-esteem and confidence. While learning music making skills with experienced practitioners, the sessions also supported the young people with a toolkit to help regulate their emotions.
- **Reverb** (26 participants aged 13 - 18) our regular term time activity was reshaped as a direct result of consultation with young people to work towards co-creating accessible and inclusive opportunities that support and empower development on a musical, personal and social level. Reverb sessions are for young people to: meet and collaborate with other musicians, develop skills in songwriting, production or playing in a band and to create new music, or develop ideas, however each session is led by the interests of the young people. There is a live performance opportunity at the end of each term.
- **Digital Natives** (11 participants aged 13 - 25) this training course delivered in partnership with Reform Radio developed skills in interviewing; camera setup; shooting for social media; developing content ideas in response to a brief, company brand and values; pitching back; writing scripts and interview questions; filming and production as part of a small team; and post production editing including finalising assets and copy.

Objective 2: Advancing education in the Arts by providing training in music including working with emerging musicians who have been unable to find or need support in finding employment.

Highlights for this year include:

- **Afro Energy Residency with Karen Kyame KG** - this residency for emerging artists was aimed at artists making or producing afrocentric club music, and took place at state-of-the-art recording studios NQ House in Manchester. The project was open to all genders, with priority given to Black/Global Majority music creators and LGBTQIA+ music creators. 12 producers, vocalists and DJs from across the UK spent 5 days at NQ House in Openshaw exploring afro-centric club music sounds with Karen Nyame KG and guest artists Gina Jeanz, Ikonika and Fiyahdred. We partnered with Piano in the City, local ama and afro-club collective, on the delivery of the project.
- **Mentoring Programme 2023** - a 6 month mentoring programme for emerging and early career artists from the North of England. A cohort of 12 mentees took part in 1:1 sessions to put together their own creative and professional development plan with support from artists and musical professionals. Most mentees had 4 sessions within the 6 months with 1 to 2 mentors. Two group workshop sessions were organised to connect the mentees
- **Here to Remember** - we commissioned three Black and Black Mixed heritage artists to create up to 30 minutes of new music each, using archives and resources from the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah race centre in Manchester Central Library as inspiration. They explored stories relating to their own heritage, stories of Global Majority individuals in GM and stories from Manchester Carnival. The new music was performed to an intimate live audience at the independent venue, The Carlton Club
- **Brighter Sound x Vic Meets** - Hosted by BBC Radio 1 presenter and R&B/Soul artist Victoria Jane, this series of workshops and panels offered insight into a variety of skills including songwriting and freestyling to DJing and broadcasting, with industry advice at every turn. Aimed at people in the early stages of their music journey, looking for support, guidance and a way to develop skills, confidence, and make connections in the Greater Manchester music scene. As part of our All Things Equal initiative this project was open to women and people of marginalised genders aged 18+.
- **A Week With Wu-Lu** - a residency for emerging artists led by musician Wu-Lu, who works across various genres including hip hop and rock. This residency brought together 10 participants from across the UK to collaborate on new music with a focus on sampling, recording, re-sampling and the connections between different genres and practices. The week concluded with a live sharing of the new work created at Cosmic Slop in Leeds.

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024**

Manchester Music City

Brighter Sound continues to be the sector lead organisation for Manchester Music City (MMC). MMC is a member of the international Music Cities Network, and represents Manchester at their regular meetings and summits across Europe.

MMC continues to collaborate closely with the Greater Manchester Music Commission, established by the Mayor, Andy Burnham. With similar objectives to champion and support the industry; Manchester Music City provides the international facing identity for the city regions' music ecology while the Commission is well placed to lobby for improved local infrastructure such as night-time transport.

Highlights for this year include:

- Recruited our board of directors and held quarterly full board meetings. We also established monthly exec board meetings with city council colleagues to support the successful delivery of the Worldwide Music Expo (WOMEX) 2024
- Attended WOMEX 2023 in A Coruña, Spain, alongside representatives from English Folk Expo, Manchester City Council and Marketing Manchester. We shared our stand with the five nations Horizons partnership, led by British Underground. We hosted a panel discussion 'The Road to WOMEX Manchester 2024' and spoke at the handover ceremony from A Coruña to Manchester alongside Councillor Rahman (then Deputy Leader, Manchester City Council).
- Led monthly team meetings with WOMEX delivery partners and event organisers Piranha Arts to ensure the successful delivery of WOMEX 2024 in Manchester. MMC responsibilities focused on sponsorship and fundraising, hosting and stakeholder development, finance and budget management, marketing and PR
- Employed a Marketing and Communications Officer for Manchester Music City, who was seconded to our WOMEX delivery partner Sound Roots/English Folk Expo for 1 day a week to work on driving public ticket sales for WOMEX 24.
- Commissioned the team at the hub to undertake a major independent review of grass roots venues, in collaboration with Manchester City Council
- In partnership with Greater Manchester Music Commission, we were commissioned to lead on a piece of research to look at the potential of Manchester Music City becoming a Music Export Office for the city region. The aspiration is to rebalance the national music sector away from London towards the North and an opportunity is to prioritise independent, grassroots and specialist genre music businesses to anchor themselves in the city region, becoming the hub for independent music innovation.
- We attended SPOT festival in Aarhus, Denmark with Manchester based band GOMID who performed a showcase
- Manchester Music City was nominated for 'Best Global Music City' at the 2023 Music Cities Awards alongside Sao Paulo, Brazil and Frutillar, Chile.

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024**

Public Benefit

The Charity has concern for the guidance for the charity commission guidance on Public benefit and Trustees and Management Personnel act and make decisions accordingly in line with this guidance. The Charity delivers a wide range of activities in the Public Benefit, described in detail above. In summary, our work in the public benefit includes reaching children and young people through music in order to give them personal, musical and life skills that can enable them to pursue a personal passion with support and training, improve their personal wellbeing, engage with other like-minded young musicians, and become aware, social, skilled and confident people.

Outcomes

Between 1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024, Brighter Sound produced and facilitated 24 projects, delivering 194 events for 913 people.

Reach, Marketing and Communications

This year we have focused on streamlining our processes to ensure we are delivering high quality content about our work to our core audiences. We established a support agreement with our web developers to maintain and develop the Brighter Sound website on an ongoing basis. Analytics and user feedback will continue to inform future developments. We also reviewed progress made on our new content strategy. As capacity within the team is limited, our comms have largely been focused on the announcement of new projects. However, we are pleased to have produced more video content to support the marketing of events like Here to Remember and shine a spotlight on the commissioned artists and broader themes of the work. We have been prioritising new blogs/thought pieces, interviews and resources and setting realistic targets for content production.

The first phase of our Digital Natives programme, to bring young voices into our social media strategy and output, has now concluded. Most of the participants have expressed interest in continuing and we are currently in discussion to develop phase 2 of this project. The objective for us is having a strong network of young digital content creators who we can offer on-the-ground experience and paid work to create engaging content for our social media channels.

The news of the Worldwide Music Expo (WOMEX) being hosted in Manchester in 2024 was officially announced on 6 October 2023, with a sector-facing event taking place at Band on the Wall the week after. The full press release and a short video promoting Manchester as the next host city can be found on the [Manchester Music City website](#). We anticipate that managing the role of being the lead marketing contact for all WOMEX in Manchester communications while ensuring that Brighter Sound gains brand awareness through this major international event will be a key challenge for the year ahead.

We appointed a freelance PR, Laura Bradley, Sprout PR, to work on WOMEX PR activity from October 2023. We also employed a Marketing and Communications Officer for Manchester Music City (MMC) from early March 2024. This fixed-term contract is the first time we have had a dedicated member of staff working on MMC comms to develop and execute marketing plans to build awareness of MMC.

FINANCIAL REVIEW -

Overview

Whilst this year remained a challenging one financially and operationally, we report a small deficit financial performance on unrestricted funds, and combined with the continued amortisation of the website - which is our fixed asset included in unrestricted funds - means our unrestricted fund stands at £50,325 – with free reserves comprising £23,840 of that figure. Alongside depreciation of our new website, something pivotal to our operations, we will aim to rebuild free reserves in the upcoming financial years.

Core expenditure has remained largely similar. We continue to practice close cost management, and to remain in lower-cost temporary office accommodation, on a lease with a short notice period. This provides us with the flexibility to reduce expenditure, whilst we consider our longer-term needs in terms of premises. Greater use of virtual working will be a factor when we return to more permanent accommodation.

Given our challenges, we are pleased to have navigated this period positively, from a financial perspective, with a good amount of secured income which will provide a strong base on which to build our delivery plans.

Risk management

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises: a rolling review of the risks the charity may face; the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan; and the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise. The full board reviews this plan on a quarterly basis, focusing on new items and on anything scored as high risk.

During the financial year, our Finance Sub-committee has continued to meet monthly to provide increased scrutiny of our finances, and to ensure that risk is effectively managed in a timely manner. As the impacts of the pandemic continued to provide uncertainty, this forum provided invaluable advice and ensured that decisions could be stress tested before implementation.

Reserves

The company has targeted a level of free reserves (unrestricted reserves not invested in fixed assets or otherwise designated) of £60,000, approximately three months fixed running costs. At the end of the year of this set of accounts (2023/24) the unrestricted fund sat at £50,964, with free reserves comprising £23,840 of that figure. As we continue the depreciation of our website, the balance of free reserves improves in terms of readily realisable funds, but we are aware that free reserves are lower than the target, but given our limited fixed liabilities, and flexibility around certain secured funds and contracts we are comfortable that alongside strategy work we are doing to review structure of our work and the team needed to deliver it, and repayment aligned to the depreciation of the website we can rebuild reserves over the next couple of years to the level we have targeted.

Going concern

Whilst the changes to our relationship with historical regular funders continue to be embedded, they also help create opportunities to refocus our multi-year funds. As we approach the second year of these agreements, we continue business planning to ensure that we have plans which are not solely reliant on trusts and public funding, or indeed any one individual funder. Diversifying our income streams and looking at more opportunities for earned income and donations has been a particular focus. With work already secured, and a revised business and fundraising plan we have no issues around declaring the organisation a viable going concern.

Pricing policy

Wherever possible, we offer our provision - workshops, residencies, masterclasses, mentoring, and support – Free of Charge to the end user. This is to ensure that finance is not a barrier to access, and to allow us to broaden the reach of our work.

FUTURE PLANS

We are looking forward to an inspiring 2024-25 as we continue to grow our work on a local, national and international scale.

In October 2024, the world's largest and most important international music event is coming to Manchester. Now in its 30th year, the Worldwide Music Expo (WOMEX) is the leading networking platform for the world's music industry, bringing together over 3000 music professionals (including 280 showcasing artists) from 100+ countries, and public audiences of 5000+.

Alongside the main event, Brighter Sound will produce a wraparound and legacy programme called 'WE, THE LEADERS'. With its overarching theme of 'New Voices, New Work, Next Steps', the programme will animate the city during WOMEX and ensure a long-lasting impact beyond the event. The programme will include: Showcases, Leadership training, Commissions, Industry roundtables and supplementary schools programme for Manchester's young diaspora communities.

Alongside delivery of WE, THE LEADERS and WOMEX, we are also planning to:

- bring **youth voice** more closely into the heart of the company by connecting young people with decision making processes and strengthening our delivery of co-created, high-quality & inclusive activities for young creatives. For this strand, the Revel Collective Young Producers conference is confirmed for March 2025 to explore and question the current state of the music industry for young people.
- work more closely and collaboratively with a network of partners from across the region to strengthen the cultural offer in the North, **support talent retention** and build stronger progression routes into **positive skills and development opportunities**. Confirmed sessions with this focus include the Change the Record Leadership Retreat for a growing network of bold, ambitious and inspiring Northern women working in the music industries, and, the next iteration of the Vic Meets project with financial support from a commercial sponsor
- support the growth of **creative practice & risk-taking** through our commissions and residencies; placing an emphasis on reaching underrepresented communities. For this area of work, we have developed the Here to Remember project, and delivered the next iteration in October 2024 in collaboration with Daytimers for three South Asian and South Asian mixed heritage artists who spent the summer and early autumn working on new music exploring their heritage and relationship to archives and memory. We have confirmed the 2025 Here to Remember commission in partnership with Manchester Collective, for East and South East Asian Artists
- grow our international connections and establish stronger development and **export pathways for creatives from the region**. One confirmed project is leading on a music programme for an exciting music partnership between Manchester and Barcelona connecting to La Merce festival in 2025 and culminating with a reciprocal celebration around Manchester Day 2026.
- we will play a critical role in building a **supportive infrastructure locally, regionally & internationally** expanding capacity and competencies to make a significant mark on sector and on place. Our confirmed local partnership working for 2024-25 includes Rochdale Connections who work with young people who have lived experience of domestic violence. We will also be working closely with Wythenshawe Forum to create live performance opportunities for under 18s

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS

Brighter Sound is undergoing an intense period of strategic planning to clearly define our USP which will allow us to better deliver on our vision and mission. We have been working closely with a subgroup of board members to drill down into what is special and unique about Brighter Sound. Creativity and the creative process are a golden thread intertwining everything we do, from a young person building their confidence and self-esteem, to more developed artists finding a voice for self-expression and story-telling, and building human connections through their art.

With a clearly defined USP in 2024-25, we will further develop our business plan to focus on:

- Diversifying income streams through sponsorship and earned revenue
- Building an Ambassador Network to better tell our story and the story of our alumni
- Building sustainable partnerships
- Sourcing a multi-use premises we can call home

For Manchester Music City (MMC), we are turning our attention to the strategic purpose of MMC and have set out a series of priorities in 2024-25 including:

- The development of a MMC Strategy, and wider music strategy for the city
- Strengthening the connection between the international Music Cities Network and the Manchester music scenes and sector
- Clarifying the status and relationship between MMC and Brighter Sound and having an agreed flow of information between the MMC Steering Group and the Board of Directors

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is a company limited by guarantee governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated April 13 2004, as amended by special resolution(s) dated October 11 2013. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

Members of the company

The members of the company comprise the Directors and such other persons who have been admitted to membership by the Directors in accordance with the Articles of Association. The minimum number of members is three and the maximum eleven.

Appointment of trustees/directors

The Trustees (who are also directors of the company) are appointed by the members in general meetings. The Directors have the power to co-opt. .

Co-opted directors/trustees hold office until the next AGM and are then eligible for election.

No Director can serve for more than six years, unless as a serving director they are elected chair in the fourth year of serving as a Director. In which case they may serve for up to a maximum of eight years providing they continue as chair of the Board.

New Trustees are nominated by existing Trustees and can be put forward by the company's executive team for consideration by the board.

Trustee induction and training

Potential trustees are invited to meet the board and the executive team before attending a trustees' meeting as an observer. Following this process, suitability is assessed, and suitable candidates are invited to become Trustees. On joining new Trustees are given an induction and a set of resources to support their introduction to the company and provide guidance on their obligations and responsibilities as a trustee, and their role for the Charity including the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Trustees are expected to attend training when requested including whole company visioning, and fundraising training relevant to their role as trustees.

Organisation

The minimum number of directors is three and the maximum fourteen. The board meets quarterly and there is a finance sub-committee.

An executive Director is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity.

To facilitate effective operations, the executive Director has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and artistic performance related activity. The Director leads the executive team consisting of two senior managers (Head of Programmes and Head of Operations) three project managers associated with activity delivery, a communications coordinator, projects coordinator and a digital marketing apprentice

Pay and remuneration for senior staff

Pay and remuneration of key management personnel is agreed by trustees by ordinary resolution in relation to a company pay scale. Any changes to the level of pay or significant changes in working hours are agreed by trustees by ordinary resolution.

Related parties

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their trustee role with the charity other than travel expenses which must be claimed. In the current year, no trustees claimed any expenses or remuneration.

Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a production company, contracted supplier, practitioner or beneficiary must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. The Charity has a Conflict-of-Interest Policy which is provided to all Trustees and adhered to by all parties.

If trustees undertake work for the charity outside of their role as trustees, they may not in any way influence or take part in the decision of trustees to engage their services and must declare in full any arrangements with the charity.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The trustees (who are also directors of Brighter Sound Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the 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 financial year, 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:

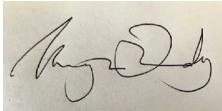
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will 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 for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS AND APPROVAL

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Date: 15th December 2024

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended March 31 2024 which are set out on pages 11 to 24.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts 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 your company'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 company'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 *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 that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts 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 accounts 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).

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.

<p>Stacy Mason</p> <p><i>Stacy Mason</i></p> <p>For and on behalf of:</p> <p>HGA Accountants & Financial Consultants Ltd</p> <p>t/a Chittenden Horley - Chartered Accountants</p> <p>Hyde Park House</p> <p>Cartwright Street, Newton</p> <p>Manchester SK14 4EH</p> <p>Date: 19/12/2024</p>	
---	--

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Donations	2	218,622	22,488	241,110	150,967
Charitable activities	3	70,413	346,687	417,100	393,357
Other trading income	4	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		<u>289,040</u>	<u>369,175</u>	658,215	<u>544,324</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Costs of raising funds	5	14,242	-	14,242	10,591
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	275,920	417,423	693,343	809,364
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>290,162</u>	<u>417,423</u>	707,585	<u>819,955</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)					
BEFORE TRANSFERS		(1,122)	(48,248)	(49,370)	(275,631)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(1,122)	(48,248)	(49,370)	(275,631)
TOTAL FUNDS :					
BROUGHT FORWARD	14	<u>51,447</u>	<u>149,859</u>	201,306	<u>383,915</u>
CARRIED FORWARD	14	<u>50,325</u>	<u>101,611</u>	151,936	<u>108,284</u>

The notes on pages 14 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT MARCH 31 2024

	Notes	2024	2024	2023	2023
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	10		-		
Intangible Assets	11		<u>27,124</u>		<u>34,693</u>
			27,124		34,693
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	72,173		152,505	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>93,144</u>		<u>52,929</u>	
		165,317		205,434	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due in one year	13	<u>40,505</u>		<u>38,821</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>124,812</u>		<u>166,613</u>
NET ASSETS			<u><u>151,936</u></u>		<u><u>201,306</u></u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted					
General fund	14		50,325		51,447
Restricted	14		<u>101,611</u>		<u>149,859</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u><u>151,936</u></u>		<u><u>201,306</u></u>

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

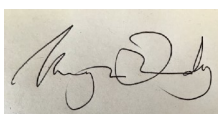
For the year ending March 31 2024, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and no notice has been deposited under section 476 requiring the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question.

Directors' responsibilities

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The notes on pages 14 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Board and authorised for issue on: 15th December 2024



And signed on their behalf by: V Tandy

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
AS AT MARCH 31 2024

		2024	2023
	notes	£	£
Cash used in operating activities	16	<u>40,210</u>	<u>(52,876)</u>
Cashflows from investing activities			
Purchase intangible fixed assets		<u>-</u>	<u>(18,045)</u>
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>5</u>	<u>(18,045)</u>
Cashflows from financing activities			
Repayment of borrowing - Finance lease		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash used in financing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents in the year		40,215	(70,921)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		52,929	123,850
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		<u><u>93,144</u></u>	<u><u>52,929</u></u>
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:			
Cash at bank and in hand		93,144	52,929
		<u><u>93,144</u></u>	<u><u>52,929</u></u>

Details of the movements in net debt are given in note 18.

The notes on pages 13 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared: under the historic cost convention; in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) effective January 1 2019 (second edition – October 2019); FRS102; and the Companies Act 2006. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The accounts are prepared in £ sterling, which is the functional currency.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. The following applies to particular types of income:

Grants, whether of a capital or revenue nature, are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met and it is probable that the income will be received.

Donations from individuals and other bodies (not being of the nature of a grant) are recognised when receivable.

Earned income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for services and goods supplied, net of discounts and VAT.

Deferred income

Income is only deferred and included in creditors when:

- The income relates to a future accounting period
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and there is no contractual entitlement to the income until the work has been done
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Costs of raising funds	including those associated with fundraising activities, managing investments and commercial trading by the subsidiary company.
Charitable activities	costs of undertaking the work of the charity.

The charity is registered for VAT and is able to recover some of the input tax charged as it relates to Vatable supplies. Costs are stated net of VAT where charged and irrecoverable VAT is included as a separate charge either within direct costs or support costs as appropriate.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions which assist the work of the charity either by supporting the delivery of charitable activities or by supporting the generation of funds. They include staff costs; depreciation; legal and financial costs; marketing, network, research & organisational costs; office, equipment & IT cost; and property costs. The basis of allocations is set out in note 6.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Individual fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful lives on a straight-line basis as set out below.

Depreciation rates are as follows:

Equipment	10% p.a
Computer equipment	33%pa

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets costing more than £500 are capitalised. The charity's website is classified as an intangible fixed assets and the costs of its development have been capitalised. The website is being amortised over its useful economic life of five years on a straight-line basis.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due and prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

Financial instruments

The charity has only basic financial instruments which are initially recorded at cost, subsequently measured at their settlement value.

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.

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2 DONATIONS						
ACE	213,766	-	213,766	-	45,000	45,000
Esmeé Fairbairn	-	-	-	66,000	-	66,000
GMCA - grant re staffing	-	22,488	22,488	-	14,544	14,544
Granada Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kickstart	-	-	-	-	2,096	2,096
MCC	2,000	-	2,000	20,000	-	20,000
MCC - grant re staffing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donations						
General donations	2,856	-	2,856	3,327	-	3,327
	<u>218,622</u>	<u>22,488</u>	<u>241,110</u>	<u>89,327</u>	<u>61,640</u>	<u>150,967</u>

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024

2024			2023		
Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
£	£	£	£	£	£

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Youth Music	-	79,700	79,700	-	158,900	158,900
Emerging Musicians	-	115,336	115,336	-	43,031	43,031
Workshops, consultancy & other	70,413	151,651	222,064	30,768	160,658	191,426
	<u>70,413</u>	<u>346,687</u>	<u>417,100</u>	<u>30,768</u>	<u>362,589</u>	<u>393,357</u>

Income is analysed as follows:

Youth Music

Granada Foundation	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
Manchester City Council	-	-	-	-	-	-
ACE - Manchester Music City	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Music Grant	-	74,700	74,700	-	153,900	153,900
Young Manchester	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
Fees and other income	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>79,700</u>	<u>79,700</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>158,900</u>	<u>158,900</u>

Emerging Musicians

ACE G4A - Both Sides Now	-	-	-	-	-	-
British Council - Both Sides Now	-	-	-	-	3,210	3,210
Manchester C C - Both Sides Now	-	31,217	31,217	-	2,000	2,000
Help Musicians UK	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foyle Foundation	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
PRS Foundation	-	12,000	12,000	-	12,000	12,000
Other grants	-	72,119	72,119	-	5,821	5,821
Other income	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>115,336</u>	<u>115,336</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,031</u>	<u>43,031</u>

Workshops, consultancy & other activities

ACE - transforming leadership	-	-	-	-	-	-
British Council	-	50,000	50,000	-	12,600	12,600
MCC - Music Cities Network	-	92,614	92,614	-	101,500	101,500
MCC - Danish Cities	-	-	-	-	2,500	2,500
My Hub Music trust - Manchester	-	2,000	2,000	-	-	-
experimental orchestra	-	7,037	7,037	-	9,958	9,958
Sick! Festival- channelled grant	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Music - Music Cities Network	-	-	-	-	34,100	34,100
Other income	70,413	-	70,413	30,768	-	30,768
	<u>70,413</u>	<u>151,651</u>	<u>222,064</u>	<u>30,768</u>	<u>160,658</u>	<u>191,426</u>

4 OTHER TRADING INCOME

Sponsorship - mentoring programme	-	-	-	-	-	-
-----------------------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024

5 COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs	246	-	246	216	-	216
Support costs	13,996	-	13,996	10,375	-	10,375
	<u>14,242</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,242</u>	<u>10,591</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,591</u>

6 CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

Youth Music	126,677	123,110	249,787	21,786	205,940	227,726
Emerging Musicians	231,778	73,894	305,672	221,071	55,186	276,257
Workshops, consultancy & other	(60,047)	197,931	137,884	(31,861)	244,220	212,359
Staffing funding	(22,488)	22,488	-	(14,544)	14,544	-
Kickstart	-	-	-	(2,096)	2,096	-
ACE CRF1 funded	-	-	-	(45,000)	45,000	-
	<u>275,920</u>	<u>417,423</u>	<u>693,343</u>	<u>149,356</u>	<u>566,986</u>	<u>716,342</u>

Expenditure is analysed as follows:

	Direct Costs £	Direct Salaries £	Support Costs £	Total £
2023/24				
Youth Music	96,427	70,066	83,294	249,787
Emerging Musicians	136,238	58,375	111,059	305,672
Workshops, consultancy & other	46,578	19,738	71,568	137,884
	<u>279,243</u>	<u>148,179</u>	<u>265,921</u>	<u>693,343</u>
2022/23				
Youth Music	96,427	70,066	61,233	227,726
Emerging Musicians	136,238	58,375	81,644	276,257
Workshops, consultancy & other	110,836	47,304	54,219	212,359
	<u>343,501</u>	<u>175,745</u>	<u>197,096</u>	<u>716,342</u>

7 SUPPORT & GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Fundraising	Youth Music	Emerging Musicians	Other Activities	Total
2023/24	£	£	£	£	2024
					£
Support costs					
Staff costs	9,498	56,986	75,982	47,489	189,955
Depreciation & amortisation	378	2,271	3,028	1,892	7,569
Legal & financial	33	199	265	166	653
Marketing	1,306	7,833	10,444	6,528	26,111
Network, research and organisational	700	4,199	5,599	3,499	13,997
Office, equipment and IT	458	2,745	3,660	2,288	9,151
Property costs	1,260	7,561	10,081	6,301	25,203
	<u>13,633</u>	<u>81,794</u>	<u>109,059</u>	<u>68,163</u>	<u>272,649</u>
Governance costs					
Staff costs	250	1,500	2,000	1,250	5,000
Professional fees	113	-	-	2,155	2,268
	<u>363</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>3,405</u>	<u>7,268</u>
	<u>13,996</u>	<u>83,294</u>	<u>111,059</u>	<u>71,568</u>	<u>279,917</u>

	Fundraising	Youth Music	Emerging Musicians	Other Activities	Total
2022/23	£	£	£	£	2023
					£
Support costs					
Staff costs	6,166	36,996	49,328	30,830	123,320
Depreciation & amortisation	158	946	1,261	788	3,153
Legal & financial	376	2,255	3,007	1,879	7,517
Marketing	759	4,554	6,072	3,795	15,180
Network, research and organisational	318	1,905	2,540	1,588	6,351
Office, equipment and IT	1,210	7,258	9,678	6,049	24,195
Property costs	970	5,819	7,758	4,849	19,396
	<u>9,957</u>	<u>59,733</u>	<u>79,644</u>	<u>49,778</u>	<u>199,112</u>
Governance costs					
Staff costs	250	1,500	2,500	750	5,000
Professional fees	168	-	-	3,191	3,359
	<u>418</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>3,941</u>	<u>8,359</u>
	<u>10,375</u>	<u>61,233</u>	<u>82,144</u>	<u>53,719</u>	<u>207,467</u>

Support costs are allocated on the following basis:

Area	basis
Staff costs, training and recruitment	estimate of staff time
Office rent and service charge	head count based on estimate of staff time.

8 STAFF INFORMATION	2024	2023
	£	£
a Employees		
Salaries and wages	320,203	308,065
Employer's pension contributions	6,190	6,288
Employers NI allowance	(5,000)	(4,000)
Employer's NI contributions	27,931	-
	<u>349,324</u>	<u>310,353</u>

No employees earned more than £60,000 p.a. in either year.

b Key management personnel

The key management of the charity comprise the trustees and senior staff (as set out on page1).

The trustees do not receive any remuneration for their services.

The total employee benefits, including employer pension and NI contributions, of other key management were as follows:

	<u>114,167</u>	<u>111,656</u>
--	----------------	----------------

c Average staff numbers

The average number of employees was as follows:-

	Average number	Average number
	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>

9 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS (for the Group)	2024	2023
This is stated after charging/(crediting):	£	£
Independent examiners & accountants fees:		
Examination	850	850
Accountancy fees	970	1,846
Other services	180	180
Depreciation of fixed assets	-	-
Amortisation of intangible assets	7,569	3,152
Trustees remuneration	-	-
Trustees expenses	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	Number	Number
Trustees claiming expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The net book value of assets held on finance leases included in tangible assets in note 9 was £nil (2021 - £1), and depreciation in 20/21 was £543 (this year none).

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computers & Office		
	Equipment	Equipment	Total
Cost or valuation	£	£	£
As at April 1 2023	16,624	24,034	40,658
Additions	-	-	-
As at March 31 2024	<u>16,624</u>	<u>24,034</u>	<u>40,658</u>
Depreciation			
As at April 1 2023	16,624	24,034	40,658
Charge for the year	-	-	-
As at March 31 2024	<u>16,624</u>	<u>24,034</u>	<u>40,658</u>
Net Book Value			
As at March 31 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
As at March 31 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

11 INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Website	
	£	£
Cost		
As at April 1 2023	37,845	37,845
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
As at March 31 2024	<u>37,845</u>	<u>37,845</u>
Amortisation		
As at April 1 2023	3,152	3,152
Charge for the year	7,569	7,569
Disposals	-	-
As at March 31 2024	<u>10,721</u>	<u>10,721</u>
Net Book Value		
As at March 31 2024	<u>27,124</u>	<u>27,124</u>
As at March 31 2023	<u>34,693</u>	<u>34,693</u>

	2024	2023
	£	£
12 DEBTORS		
Trade debtors	42,513	75,301
Income receivable	27,766	75,358
Prepayments	1,894	1,846
	<u>72,173</u>	<u>152,505</u>

13 CREDITORS falling due within one year

Trade creditors	32,685	26,362
Other taxes and social security	5,820	5,989
Accruals	2,000	6,470
Finance lease creditor	-	
Income and grants in advance	-	
	<u>40,505</u>	<u>38,821</u>

14 CREDITORS falling due in more than one year

	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
--	----------	----------

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024

14 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	2022/23				b/f and c/f 31/03/23 £	2023/24				
	01/04/2022	Income	Expenditure	transfers		01/04/23	Income	Expenditure	transfers	31/03/2023
	£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds:										
General fund	91,299	120,095	(159,947)	-	51,447	289,040	(290,162)	-	50,325	
Designated funds:										
Esmeé Fairbairn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total unrestricted funds	<u>91,299</u>	<u>120,095</u>	<u>(159,947)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,447</u>	<u>289,040</u>	<u>(290,162)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,325</u>	
Restricted Funds:										
ACE	-	45,000	(45,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
GMCA - staffing	-	14,544	(14,544)	-	-	22,488	(22,488)	-	-	
Kickstart	-	2,096	(2,096)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
MCC - staffing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Youth Music	114,035	158,900	(205,940)	-	66,995	79,700	(123,110)	-	23,585	
Emerging Musicians	15,160	43,031	(55,186)	-	3,005	115,336	(73,894)	-	44,447	
Other activities	163,421	160,658	(244,220)	-	79,859	151,651	(197,931)	-	33,579	
Total restricted funds	<u>292,616</u>	<u>424,229</u>	<u>(566,986)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>149,859</u>	<u>369,175</u>	<u>(417,423)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>101,611</u>	
	<u>383,915</u>	<u>544,324</u>	<u>(726,933)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>201,306</u>	<u>658,215</u>	<u>(707,585)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151,936</u>	

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2024

14 STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

	2022/23				b/f and c/f 31/03/23	2023/24			
	01/04/2022	Income	Expenditure	transfers		01/04/23	Income	Expenditure	transfers
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Youth Music									
Granada Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	(1,000)	-	4,000
Manchester City Council	4,561	-	(4,561)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prince's Trust	3,064	-	(569)	-	2,495	-	(2,495)	-	-
Youth Music Grant	106,410	153,900	(195,810)	-	64,500	74,700	(119,615)	-	19,585
Young Manchester	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>114,035</u>	<u>158,900</u>	<u>(205,940)</u>	-	<u>66,995</u>	<u>79,700</u>	<u>(123,110)</u>	-	<u>23,585</u>
Emerging Musicians									
ACE/YM - Both Sides Now	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
British Council - Both Sides Now	-	3,210	(3,210)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manchester C C - Both Sides Now	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-	31,217	(31,217)	-	-
Foyle Foundation	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Help Musicians UK	5,478	-	(5,478)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mayfield Arts Trust	7,732	-	(7,732)	-	-	-	-	-	-
PRS Foundation	1,950	12,000	(10,945)	-	3,005	12,000	(15,005)	-	-
Other grants	-	5,821	(5,821)	-	-	72,119	(27,672)	-	44,447
	<u>15,160</u>	<u>43,031</u>	<u>(55,186)</u>	-	<u>3,005</u>	<u>115,336</u>	<u>(73,894)</u>	-	<u>44,447</u>
Other activities									
ACE - transforming leadership	86,782	-	(86,782)	-	-	-	-	-	-
British Council - Womex	33,837	-	(33,837)	-	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
British Council - We are equals	6,102	12,600	(15,482)	-	3,220	-	(3,220)	-	-
Music Cities Network	22,262	135,600	(83,601)	-	74,261	92,614	(137,023)	(498)	29,354
MCC - Danish Cities	5,000	2,500	(5,122)	-	2,378	-	(2,876)	498	-
My Hub Music trust - Manchester	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
experimental orchestra	9,438	9,958	(19,396)	-	-	7,037	(2,812)	-	4,225
My Hub	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
	<u>163,421</u>	<u>160,658</u>	<u>(244,220)</u>	-	<u>79,859</u>	<u>151,651</u>	<u>(197,931)</u>	-	<u>33,579</u>

15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Company fund balances at March 31 2024

are represented by:-

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	
	£	£	£	£
Intangible fixed assets	27,124	-	-	27,124
Net current assets	23,201	-	101,611	124,812
	<u>50,325</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>101,611</u>	<u>151,936</u>

Free Reserves:

Net current assets

23,201

Company fund balances at March 31 2023

are represented by:-

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Net current assets	16,754	-	149,859	166,613
	<u>51,447</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>149,859</u>	<u>201,306</u>

16 RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASHFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure)	(49,370)	(182,609)
Add back depreciation	-	-
Add back amortisation intangible assets	7,569	3,152
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	80,332	124,887
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<u>1,684</u>	<u>1,694</u>
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities	<u>40,210</u>	<u>(52,876)</u>

17 MOVEMENT IN NET DEBT

	at 31/3/23	cashflows	finance leases	other non cash	as 31/3/24
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents					
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>52,929</u>	<u>40,215</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>93,144</u>
Debt					
Finance lease obligations	<u>-</u>	<u>(384)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash and cash equivalents net of debt	<u><u>52,929</u></u>				<u><u>93,144</u></u>

18 CONSTITUTION

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. In the event of the Company being wound up the members are committed to contributing £1 each.

19 TAXATION

The company is a registered charity and is entitled to claim annual exemption from UK corporation tax under sections 466 to 477 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010.

20 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The company had no capital commitments at the year end (2023 - none)

21 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions in either year which are required to be disclosed.

22 LEASE COMMITMENTS

The company had no commitments under operating leases (2021 - none).

The company has the following commitments under finance lease:

Payable within one year	-	
Payable between 2 and 5 years	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	-	-
Less interest	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1154803

Accounts

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR

THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2023

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2023**

INDEX

Chair's statement	1
Administrative information	2
Trustees' and Directors' annual report	3 – 9
Independent examiner's report	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Statement of cash flows	13
Notes to the financial statements	14 – 24

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
CHAIR'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2023**

2022-2023 was the first year post-covid when Brighter Sound was able to fully deliver a programme of activity. Our focus was to re-engage in person and elevate our work and practices to provide meaningful support to some of the most marginalised artistic communities in the north.

At the end of the reporting period we discovered that our application to become a new Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), had been successful, alongside new multi-year funding agreements with Youth Music as part of their Catalyser programme, and local authority funding from Manchester City Council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authorities. This provides a sound base for setting and delivering on our vision for 2023-25.

During the year we delivered a bold programme building the breadth and depth of our continued gender equality work by exploring intersectional and adjacent marginalities within creative communities in the north and beyond. We produced a programme with a focus on access, care and excellence for artists to reach their creative potential. We are already seeing the effects of this work, and the research that preceded it, through increased representation in the music sector and the establishment of own reputation for pioneering change both in this country and abroad. Our key role in securing Manchester as the location for the World wide Music Expo in 2024 on behalf of the UK and Ireland is an important milestone for Brighter Sound.

The reporting period represented the start of a new multi-year funding agreement, with Youth Music, supporting our Young People's work. Our work to date has continued to provide further opportunities to address issues which were heightened during, and immediately after the pandemic, namely social and artistic isolation, and the social and mental health challenges which result. Feedback from our participants has been positive, highlighting the value of being able to collaborate with peers after a period of isolation fuelled by social distancing.

Our Emerging Artist's work has focused on helping young (and early to mid-career) creatives to re-engage with their practice, supporting them to access opportunities which were denied to them over the previous couple of years.

Our gender equality work continues, and we will use our manifesto as a tool to advocate, champion and facilitate changes in the music sector.

Strategically we have continued to lead on the Manchester Music City initiative and played a role in the Manchester Cultural Leadership Group. We are also the SME Lead on Manchester's Real Living Wage Anchors Group, which supports the development, and celebration of Manchester being a Real Living Wage City.

Operationally our focus remains on embedding our commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion in all its forms, providing our team and board with development opportunities which will improve our practice and decision-making. The Investment Principles reporting structure, which is a requirement of the ACE NPO funding contract, has provided a useful structure to frame our work on organisational and Board development and it will underpin our approach to governance.

Whilst our fundraising approach was successful in securing new multi-year funding from April 2023 (January 2023 for our Youth Music funding), the delays to application processes for ACE NPO and other funding sources meant this was a transitional year for us financially, as we moved from a project funding relationship with ACE into their portfolio. This did create funding challenges, and contributed to the fact that we had a small deficit this financial year. To embolden our ability to market, deliver, celebrate and advocate for our work we also invested in a new website. This means our reserves do now include the website as an asset we will depreciate over the next five years. This does mean our reserves are below target, but we feel that given our low fixed liabilities, and funding mix, we can work with this figure, and target re-building reserves over the next couple of years.

I am grateful to my fellow board members for their advice and support, our inspired and energetic Brighter Sound staff and freelancers and to all our funders.

Dr Virginia Tandy - Chair, Brighter Sound

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2023**

DIRECTORS

M Ball
R Davies
J Harvie
W H A Lee
A G Lovatt
T F Rabbani
S Rahim
L O Shaw
R M Shaw
Dr V A Tandy - Chair
M Wilde

KEY STAFF

D King	Chief Executive
G Davies	Head of Operations & Finance
K Lowes	Head of Programmes
R Horn	Head of Marketing & Communications

**REGISTERED OFFICE AND
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS**

Green Fish Resource Centre
46-50 Oldham Street
Manchester
M4 1LE

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
& ACCOUNTANTS**

Stacy Mason
HGA Accountants & Financial Consultants Ltd
t/a **Chittenden Horley** – Chartered Accountants
Hyde Park House
Cartwright Street, Newton
Manchester SK14 4EH

BANKERS

Lloyds Bank Plc
42-46 Market Street
Manchester M1 1PW

DIRECTORS

M Ball

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2023**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended March 31 2023 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019), referred to as the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable objects

1. The Charity is established to act as a resource for young people, living in the UK by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities as a means of:
 - a. advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals;
 - b. advancing education, particularly in music;
 - c. relieving unemployment;
 - d. Providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for young people living in the area of benefit who have need by reason of their youth. Age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.
2. Advancing education in the Arts by providing training in music, including working with emerging musicians who have been unable to find, or need support in finding employment.

Aims and Objectives for the year ending 31st March 2023

- Develop the next generation of musicians
- Engage and support young people through music
- Increase audience engagement in the support of new and emerging talent
- Become an impactful player across the broader music industry with a national and international profile
- Increase diversity and access within the music offer for young people and emerging musicians

ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Objective 1: To act as a resource for young people living in the UK by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational or other activities:

Highlights for this year include:

- **Honeyfeet Residency - "Truth to Tape"** (8 participants aged 17 - 21) - a 5-day progression focussed residency with a focus on high quality recording with local band Honeyfeet in an inspiring, professional environment. The band worked with a select cohort to create 6 very different new pieces of music inspired by group discussions airing opinions, emotions & experiences in a safe, supportive & respectful way.
- **Manchester Experimental Orchestra** (16 participants aged 14 - 22) - A new ensemble loosely based on the values of Third Orchestra. The project included two weekends and 6 'evening sectional' sessions and culminated in a performance at Royal Northern College of Music. 3 Young Leaders had a mentorship role throughout the project and were involved in planning as well as being participants of the ensemble. The focus was on improvisation, composition, arrangement and collaborative skills. Recruitment for the project focused on young musicians from diverse backgrounds with a focus on People Of Colour and low socio-economic backgrounds.
- **Digital Natives** (17 participants aged 13 - 20) - an exploratory programme for young creatives who want to create exciting new musical content for other young people
- **Trauma Informed pilot project** (13 participants aged 12 - 13) - a pilot project delivered as part of the MADE LCEP for young people who have experienced trauma and including bespoke practitioner training, in partnership with Abraham Moss Community School.
- **Both Sides Now gender equality workshops** (11 participants aged 11 - 18) - developing the skills and confidence of young women and people of marginalised genders in North Manchester, to address the lack of quality music opportunities for these groups and to increase wellbeing and confidence. The participants face challenging circumstances including economic deprivation, neglect & mental ill health. Based at the Youth Zone, the 6 weekly sessions culminated in a performance at North City Library to an audience of 150. 4 tracks of original music were recorded and produced by the participants

Objective 2: Advancing education in the Arts by providing training in music including working with emerging musicians who have been unable to find or need support in finding employment.

Highlights for this year include:

- **From The Depths** - we commissioned two artists, one from the North of England, and one from the USA, to collaborate and produce new music reflecting on the legacy of Detroit electro-techno duo Drexciya, described by Resident Advisor as the "most important electro artists of the 90's". The commissioned artists received mentorship, creative stimulus and guidance from Techno artist and visualiser of the Drexciyan Empire, AbuQadim Haqq. The work was premiered live on Drexciya Day 2022 at Eastern Bloc Records in Manchester to celebrate and commemorate 20 years since James Stinson, the architect of Drexciya, passed. The project is due to tour internationally in 2023.
- **Dreaming with Machines** - a residency for 6 women and people of marginalised genders. The participants created a series of soundscapes that feature samples from their own music and recordings using AI and 'machine learning'.
- **Self, Sense, Space** - an intentional, dedicated residency for 9 women and people of marginalised genders who identify as disabled &/or neurodivergent working across artforms to develop and create new work, led by formidable interdisciplinary artist Nwando Ebizie. The residency was hosted at People's History Museum, Manchester to tie in with 'Nothing About Us, Without Us' - an exhibition on disability rights activism.
- **Trans_Formation: Power in Community** - an intentional, dedicated residency for 13 Trans and Non-Binary musicians to meet, create and collaborate on producing new music, led by artistic director I. Jordan and produced in partnership with Generator. The new work was performed at the Star & Shadow, Newcastle, and at Tranuary, Manchester.
- **A Week With Nubya Garcia** - an intentional, dedicated residency for 15 women and people of marginalised genders, led by artistic director Nubya Garcia with an aim of opening out improvisational practices to a wider range of musicians, and showing how these skills can be applied across genre boundaries
- **Secret Technology** - This pilot programme produced 3 open access monthly workshops focusing on performance, practical elements, and discussions around aesthetics, wellbeing, technology and their intersections. Guest artists for these sessions included: Eiliyas, Iceboy Violet & Rainy Miller and SONAMB. The sessions were hosted in non-traditional educational spaces including pubs and record shops - placing the emphasis on the social aspect of learning, sharing and connecting with the aim of sparking ideas that can be used, applied and reapplied across forms of electronic music, from pop to jungle to experimental.

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2023**

Manchester Music City - Music Cities Network

Brighter Sound continues to be the sector lead organisation for Manchester Music City (MMC). MMC is a member of the Music Cities Network, and is also the chair of the network.

Highlights for this year include:

- Incorporating MMC as a limited company with a board of directors
- Receiving the contract from Piranha Arts for the delivery of WOMEX 2024.
- Beginning the preparations for the public announcement that Manchester will host WOMEX in 2024. This included hosting a breakfast event at SxSW
- MMC attended WOMEX 2022 in Lisbon with the WOMEXchange programme. This brought together 12 Manchester music industry professionals and 13 music industry professionals from ODA countries, in partnership with the British Council and British Underground
- Speaking at industry panels on leadership and gender equality, including Reeperbahn and Eurosonic. Participating in Music Cities Network summit events and European Taskforce working groups
- Providing support for grass roots music projects, including fundraising advice for [SEEN](#) magazine, a Manchester based music magazine created by global majority and marginalised communities

Participating in the Greater Manchester Music Advisory Commission, established by the Mayor, Andy Burnham. With similar objectives to champion and support the industry; discussions are ongoing to distinguish the unique roles of the two bodies and where they collaborate. It is proposed that Manchester Music City provide the international facing identity for the city regions' music ecology while the Commission is well placed to lobby for improved night-time transport

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2023**

Public Benefit

The Charity has concern for the guidance for the charity commission guidance on Public benefit and Trustees and Management Personnel act and make decisions accordingly in line with this guidance. The Charity delivers a wide range of activities in the Public Benefit, described in detail above. In summary, our work in the public benefit includes reaching children and young people through music in order to give them personal, musical and life skills that can enable them to pursue a personal passion with support and training, improve their personal wellbeing, engage with other like-minded young musicians, and become aware, social, skilled and confident people.

Outcomes

Between 1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023, Brighter Sound produced and facilitated 19 projects over the year, delivering 130 events for 798 people. Of these 798 people, the gender split was 53% female, 18% male, 2.5% identifying as non-binary or preferring to self-describe. The remainder being unknown or preferring not to say.

For our young people, the number of core participants - which are children and young people we worked with over a more sustained period of time, i.e. attended three or more sessions - was 315, all aged under 25. For our core young participants, 81% identified as female, 2% identified as non-binary or preferring to self-describe.

Reach, Marketing and Communications

We launched a new audience-focused communications strategy, content strategy, refreshed brand identity, tone of voice guidelines and website in December 2022. These improvements have supported our ability to engage new and existing audiences, and garner support from funders and individual donors alike, as well as increase our general brand awareness. We have invested in re-usable marketing assets using our new brand identity for our public events including: pull up banners, tablecloths, lanyards, evergreen leaflets.

We're currently recruiting a team of young 'Digital Natives' to bring youth voice into our marketing and digital content strategy and output. Over the coming months, a group of 13-25 year olds will take part in a training course delivered by Reform Radio, developing skills in interviewing; camera setup; shooting for social media; developing content ideas in response to a brief, company brand and values; pitching back; writing scripts and interview questions; filming and production as part of a small team; and post production editing including finalising assets and copy. We hope that the majority of participants wish to stay connected to Brighter Sound, and we can further support their development by providing additional training, on-the-ground experience and paid work to create engaging content for our channels going forward.

The news of WOMEX being hosted in Manchester in 2024 was officially announced on 6 October, with a sector-facing event taking place at Band on the Wall the week after. The full press release and a short video promoting Manchester as the next host city can be found on the [Manchester Music City website](#). Manchester Music City has an established Instagram account and Mailchimp mailing list. We have appointed a freelance PR (Laura Bradley, Sprout PR) to work with us over the next year. We are exploring the possibility of bringing in extra comms support (on a fixed term basis) via Manchester Music City to support the delivery of WOMEX 2024, including managing the MMC channels.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

This year was a challenging one financially, as we reported a deficit on unrestricted funds, which combined with our investment in our new website means our unrestricted fund stands at £51,447 – with free reserves comprising £16,754 of that figure. Alongside depreciation of our new website, something pivotal to our operations, we will aim to rebuild free reserves in the upcoming financial years.

As this year also represented the completion of a number of longer-term projects, we were able to complete a number of restricted fund activities for which we had accrued surplus restricted funds to deliver. This explains the reduction in restricted funds held at year end, and the restricted funds deficit for the year. We also had a designated reserve, Esmee Fairbairn funding which they had designated as unrestricted – to help during COVID – which was used as our Esmee Fairbairn funding completed.

Core expenditure has remained largely similar. We continue to practice close cost management, and to remain in lower-cost temporary office accommodation, on a lease with a short notice period. This provides us with the flexibility to reduce expenditure, whilst we consider our longer-term needs in terms of premises. Greater use of virtual working will be a factor when we return to more permanent accommodation.

Given our challenges, we are pleased to have navigated this period positively, from a financial perspective, with a good amount of secured income which will provide a strong base on which to build our delivery plans.

Risk management

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises: a rolling review of the risks the charity may face; the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan; and the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise. The full board reviews this plan on a quarterly basis, focusing on new items and on anything scored as high risk.

During the financial year, our Finance Sub-committee has continued to meet monthly to provide increased scrutiny of our finances, and to ensure that risk is effectively managed in a timely manner. As the impacts of the pandemic continued to provide uncertainty, this forum provided invaluable advice and ensured that decisions could be stress tested before implementation.

Reserves

The company has targeted a level of free reserves (unrestricted reserves not invested in fixed assets or otherwise designated) of £60,000, approximately three months fixed running costs. At the end of the year of this set of accounts (2022/23) the unrestricted fund sat at £51,447, with free reserves comprising £16,754 of that figure. During the year the organisation invested in a new website, which makes up the remainder of that unrestricted fund figure, which will support delivery of its charitable objectives, and further diversification of its income streams. This does mean that free reserves are lower than the target, but given our limited fixed liabilities, and flexibility around certain secured funds and contracts we are comfortable that alongside repayment aligned to the depreciation of the website we can rebuild reserves over the next couple of years to the level we have targeted.

Going concern

Whilst the changes to our relationship with historical regular funders continue to be embedded, they also help create opportunities to refocus our multi-year funds. As we approach the second year of these agreements, we continue business planning to ensure that we have plans which are not solely reliant on trusts and public funding, or indeed any one individual funder. Diversifying our income streams and looking at more opportunities for earned income and donations has been a particular focus. With work already secured, and a revised business and fundraising plan we have no issues around declaring the organisation a viable going concern.

Pricing policy

Wherever possible, we offer our provision - workshops, residencies, masterclasses, mentoring, and support – Free of Charge to the end user. This is to ensure that finance is not a barrier to access, and to allow us to broaden the reach of our work.

FUTURE PLANS

The next twelve months hold a lot of exciting developments as we continue to grow our work on a local, national and international scale.

Brighter Sound's vision for the year ahead is focussed on sustainable development and bridging the gap between our very localised programme and international work. We will focus on raising awareness of the work we are doing and exploring ways to export our models of delivery to further develop the diverse music creators & industry professionals of the future.

We plan to :-

- bring youth voice more closely into the heart of the company connecting young people with decision making processes and creating opportunities that strengthen our delivery of co-created, high-quality & inclusive activities for young creatives.
- work more closely and collaboratively with a network of partners from across the region to strengthen the cultural offer in the North, support talent retention and build stronger progression routes into positive skills and development opportunities
- support the growth & emergence of creative practice & risk-taking through our commissions and residencies; placing an emphasis on reaching underrepresented communities & sustainably.
- grow our international connections and establish stronger development and export pathways for creatives from the region
- develop a central research strand to our work that will strengthen delivery and advocacy of our charitable objectives
- we will play a critical role in building a supportive infrastructure locally, regionally & internationally expanding capacity & competencies to make a significant mark on sector & on place

The short terms plans for Manchester Music City in 2023-25 are to:

- Create a 3 year business plan, driven by our core vision, mission and values
- Establish a representative board of trustees, with transparent, open governance
- Build a dynamic team to support the successful shortlisting to potentially hosting WOMEX 2024 in Manchester

Building upon this in the medium term, we will continue to grow our partnerships across the cultural sector in the city. We want our partnerships to:

- support and facilitate music events and festivals that bring high-quality and diverse international artists and musicians to Manchester;
- support and facilitate training and development for musicians in Manchester, including creating a diverse, international support network and ways to connect with international opportunities; and
- improve access to education and events to develop and sustain a larger, broader, and more diverse music community.

Our long term plans are to create an export agency for Manchester which represents the breadth and diversity of talent in the city. We want Manchester Music City to achieve charitable status. We want Manchester Music City to add value to music organisation across cities by acting as a signposting and facilitation agency to a wide variety of opportunities for progression internationally.

Brighter Sound will continue to prioritise inclusion and equity across all our areas of work both internally and externally. Working with our trustees, workforce, senior management team and partners to approach access in a granular way, seeking to understand difference and create a sense of belonging that goes beyond inclusion.

Strategic Developments

In the coming year we will continue to build on our period of visioning and business planning to take us through to 2026. In the next period our future funding will become clearer, and from this we will be able to refine our business and financial plans to complement the body of work we will be delivering.

We have a specific focus on broadening the reach of our work, building on the good work we have done on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. We will continue to develop the impact and content of our programming, exploring new partnership opportunities, using our resources to maximum effect, and innovating to ensure our offer stays future facing, relevant and inspiring.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is a company limited by guarantee governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated April 13 2004, as amended by special resolution(s) dated October 11 2013. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

Members of the company

The members of the company comprise the Directors and such other persons who have been admitted to membership by the Directors in accordance with the Articles of Association. The minimum number of members is three and the maximum eleven.

Appointment of trustees/directors

The Trustees (who are also directors of the company) are appointed by the members in general meetings. The Directors have the power to co-opt. .

Co-opted directors/trustees hold office until the next AGM and are then eligible for election.

No Director can serve for more than six years, unless as a serving director they are elected chair in the fourth year of serving as a Director. In which case they may serve for up to a maximum of eight years providing they continue as chair of the Board.

New Trustees are nominated by existing Trustees and can be put forward by the company's executive team for consideration by the board.

Trustee induction and training

Potential trustees are invited to meet the board and the executive team before attending a trustees' meeting as an observer. Following this process, suitability is assessed, and suitable candidates are invited to become Trustees. On joining new Trustees are given an induction and a set of resources to support their introduction to the company and provide guidance on their obligations and responsibilities as a trustee, and their role for the Charity including the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Trustees are expected to attend training when requested including whole company visioning, and fundraising training relevant to their role as trustees.

Organisation

The minimum number of directors is three and the maximum fourteen. The board meets quarterly and there is a finance sub-committee.

An executive Director is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity.

To facilitate effective operations, the executive Director has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and artistic performance related activity. The Director leads the executive team consisting of two senior managers (Head of Programmes and Head of Operations) three project managers associated with activity delivery, a communications coordinator, projects coordinator and a digital marketing apprentice

Pay and remuneration for senior staff

Pay and remuneration of key management personnel is agreed by trustees by ordinary resolution in relation to a company pay scale. Any changes to the level of pay or significant changes in working hours are agreed by trustees by ordinary resolution.

Related parties

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their trustee role with the charity other than travel expenses which must be claimed. In the current year, no trustees claimed any expenses or remuneration.

Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a production company, contracted supplier, practitioner or beneficiary must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. The Charity has a Conflict-of-Interest Policy which is provided to all Trustees and adhered to by all parties.

If trustees undertake work for the charity outside of their role as trustees, they may not in any way influence or take part in the decision of trustees to engage their services and must declare in full any arrangements with the charity.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The trustees (who are also directors of Brighter Sound Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the 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 financial year, 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:

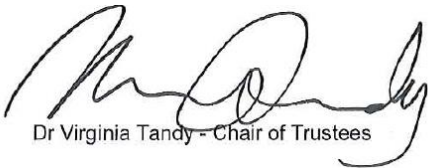
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will 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 for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS AND APPROVAL

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Dr Virginia Tandy - Chair of Trustees

Date: 15th December 2023

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2023**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended March 31 2023 which are set out on pages 11 to 24.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts 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 your company'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 company'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 *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 that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts 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 accounts 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).

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.

<p>Stacy Mason <i>Stacy Mason</i> For and on behalf of: HGA Accountants & Financial Consultants Ltd t/a Chittenden Horley - Chartered Accountants</p> <p>Hyde Park House Cartwright Street, Newton Manchester SK14 4EH</p>	<p>Date: 19/12/2023</p>
---	-------------------------

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Donations	2	89,327	61,640	150,967	141,172
Charitable activities	3	30,768	362,589	393,357	586,992
Other trading income	4	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME		120,095	424,229	544,324	728,164
EXPENDITURE					
Costs of raising funds	5	10,591	-	10,591	7,120
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	149,356	566,986	716,342	809,364
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		159,947	566,986	726,933	816,484
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS		(39,852)	(142,757)	(182,609)	(88,320)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(39,852)	(142,757)	(182,609)	(88,320)
TOTAL FUNDS :					
BROUGHT FORWARD	14	91,299	292,616	383,915	472,235
CARRIED FORWARD	14	51,447	149,859	201,306	383,915

The notes on pages 14 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT MARCH 31 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	10		-		
Intangible Assets	11		<u>34,693</u>		<u>19,800</u>
			34,693		19,800
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	152,505		277,392	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>52,929</u>		<u>123,850</u>	
		205,434		401,242	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due in one year	13		<u>38,821</u>		<u>37,127</u>
			166,613		364,115
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
			<u>201,306</u>		<u>383,915</u>
NET ASSETS					
			<u>201,306</u>		<u>383,915</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted					
General fund	14		51,447		91,299
Restricted					
	14		<u>149,859</u>		<u>292,616</u>
TOTAL FUNDS					
			<u>201,306</u>		<u>383,915</u>

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

For the year ending March 31 2023, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and no notice has been deposited under section 476 requiring the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question.

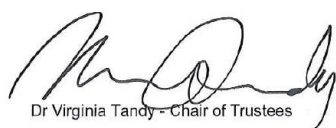
Directors' responsibilities

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The notes on pages 14 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Board and authorised for issue on: 15th December 2023

And signed on their behalf by:


Dr Virginia Tandy – Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 05100495

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
AS AT MARCH 31 2023

		2023	2022
	notes	£	£
Cash used in operating activities	16	<u>(52,876)</u>	<u>(284,003)</u>
Cashflows from investing activities			
Purchase intangible fixed assets		<u>(18,045)</u>	<u>(19,800)</u>
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>(18,045)</u>	<u>(19,800)</u>
Cashflows from financing activities			
Repayment of borrowing - Finance lease		<u>-</u>	<u>(384)</u>
Cash used in financing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>(384)</u>
Increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents in the year		(70,921)	(304,187)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		123,850	428,037
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		<u>52,929</u>	<u>123,850</u>
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:			
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>52,929</u>	<u>123,850</u>
		<u>52,929</u>	<u>123,850</u>

Details of the movements in net debt are given in note 18.

The notes on pages 13 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared: under the historic cost convention; in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) effective January 1 2019 (second edition – October 2019); FRS102; and the Companies Act 2006. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The accounts are prepared in £ sterling, which is the functional currency.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. The following applies to particular types of income:

Grants, whether of a capital or revenue nature, are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met and it is probable that the income will be received.

Donations from individuals and other bodies (not being of the nature of a grant) are recognised when receivable.

Earned income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for services and goods supplied, net of discounts and VAT.

Deferred income

Income is only deferred and included in creditors when:

- The income relates to a future accounting period
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and there is no contractual entitlement to the income until the work has been done
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Costs of raising funds including those associated with fundraising activities, managing investments and commercial trading by the subsidiary company.

Charitable activities costs of undertaking the work of the charity.

The charity is registered for VAT and is able to recover some of the input tax charged as it relates to Vatable supplies. Costs are stated net of VAT where charged and irrecoverable VAT is included as a separate charge either within direct costs or support costs as appropriate.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions which assist the work of the charity either by supporting the delivery of charitable activities or by supporting the generation of funds. They include staff costs; depreciation; legal and financial costs; marketing, network, research & organisational costs; office, equipment & IT cost; and property costs. The basis of allocations is set out in note 6.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Individual fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful lives on a straight-line basis as set out below.

Depreciation rates are as follows:

Equipment	10% p.a
Computer equipment	33%pa

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets costing more than £500 are capitalised. The charity's website is classified as an intangible fixed assets and the costs of its development have been capitalised. The website is being amortised over its useful economic life of five years on a straight-line basis.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due and prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

Financial instruments

The charity has only basic financial instruments which are initially recorded at cost, subsequently measured at their settlement value.

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.

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2023

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2 DONATIONS						
ACE CRF1	-	45,000	45,000	-	25,000	25,000
Esmeé Fairbairn	66,000	-	66,000	60,000	-	60,000
GMCA - grant re staffing	-	14,544	14,544	-	14,544	14,544
HMRC - CJRS	-	-	-	12,428	-	12,428
Kickstart		2,096	2,096	-	5,543	5,543
MCC	20,000	-	20,000	23,000	-	23,000
MCC - grant re staffing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Donations						
General donations	3,327	-	3,327	657	-	657
	<u>89,327</u>	<u>61,640</u>	<u>150,967</u>	<u>96,085</u>	<u>45,087</u>	<u>141,172</u>

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2023

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES						
Youth Music	-	158,900	158,900	4,558	166,711	171,269
Emerging Musicians	-	43,031	43,031	385	96,242	96,627
Workshops, consultancy & other	30,768	180,658	191,426	27,971	291,125	319,096
	<u>30,768</u>	<u>362,589</u>	<u>393,357</u>	<u>32,914</u>	<u>554,078</u>	<u>586,992</u>

Income is analysed as follows:

Youth Music

Granada Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manchester City Council	-	-	-	-	4,781	4,781
ACE - Manchester Music City	-	-	-	-	9,130	9,130
Youth Music Grant	-	153,900	153,900	-	152,800	152,800
Young Manchester	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
Fees and other income	-	-	-	4,558	-	4,558
	-	<u>158,900</u>	<u>158,900</u>	<u>4,558</u>	<u>166,711</u>	<u>171,269</u>

Emerging Musicians

ACE G4A - Both Sides Now	-	-	-	-	59,508	59,508
British Council - Both Sides Now	-	3,210	3,210	-	9,742	9,742
Manchester C C - Both Sides Now	-	2,000	2,000	-	19,492	19,492
Help Musicians UK	-	-	-	-	1,500	1,500
Foyle Foundation	-	20,000	20,000	-	-	-
PRS Foundation	-	12,000	12,000	-	6,000	6,000
Other grants	-	5,821	5,821	-	-	-
Other income	-	-	-	385	-	385
	-	<u>43,031</u>	<u>43,031</u>	<u>385</u>	<u>96,242</u>	<u>96,627</u>

Workshops, consultancy & other activities

ACE - transforming leadership	-	-	-	-	202,500	202,500
British Council	-	12,600	12,600	-	12,600	12,600
MCC - Music Cities Network	-	101,500	101,500	-	57,125	57,125
MCC - Danish Cities	-	2,500	2,500	-	5,000	5,000
My Hub Music trust - Manchester experimental orchestra	-	9,958	9,958	-	12,000	12,000
Sick! Festival- channelled grant	-	-	-	-	1,900	1,900
Youth Music - Music Cities Network	-	34,100	34,100	-	-	-
Other income	30,768	-	30,768	27,971	-	27,971
	<u>30,768</u>	<u>180,658</u>	<u>191,426</u>	<u>27,971</u>	<u>291,125</u>	<u>319,096</u>

4 OTHER TRADING INCOME

Sponsorship - mentoring programme	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2023

5 COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs	216	-	216	258	-	258
Support costs	10,375	-	10,375	6,862	-	6,862
	10,591	-	10,591	7,120	-	7,120

6 CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

Youth Music	21,786	205,940	227,726	10,478	195,235	205,713
Emerging Musicians	221,071	55,186	276,257	2,906	137,556	140,462
Workshops, consultancy & other	(31,861)	244,220	212,359	(177,880)	310,757	132,877
Staffing funding	(14,544)	14,544	-	(14,544)	14,544	-
Kickstart	(2,096)	2,096	-	(5,543)	5,543	-
ACE CRF1 funded	(45,000)	45,000	-	(25,000)	25,000	-
	149,356	566,986	716,342	(209,583)	688,635	479,052

Expenditure is analysed as follows:

	Direct Costs	Direct Salaries	Support Costs	Total
	£	£	£	£
2022/23				
Youth Music	96,427	70,066	61,233	227,726
Emerging Musicians	136,238	58,375	81,644	276,257
Workshops, consultancy & other	110,836	47,304	54,219	212,359
	343,501	175,745	197,096	716,342
2021/22				
Youth Music	60,771	71,233	73,709	205,713
Emerging Musicians	13,112	4,500	122,850	140,462
Workshops, consultancy & other	58,612	35,083	39,182	132,877
	132,495	110,816	235,741	479,052

7 SUPPORT & GOVERNANCE COSTS

					Total 2023 £
	Fundraising £	Youth Music £	Emerging Musicians £	Other Activities £	
2022/23					
Support costs					
Staff costs	6,166	36,996	49,328	30,830	123,320
Depreciation & amortisation	158	946	1,261	788	3,153
Legal & financial	376	2,255	3,007	1,879	7,517
Marketing	759	4,554	6,072	3,795	15,180
Network, research and organisational	318	1,905	2,540	1,588	6,351
Office, equipment and IT	1,210	7,258	9,678	6,049	24,195
Property costs	970	5,819	7,758	4,849	19,396
	<u>9,957</u>	<u>59,733</u>	<u>79,644</u>	<u>49,778</u>	199,112
Governance costs					
Staff costs	250	1,500	2,000	1,250	5,000
Professional fees	168	-	-	3,191	3,359
	<u>418</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>4,441</u>	8,359
	<u>10,375</u>	<u>61,233</u>	<u>81,644</u>	<u>54,219</u>	207,471

					Total 2022 £
	Fundraising £	Youth Music £	Emerging Musicians £	Other Activities £	
2021/22					
Support costs					
Staff costs	8,151	48,908	81,514	24,454	163,027
Depreciation & amortisation	124	746	1,244	373	2,487
Legal & financial	330	1,979	3,298	989	6,596
Marketing	598	3,586	5,977	1,793	11,954
Network, research and organisational	1,078	6,468	10,780	3,234	21,560
Office, equipment and IT	705	4,227	7,045	2,114	14,091
Property costs	1,049	6,295	10,492	3,148	20,984
	<u>12,035</u>	<u>72,209</u>	<u>120,350</u>	<u>36,105</u>	240,699
Governance costs					
Staff costs	250	1,500	2,500	750	5,000
Professional fees	122	-	-	2,327	2,449
	<u>372</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>3,077</u>	7,449
	<u>12,407</u>	<u>73,709</u>	<u>122,850</u>	<u>39,182</u>	248,148

Support costs are allocated on the following basis:

Area	basis
Staff costs, training and recruitment	estimate of staff time
Office rent and service charge	head count based on estimate of staff time.
Other costs	estimate of resources used.

8 STAFF INFORMATION	2023	2022
	£	£
a Employees		
Salaries and wages	308,065	284,201
Employer's pension contributions	6,288	5,705
Employers NI allowance	(4,000)	(4,000)
Employer's NI contributions	-	23,647
	<u>310,353</u>	<u>309,553</u>

No employees earned more than £60,000 p.a. in either year.

b Key management personnel

The key management of the charity comprise the trustees and senior staff (as set out on page 1).

The trustees do not receive any remuneration for their services.

The total employee benefits, including employer pension and NI contributions, of other key management were as follows:

	<u>140,418</u>	<u>135,550</u>
--	-----------------------	----------------

c Average staff numbers

The average number of employees was as follows:-

Average number	Average number
<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>

9 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS (for the Group)	2023	2022
	£	£
This is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Independent examiners & accountants fees:		
Examination	850	850
Accountancy fees	1,846	1,894
Other services	180	180
Depreciation of fixed assets	-	1,161
Amortisation of intangible assets	3,152	
Trustees remuneration	-	-
Trustees expenses	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	Number	Number
Trustees claiming expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The net book value of assets held on finance leases included in tangible assets in note 9 was £nil (2021 - £1), and depreciation in 20/21 was £543 (this year none).

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computers & Office		
	Equipment	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or valuation			
As at April 1 2022	16,624	24,034	40,658
Additions	-	-	-
As at March 31 2023	16,624	24,034	40,658
Depreciation			
As at April 1 2022	16,624	24,034	40,658
Charge for the year	-	-	-
As at March 31 2023	16,624	24,034	40,658
Net Book Value			
As at March 31 2023	-	-	-
As at March 31 2022	-	-	-

11 INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Website	Total
	£	£
Cost		
As at April 1 2022	19,800	19,800
Additions	18,045	18,045
Disposals	-	-
As at March 31 2023	37,845	37,845
Amortisation		
As at April 1 2022	-	-
Charge for the year	3,152	3,152
Disposals	-	-
As at March 31 2023	3,152	3,152
Net Book Value		
As at March 31 2023	34,693	34,693
As at March 31 2022	<i>19,800</i>	<i>19,800</i>

12 DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	75,301	<i>17,391</i>
Income receivable	75,358	<i>258,155</i>
Prepayments	1,846	<i>1,846</i>
	152,505	<i>277,392</i>

13 CREDITORS falling due within one year

Trade creditors	26,362	<i>24,986</i>
Other taxes and social security	5,989	<i>6,658</i>
Accruals	6,470	<i>5,483</i>
Finance lease creditor	-	
Income and grants in advance	-	
	38,821	<i>37,127</i>

14 CREDITORS falling due in more than one year

14 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	2021/22				2022/23			
	01/04/2021	Income	Expenditure	transfers	b/f and c/f	Income	Expenditure	transfers
	£	£	£	£	31/03/2022	£	£	£
					01/04/2022			31/03/2023
					£			£
Unrestricted funds:								
General fund	71,304	128,999	(109,004)	-	91,299	120,095	(159,947)	-
Designated funds:								
Esmeé Fairbairn	18,845	-	(18,845)	-	-	-	-	51,447
Total unrestricted funds	90,149	128,999	(127,849)	-	91,299	120,095	(159,947)	51,447
Restricted Funds:								
ACE - CRF1	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-	45,000	(45,000)	-
GMCA - staffing	-	14,544	(14,544)	-	-	14,544	(14,544)	-
Kickstart	-	5,543	(5,543)	-	-	2,096	(2,096)	-
MCC - staffing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Music	142,559	166,711	(195,235)	-	114,035	158,900	(205,940)	-
Emerging Musicians	56,474	96,242	(137,556)	-	15,160	43,031	(55,186)	-
Other activities	183,053	291,125	(310,757)	-	163,421	160,658	(244,220)	-
Total restricted funds	382,086	599,165	(688,635)	-	292,616	424,229	(566,986)	-
	472,235	728,164	(816,484)	-	383,915	544,324	(726,933)	201,306

14 STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

	2021/22		b/f and c/f 31/03/2022		2022/23	
	01/04/2021	Income Expenditure transfers	01/04/2022	Income Expenditure transfers	31/03/2023	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Youth Music						
Love Music Trust	4,980	-	(4,980):-	-	-	-
Manchester City Council	-	4,781	(220):-	4,561	(4,561)	-
Prince's Trust	923	9,130	(6,989)	3,064	(569)	2,495
Youth Music Grant	120,696	152,800	(167,086)	106,410	(195,810)	64,500
Young Manchester	15,960	-	(15,960)	-	(5,000)	-
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-
	142,559	166,711	(195,235)	114,035	(205,940)	66,995
Emerging Musicians						
ACE/YM - Both Sides Now	34,868	59,508	(94,376)	-	-	-
British Council - Both Sides Now	-	9,742	(9,742)	-	(3,210)	-
Manchester C - Both Sides Now	-	19,492	(19,492)	-	(2,000)	-
Foyle Foundation	-	-	-	-	(20,000)	-
Help Musicians UK	13,874	1,500	(9,896)	5,478	(5,478)	-
Mayfield Arts Trust	7,732	-	-	7,732	(7,732)	-
PRS Foundation	-	6,000	(4,050)	1,950	(10,945)	3,005
Other grants	-	-	-	-	(5,821)	-
	56,474	96,242	(137,556)	15,160	(55,186)	3,005
Other activities						
ACE - transforming leadership	114,220	202,500	(229,938)	86,782	(86,782)	-
British Council - Womex	50,000	-	(16,163)	33,837	(33,837)	-
British Council - We are equals	-	12,600	(6,498)	6,102	(15,482)	3,220
Music Cities Network	14,981	57,125	(49,844)	22,262	(83,601)	74,261
MCC - Danish Cities	-	5,000	-	5,000	(5,122)	2,378
My Hub Music trust - Manchester experimental orchestra	-	12,000	(2,562)	9,438	(19,396)	-
Sickl Festival- channelled grant	3,852	1,900	(5,752)	-	-	-
	183,053	291,125	(310,737)	163,421	(244,220)	79,859

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2023

15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Company fund balances at March 31 2023

are represented by:-

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	
	£	£	£	£
Intangible fixed assets	34,693	-	-	34,693
Net current assets	16,754	-	149,859	166,613
	<u>51,447</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>149,859</u>	<u>201,306</u>
Free Reserves:				
Net current assets		<u>16,754</u>		

Company fund balances at March 31 2022

are represented by:-

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Net current assets	71,499	-	292,616	364,115
	<u>91,299</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>292,616</u>	<u>383,915</u>

16 RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASHFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure)	(182,609)	(88,320)
Add back depreciation	-	1,161
Add back amortisation intangible assets	3,152	
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	124,887	(192,826)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	<u>1,694</u>	<u>(4,018)</u>
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities	<u>(52,876)</u>	<u>(284,003)</u>

17 MOVEMENT IN NET DEBT

	at 31/3/22	cashflows	finance	cash	as 31/3/23
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents					
Cash at bank and in hand	123,850	-	70,921	-	52,929
Debt					
Finance lease obligations	-	(384)	-	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents net of debt	<u>123,850</u>				<u>52,929</u>

18 CONSTITUTION

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. In the event of the Company being wound up the members are committed to contributing £1 each.

19 TAXATION

The company is a registered charity and is entitled to claim annual exemption from UK corporation tax under sections 466 to 477 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010.

20 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The company had no capital commitments at the year end (2022 - none)

21 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions in either year which are required to be disclosed.

22 LEASE COMMITMENTS

The company had no commitments under operating leases (2021 - none).

The company has the following commitments under finance lease:

Payable within one year	-	
Payable between 2 and 5 years	-	-
	-	-
Less interest	-	-
	-	-

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1154803

Accounts

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR

THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022**

INDEX

Chair's statement	1
Administrative information	2
Trustees' and Directors' annual report	3 – 9
Independent examiner's report	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Statement of cash flows	13
Notes to the financial statements	14 – 24

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
CHAIR'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022**

As we continue to navigate the recovery from the pandemic our work has never felt more important, and as a Board we are delighted with the range and quality of work we have been able to deliver this year. The music industry is still transitioning out of the worst impacts of lockdown, and our priority is to ensure we maintain our support of young people, emerging artists and the freelance creatives we work with to support positive mental health, develop their practice and provide paid opportunities which lead to sustainable careers in music.

Our Young People's work has focused on providing opportunities to return to face-to-face activity, working with partners including Young Manchester and the Prince's Trust and continuing our much-valued Sing City workshops. Feedback has been positive about the value of being able to collaborate with peers after a period of isolation fuelled by social distancing.

Our Emerging Artist's work has focused on helping young (and early to mid-career) creatives to re-engage with their practice, supporting them to access opportunities which were denied them over the last couple of years.

2021/22 also saw the completion of our Both Sides Now programme, our region-wide, research-led gender equality initiative funded by Arts Council England's Ambition for Excellence strand. Both Sides Now culminated with the launch of our manifesto for a more equitable music sector at Depot Mayfield in Manchester on 8th March 2022. Over the five years of Both Sides Now - working in partnership with an incredible range of venues, creative and cultural organisations, music education hubs, labels and festivals across the North of England, the programme supported:

- 500 creatives to collaborate, build networks and make music
- The creation of 200+ new pieces of music
- 45+ showcases and performances nationally and internationally
- 35 traineeships in backstage and technical roles
- 120 development opportunities for emerging leaders
- The development of an equality-focussed curriculum resource, reaching 1.2 million children nationally

Our gender equality work continues, and we will use our manifesto as a tool to advocate, champion and facilitate changes in the music sector.

Strategically we have continued to lead on the Manchester Music City initiative and played a role in the Cultural Leadership Group. We are also the SME Lead, on Manchester's Real Living Wage Anchors Group, which targets Manchester becoming a Real Living Wage City.

Operationally we have continued to strengthen the skills of our team, and provided opportunities supported by the Government's Kickstarter campaign. We have focused on embedding our commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion in all its forms, providing our team and board with development opportunities which will improve our practice and decision-making.

In the financial year reported, performance was good, and we managed to achieve a largely balanced budget, increasing our reserves slightly, and investing in a new website which will be central to us increasing reach and developing income streams. In financial terms the 2022/3 financial year produces a degree of change as our two significant Arts Council England programmes are ending, or have ended, and our funding relationship with Youth Music which has provided a valuable foundation for our finances changes. We have secured new funding with Youth Music which covers 2023-26 and have applied to Arts Council England's National Portfolio which would cover the same time period. Business planning accommodating these changes has provided us with an opportunity to reflect on the direction for Brighter Sound, and how we feel we can best serve our beneficiaries. Whilst the Arts Council's NPO application is key, and a successful application would give us a significant foundation for our work, we do remind ourselves that we haven't been regularly funded in this way before, so have confidence that our alternative plans are robust enough to provide us with different plans should our NPO application not be successful. Both options would require a period of reflection and focus on how best to deliver, but we are confident of the future of Brighter Sound and the impact and value we bring. I am grateful to my fellow board members for their advice and support, our inspired and energetic Brighter Sound staff and freelancers and to all our funders.

Dr Virginia Tandy - Chair, Brighter Sound

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022**

DIRECTORS

M Ball
S J Child (resigned 27/09/21)
R Davies (appointed 5/08/21)
J Harvie (appointed 25/10/21)
W H A Lee (appointed 1/07/21)
A G Lovatt
J A Mundy (resigned 27/09/21)
T F Rabbani
S Rahim (appointed 1/07/21)
L O Shaw (appointed 1/07/21)
R M Shaw (appointed 1/07/21)
Dr V A Tandy - Chair
M Wilde

KEY STAFF

D King Chief Executive
G Davies Head of Operations & Finance
K Lowes Head of Programmes
R Horn Head of Marketing & Communications

**REGISTERED OFFICE AND
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS**

Green Fish Resource Centre
46-50 Oldham Street
Manchester
M4 1LE

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER
& ACCOUNTANTS**

Peter Smith BA FCA DChA
HGA Accountants & Financial Consultants Ltd
t/a **Chittenden Horley** – Chartered Accountants
The Wesley Centre
Royce Road, Hulme
Manchester M15 5BP

BANKERS

Lloyds Bank Plc
42-46 Market Street
Manchester M1 1PW

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended March 31 2022 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019), referred to as the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable objects

1. The Charity is established to act as a resource for young people, living in the UK by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities as a means of:
 - a. advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals;
 - b. advancing education, particularly in music;
 - c. relieving unemployment;
 - d. Providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for young people living in the area of benefit who have need by reason of their youth. Age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.
2. Advancing education in the Arts by providing training in music, including working with emerging musicians who have been unable to find, or need support in finding employment.

Aims and Objectives for the year ending 31st March 2022

- Develop the next generation of musicians
- Engage and support young people through music
- Increase audience engagement in the support of new and emerging talent
- Become an impactful player across the broader music industry with a national and international profile
- Increase diversity and access within the music offer for young people and emerging musicians

ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Objective 1: To act as a resource for young people living in the UK by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational or other activities:

Young Musicians Programme

Highlights for this year include:

- A Song for Manchester (65 participants aged 11-16) - A three-month project in partnership with Sound UK, across 4 Manchester High Schools - Parrs Wood, St Peter's, Whalley Range and Loreto High School. Exploring young people's feelings and experiences of the pandemic and their hopes for the future through lyric writing sessions with post-punk band PINS, culminating in a filmed recording session.
- MADE (12 participants aged 13-14) - Pilot project through the Manchester Cultural Education Partnership with Manchester Histories and Manchester High School for Girls with the aim of exploring, through arts and culture, stories, themes, people and groups that are currently underrepresented in the National Curriculum. Theme chosen by students was 'Forgotten Suffragettes', combining research into lesser-known women who contributed to the movement, with creative song-writing and performance.
- Youth Reaching Out (14 participants aged 16-25) - Monthly online leadership training sessions for young creatives looking to develop skills in project and event management, for career development and networking. This period, they curated and produced a live podcast as part of the Positive Pathways called 'Get a Real Job' exploring career pathways and ways in which organisations can support young creatives move into employment and further training.

Objective 2: Advancing education in the Arts by providing training in music including working with emerging musicians who have been unable to find or need support in finding employment.

Highlights for this year include:

- The launch of the Both Sides Now 'All Things Equal' manifesto for gender equality. The launch took place at Mayfield Depot featuring a new audio-visual commission: <https://www.allthingsequal.co>
- The launch and first release from Both Sides Records, a collaborative commission in partnership with Manchester Central Library / Libraries Live initiative ft. Laura Campbell and Mari Sanio. <https://www.bothsidesrecords.com>
- A second cohort of 12 leaders from across the music industry as part of our Leaders Network and a further 12 emerging leaders taking part in our Leadership Retreat. We have also launched a call out for our first two live residencies Fulu Muziki Afro Futurism and Dreaming with Machines, machine learning.
- Get Started With Music Business (12 participants aged 18-25) - Five day course in partnership with The Prince's Trust, supporting musicians not in education, employment or training (NEET) to develop business skills and knowledge to support their next steps in pursuing creative careers.
- Positive Pathways - a vibrant music education and youth arts conference held at Contact Theatre and attended by 113 delegates including young creatives, freelance music leaders, project managers, programme managers, engagement leads and MEH and music service staff. With inspiration speakers including Roger Wilson (Black Lives in Music) and Jo Ye Cheung (Olympias Music Foundation), an interactive wellbeing workshop with Julia Payne (thehub), and a live podcast, the conference explore themes around creative career development for young people, and how we can support a healthy and happy workforce.

Manchester Music City - Music Cities Network

We have continued our work as sector lead for Manchester, as part of the Music Cities Network. Manchester Music City aims to support the city's successful and vibrant music sector, enhancing international relationships and sustaining an inclusive grass roots music ecology. We worked with a steering group of partners to inform the establishment of Manchester Music City as an independent organisation, and the adoption of appropriate objects and policies. This work continues, and the longer-term relationship between Brighter Sound and the new entity will follow. We also worked on a bid whereby Manchester would host the WOMEX festival in 2024. Notification of success will be known before the end of 2022. A successful bid would run through the new entity.

In partnership with the British Council WOMEXchange, an international exchange project for people making strides for and in their local music scene, we have been strengthening and building new musical partnerships between Manchester and the rest of the world.

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022**

Public Benefit

The Charity has concern for the guidance for the charity commission guidance on Public benefit and Trustees and Management Personnel act and make decisions accordingly in line with this guidance. The Charity delivers a wide range of activities in the Public Benefit, described in detail above. In summary, our work in the public benefit includes reaching children and young people through music in order to give them personal, musical and life skills that can enable them to pursue a personal passion with support and training, improve their personal wellbeing, engage with other like-minded young musicians, and become aware, social, skilled and confident people.

Outcomes

Between 1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022, Brighter Sound produced and facilitated 39 separate projects over the year, delivering 304 sessions for 762 people, of which 374 were young people aged under 26. 25% of sessions were online, as we continue to deliver projects in a hybrid way. The gender split being 57% female, 24% male, 3% identifying as non-binary or preferring to self-describe. The remainder being unknown or preferring not to say.

Significant updates to our CRM system are due in December 2022 which will allow participants to apply or sign up for our projects directly into our database. This means participant data is captured directly, rather than in spreadsheets stored by each project manager, which has to be imported to the database at a later stage.

Reach, Marketing and Communications

This period our small yet dynamic marketing team has undergone a refresh of all areas of our marketing and communications strategy and activity, with the aim of improving reach and engagement with our key audience groups - young people, early career musicians and emerging industry professionals.

With support from specialist consultants where appropriate, the organisation now has a new audience-focused communications strategy, content strategy, refreshed brand identity, tone of voice guidelines This period our small yet dynamic marketing team has undergone a refresh of all areas of our marketing and communications strategy and activity, with the aim of improving reach and engagement with our key audience groups - young people, early career musicians and emerging industry professionals.

With support from specialist consultants where appropriate, the organisation now has a new audience-focused communications strategy, content strategy, refreshed brand identity, tone of voice guidelines and website, which is due to launch in November 2022. We hope these improvements will support our ability to engage new and existing audiences, and garner support from funders and individual donors alike, as well as increase our general brand awareness.

We have continued to invest in high-quality video footage to support our communications, working with Manchester-based filmmakers Triple Dot Makers on advocacy films, trailers for project call-outs and most recently, a Brighter Sound brand showreel. As our project delivery increased post-lockdown our communications output and digital engagement also increased. Our mailing list continues to be an important way of reaching audiences, with our subscribers increasing 10.2% since last period.

In this period the marketing team have continued to take advantage of the huge range of free webinars delivered by the Arts Marketing Association and the Arts Council's Digital Culture Network to ensure our comms stay relevant and respond to the needs of our audiences as they begin to recover from the uncertainty of the pandemic. and website, which is due to launch in November 2022. We hope these improvements will support our ability to engage new and existing audiences, and garner support from funders and individual donors alike, as well as increase our general brand awareness.

We have continued to invest in high-quality video footage to support our communications, working with Manchester-based filmmakers Triple Dot Makers on advocacy films, trailers for project call-outs and most recently, a Brighter Sound brand showreel. As our project delivery increased post-lockdown our communications output and digital engagement also increased. Our mailing list continues to be an important way of reaching audiences, with our subscribers increasing 10.2% since last period.

In this period the marketing team have continued to take advantage of the huge range of free webinars delivered by the Arts Marketing Association and the Arts Council's Digital Culture Network to ensure our comms stay relevant and respond to the needs of our audiences as they begin to recover from the uncertainty of the pandemic.

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

This year we are reporting a surplus on unrestricted funds of £1,150 with free reserves increasing to £71,499. We have also invested in our new website, due to be launched in November 2023, at which point we will commence depreciation.

As we move out of the most restrictive impacts of the pandemic, we were able to re-commence restricted fund activities for which we had accrued surplus restricted funds to deliver. This explains the reduction in restricted funds held at year end, and the restricted funds deficit for the year.

Core expenditure has remained largely similar. We took the decision, to support close cost management, to remain in lower-cost temporary office accommodation, on a lease with a short notice period. This provides us with the flexibility to reduce expenditure, whilst we consider our longer-term needs in terms of premises. Greater use of virtual working will be a factor on when we return to more permanent accommodation.

We are pleased to have navigated this period positively, from a financial perspective, whilst maintaining reserve levels to support liquidity and to provide a strong base on which to build our delivery plans.

Risk management

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises: a rolling review of the risks the charity may face; the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan; and the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise. The full board reviews this plan on a quarterly basis, focusing on new items and on anything scored as high risk.

During the financial year, our Finance Sub-committee has continued to meet monthly to provide increased scrutiny of our finances, and to ensure that risk is effectively managed in a timely manner. As the impacts of the pandemic continued to provide uncertainty, this forum provided invaluable advice and ensured that decisions could be stress tested before implementation.

Reserves

The company has targeted a level of free reserves (unrestricted reserves not invested in fixed assets or otherwise designated) of £60,000, approximately three months fixed running costs. At the year end its free reserves were £71,499. The reserves target will be reviewed further at the end of the 22/23 financial year, when Trustees will decide if the target remains appropriate.

Going concern

Whilst the changes to our relationship with historical regular funders will create new challenges, it also creates opportunities to refocus our multi-year funds. During 22/23 we have been scenario planning to ensure that we have plans which are not solely reliant on our Arts Council NPO application, or indeed any one individual funder. Diversifying our income streams and looking at more opportunities for earned income and donations has been a particular focus. Success in our Youth Music application reinforces our confidence in our ability to deliver projects which have demonstrable impact, which funders will support. With work already secured, and a revised business and fundraising plan we have no issues around declaring the organisation a viable going concern.

Pricing policy

Wherever possible, we offer our provision - workshops, residencies, masterclasses, mentoring, and support – Free of Charge to the end user. This is to ensure that finance is not a barrier to access, and to allow us to broaden the reach of our work.

FUTURE PLANS

Over the next year Brighter Sound will work to develop greater structure & shape to our programme, scale & grow our successful models of delivery & deepen the reach & impact of our work and to build on what we have established to develop the diverse music creators & industry professionals of the future.

We plan to :-

- facilitate the delivery of co-created, high-quality & inclusive activities for young people, broadening the cultural offer outside of schools & supporting young people to develop & hone their creative skills. We will bridge & build opportunities for priority towns across the North of England with stronger progression routes into positive development opportunities
- support the growth & emergence of creative practice & risk-taking through our commissions and residencies; placing an emphasis on reaching underrepresented communities & sustainably. Our international work will facilitate exchange & connect world-class culture to and from England. We are committed to working collaboratively (across education, commercial industry & with peers) to support relevance & innovation in our programme through research, peer review & training
- we will play a critical role in building a supportive infrastructure locally, regionally & internationally expanding capacity & competencies to make a significant mark on sector & on place

As sector lead for Manchester Music City we will continue to support the city to build Manchester as a contemporary international brand to the global music industry; manage Manchester's membership of the Music Cities Network and work collaboratively with local and international partners; create and participate with international opportunities, networking and peer learning from cities and regions around the world; bid for and secure major national and international music events to take place in the city to promote Manchester as a music city, reinforcing its profile within the global music sector. Through this work we will ensure the equitable distribution of opportunities for diverse industry professionals and public audiences and work to combat systemic inequalities within the Manchester music ecology.

Brighter Sound will continue to prioritise inclusion and equity across all our areas of work both internally and externally. Working with our trustees, workforce, senior management team and partners to approach access in a granular way, seeking to understand difference and create a sense of belonging that goes beyond inclusion.

Strategic Developments

In the coming year we will continue to build on our period of visioning and business planning to take us through to 2026. In the next period our future funding will become clearer, and from this we will be able to refine our business and financial plans to complement the body of work we will be delivering.

We have a specific focus on broadening the reach of our work, building on the good work we have done on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. We will continue to develop the impact and content of our programming, exploring new partnership opportunities, using our resources to maximum effect, and innovating to ensure our offer stays future facing, relevant and inspiring.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is a company limited by guarantee governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated April 13 2004, as amended by special resolution(s) dated October 11 2013. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

Members of the company

The members of the company comprise the Directors and such other persons who have been admitted to membership by the Directors in accordance with the Articles of Association. The minimum number of members is three and the maximum eleven.

Appointment of trustees/directors

The Trustees (who are also directors of the company) are appointed by the members in general meetings. The Directors have the power to co-opt. .

Co-opted directors/trustees hold office until the next AGM and are then eligible for election.

No Director can serve for more than six years, unless as a serving director they are elected chair in the fourth year of serving as a Director. In which case they may serve for up to a maximum of eight years providing they continue as chair of the Board.

New Trustees are nominated by existing Trustees and can be put forward by the company's executive team for consideration by the board.

Trustee induction and training

Potential trustees are invited to meet the board and the executive team before attending a trustees' meeting as an observer. Following this process, suitability is assessed, and suitable candidates are invited to become Trustees. On joining new Trustees are given an induction and a set of resources to support their introduction to the company and provide guidance on their obligations and responsibilities as a trustee, and their role for the Charity including the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Trustees are expected to attend training when requested including whole company visioning, and fundraising training relevant to their role as trustees.

Organisation

The minimum number of directors is three and the maximum fourteen. The board meets quarterly and there is a finance sub-committee.

An executive Director is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity.

To facilitate effective operations, the executive Director has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and artistic performance related activity. The Director leads the executive team consisting of two senior managers (Head of Programmes and Head of Operations) three project managers associated with activity delivery, a communications coordinator, projects coordinator and a digital marketing apprentice

Pay and remuneration for senior staff

Pay and remuneration of key management personnel is agreed by trustees by ordinary resolution in relation to a company pay scale. Any changes to the level of pay or significant changes in working hours are agreed by trustees by ordinary resolution.

Related parties

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their trustee role with the charity other than travel expenses which must be claimed. In the current year, no trustees claimed any expenses or remuneration.

Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a production company, contracted supplier, practitioner or beneficiary must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. The Charity has a Conflict-of-Interest Policy which is provided to all Trustees and adhered to by all parties.

If trustees undertake work for the charity outside of their role as trustees, they may not in any way influence or take part in the decision of trustees to engage their services and must declare in full any arrangements with the charity.

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022**

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The trustees (who are also directors of Brighter Sound Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the 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 financial year, 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 (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019);
- 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 the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will 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 for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS AND APPROVAL

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Virginia Tandy

Dr Virginia Tandy - Chair of Trustees

Date: 11/11/22

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended March 31 2022 which are set out on pages 11 to 24.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts 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 your company'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 company'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 *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 that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts 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 accounts 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).

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.

Peter Smith

<p>Peter Smith BA FCA DChA</p> <p>For and on behalf of: HGA Accountants & Financial Consultants Ltd t/a Chittenden Horley - Chartered Accountants</p> <p>The Wesley Centre Royce Road, Hulme Manchester M15 5BP</p> <p>Date: 11/11/22</p>	
--	---

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Donations	2	96,085	45,087	141,172	213,614
Charitable activities	3	32,914	554,078	586,992	537,687
Other trading income	4	-	-	-	1,950
TOTAL INCOME		<u>128,999</u>	<u>599,165</u>	<u>728,164</u>	<u>753,251</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Costs of raising funds	5	7,120	-	7,120	12,623
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	120,729	688,635	809,364	479,052
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>127,849</u>	<u>688,635</u>	<u>816,484</u>	<u>491,675</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)					
BEFORE TRANSFERS		1,150	(89,470)	(88,320)	261,576
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		1,150	(89,470)	(88,320)	261,576
TOTAL FUNDS :					
BROUGHT FORWARD	14	<u>90,149</u>	<u>382,086</u>	<u>472,235</u>	<u>210,659</u>
CARRIED FORWARD	14	<u><u>91,299</u></u>	<u><u>292,616</u></u>	<u><u>383,915</u></u>	<u><u>472,235</u></u>

The notes on pages 14 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT MARCH 31 2022**

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	10		-		1,161
Intangible Assets	11		<u>19,800</u>		<u>-</u>
			19,800		1,161
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	277,392		84,566	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>123,850</u>		<u>428,037</u>	
		401,242		512,603	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due in one year	13	<u>37,127</u>		<u>41,529</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>364,115</u>		<u>471,074</u>
NET ASSETS			<u><u>383,915</u></u>		<u><u>472,235</u></u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted					
General fund	14		91,299		90,149
Restricted	14		<u>292,616</u>		<u>382,086</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u><u>383,915</u></u>		<u><u>472,235</u></u>

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

For the year ending March 31 2022, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and no notice has been deposited under section 476 requiring the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question.

Directors' responsibilities

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The notes on pages 14 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Board and authorised for issue on: 11/11/22

And signed on their behalf by:

Virginia Tandy

Dr Virginia Tandy - Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 05100495

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
AS AT MARCH 31 2022

	notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash used in operating activities	16	<u>(284,003)</u>	<u>265,328</u>
Cashflows from investing activities			
Purchase intangible fixed assets		<u>(19,800)</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>(19,800)</u>	<u>-</u>
Cashflows from financing activities			
Repayment of borrowing - Finance lease		<u>(384)</u>	<u>(684)</u>
Cash used in financing activities		<u>(384)</u>	<u>(684)</u>
Increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents in the year		(304,187)	264,644
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		428,037	163,393
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		<u><u>123,850</u></u>	<u><u>428,037</u></u>
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:			
Cash at bank and in hand		123,850	428,037
		<u><u>123,850</u></u>	<u><u>428,037</u></u>

Details of the movements in net debt are given in note 18.

The notes on pages 13 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared: under the historic cost convention; in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) effective January 1 2019 (second edition – October 2019); FRS102; and the Companies Act 2006. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The accounts are prepared in £ sterling, which is the functional currency.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. The following applies to particular types of income:

Grants, whether of a capital or revenue nature, are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met and it is probable that the income will be received.

Donations from individuals and other bodies (not being of the nature of a grant) are recognised when receivable.

Earned income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for services and goods supplied, net of discounts and VAT.

Deferred income

Income is only deferred and included in creditors when:

- The income relates to a future accounting period
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and there is no contractual entitlement to the income until the work has been done
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Costs of raising funds including those associated with fundraising activities, managing investments and commercial trading by the subsidiary company.

Charitable activities costs of undertaking the work of the charity.

The charity is registered for VAT and is able to recover some of the input tax charged as it relates to Vatable supplies. Costs are stated net of VAT where charged and irrecoverable VAT is included as a separate charge either within direct costs or support costs as appropriate.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions which assist the work of the charity either by supporting the delivery of charitable activities or by supporting the generation of funds. They include staff costs; depreciation; legal and financial costs; marketing, network, research & organisational costs; office, equipment & IT cost; and property costs. The basis of allocations is set out in note 6.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Individual fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful lives on a straight-line basis as set out below.

Depreciation rates are as follows:

Equipment	10% p.a
Computer equipment	33%pa

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets costing more than £500 are capitalised. The charity's website is classified as an intangible fixed assets and the costs of its development have been capitalised. The website is being amortised over its useful economic life of five years on a straight-line basis.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due and prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

Financial instruments

The charity has only basic financial instruments which are initially recorded at cost, subsequently measured at their settlement value.

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.

	2022			2021		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2 DONATIONS						
ACE CRF1	-	25,000	25,000	-	51,555	51,555
Esmeé Fairbairn	60,000	-	60,000	60,000	-	60,000
GMCA - grant re staffing	-	14,544	14,544	-	7,272	7,272
HMRC - CJRS	12,428	-	12,428	61,514	-	61,514
Kickstart		5,543	5,543	-	-	-
MCC - COVID support	23,000	-	23,000	10,000	-	10,000
MCC - grant re staffing	-	-	-	-	20,275	20,275
Donations						
General donations	657	-	657	2,998	-	2,998
	96,085	45,087	141,172	134,512	79,102	213,614

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022

2022			2021		
Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
£	£	£	£	£	£

3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Youth Music	4,558	166,711	171,269	3,550	280,949	284,499
Emerging Musicians	385	96,242	96,627	11,500	31,040	42,540
Workshops, consultancy & other	27,971	291,125	319,096	9,173	201,475	210,648
	32,914	554,078	586,992	24,223	513,464	537,687

Income is analysed as follows:

Youth Music

Love Music Trust	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
Manchester City Council	-	4,781	4,781	-	12,000	12,000
Prince's Trust	-	9,130	9,130	-	15,520	15,520
Youth Music Grant	-	152,800	152,800	-	235,000	235,000
Young Manchester	-	-	-	-	13,429	13,429
Fees and other income	4,558	-	4,558	3,550	-	3,550
	4,558	166,711	171,269	3,550	280,949	284,499

Emerging Musicians

ACE G4A - Both Sides Now	-	59,508	59,508	-	-	-
British Council - Both Sides Now	-	9,742	9,742	-	-	-
Manchester C C - Both Sides Now	-	19,492	19,492	-	-	-
Help Musicians UK	-	1,500	1,500	-	13,500	13,500
Mayfield Arts Trust	-	-	-	-	11,540	11,540
PRS Foundation	-	6,000	6,000	-	6,000	6,000
Other income	385	-	385	11,500	-	11,500
	385	96,242	96,627	11,500	31,040	42,540

Workshops, consultancy & other activities

ACE - transforming leadership	-	202,500	202,500	-	101,200	101,200
British Council	-	12,600	12,600	-	50,000	50,000
MCC - Music Cities Network	-	57,125	57,125	-	28,175	28,175
MCC - Danish Cities	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
My Hub Music trust - Manchester experimental orchestra	-	12,000	12,000	-	-	-
Sick! Festival- channelled grant	-	1,900	1,900	-	17,100	17,100
Youth Music - Music Cities Network	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
Other income	27,971	-	27,971	9,173	-	9,173
	27,971	291,125	319,096	9,173	201,475	210,648

4 OTHER TRADING INCOME

Sponsorship - mentoring programme	-	-	-	1,950	-	1,950
	-	-	-	1,950	-	1,950

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022

5 COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS	2022			2021		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs	258	-	258	216	-	216
Support costs	6,862	-	6,862	12,407	-	12,407
	<u>7,120</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,120</u>	<u>12,623</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,623</u>

6 CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

Youth Music	11,431	195,235	206,666	40,627	165,086	205,713
Emerging Musicians	110,622	137,556	248,178	119,540	20,922	140,462
Workshops, consultancy & other	43,763	310,757	354,520	55,050	77,827	132,877
Staffing funding	(14,544)	14,544	-	(34,819)	34,819	-
Kickstart	(5,543)	5,543	-	-	-	-
ACE CRF1 funded	(25,000)	25,000	-	(51,555)	51,555	-
	<u>120,729</u>	<u>688,635</u>	<u>809,364</u>	<u>128,843</u>	<u>350,209</u>	<u>479,052</u>

Expenditure is analysed as follows:

	Direct Costs £	Direct Salaries £	Support Costs £	Total £
2021/22				
Youth Music	96,427	70,066	40,173	206,666
Emerging Musicians	136,238	58,375	53,565	248,178
Workshops, consultancy & other	172,107	145,772	36,641	354,520
	<u>404,772</u>	<u>274,213</u>	<u>130,379</u>	<u>809,364</u>
2020/21				
Youth Music	60,771	71,233	73,709	205,713
Emerging Musicians	13,112	4,500	122,850	140,462
Workshops, consultancy & other	58,612	35,083	39,182	132,877
	<u>132,495</u>	<u>110,816</u>	<u>235,741</u>	<u>479,052</u>

7 SUPPORT & GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Fundraising	Youth Music	Emerging Musicians	Other Activities	Total 2022
2021/22	£	£	£	£	£
Support costs					
Staff costs	1,232	7,390	9,854	6,159	24,635
Depreciation & amortisation	58	348	464	290	1,160
Legal & financial	377	2,259	3,012	1,883	7,531
Marketing	1,945	11,671	15,561	9,726	38,903
Network, research and organisational	1,025	6,148	8,198	5,124	20,495
Office, equipment and IT	692	4,154	5,538	3,462	13,846
Property costs	1,117	6,703	8,938	5,586	22,344
	6,446	38,673	51,565	32,230	128,914
Governance costs					
Staff costs	250	1,500	2,000	1,250	5,000
Professional fees	166	-	-	3,161	3,327
	416	1,500	2,000	4,411	8,327
	6,862	40,173	53,565	36,641	137,241

	Fundraising	Youth Music	Emerging Musicians	Other Activities	Total 2021
2020/21	£	£	£	£	£
Support costs					
Staff costs	8,151	48,908	81,514	24,454	163,027
Depreciation & amortisation	124	746	1,244	373	2,487
Legal & financial	330	1,979	3,298	989	6,596
Marketing	598	3,586	5,977	1,793	11,954
Network, research and organisational	1,078	6,468	10,780	3,234	21,560
Office, equipment and IT	705	4,227	7,045	2,114	14,091
Property costs	1,049	6,295	10,492	3,148	20,984
	12,035	72,209	120,350	36,105	240,699
Governance costs					
Staff costs	250	1,500	2,500	750	5,000
Professional fees	122	-	-	2,327	2,449
	372	1,500	2,500	3,077	7,449
	12,407	73,709	122,850	39,182	248,148

Support costs are allocated on the following basis:

Area	basis
Staff costs, training and recruitment	estimate of staff time
Office rent and service charge	head count based on estimate of staff time.
Other costs	estimate of resources used.

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022

8 STAFF INFORMATION	2022	2021
	£	£
a Employees		
Salaries and wages	284,201	261,710
Employer's pension contributions	5,705	5,308
Employers NI allowance	(4,000)	(4,000)
Employer's NI contributions	<u>23,647</u>	<u>21,133</u>
	<u>309,553</u>	<u>284,151</u>

No employees earned more than £60,000 p.a. in either year.

b Key management personnel

The key management of the charity comprise the trustees and senior staff (as set out on page1).

The trustees do not receive any remuneration for their services.

The total employee benefits, including employer pension and NI contributions, of other key management were as follows:

<u>135,550</u>	<u>122,249</u>
-----------------------	-----------------------

c Average staff numbers

The average number of employees was as follows:-

Average number	Average number
<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>

9 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS (for the Group)

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

Independent examiners & accountants fees:

	£	£
Examination	850	800
Accountancy fees	1,894	1,558
Other services	180	-
Depreciation of fixed assets	1,161	1,168
Amortisation of intangible assets	-	1,320
Trustees remuneration	-	-
Trustees expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	Number	Number
Trustees claiming expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The net book value of assets held on finance leases included in tangible assets in note 9 was £nil (2021 - £1), and depreciation in 20/21 was £543 (this year none).

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost or valuation	Computers & Office		
	Equipment	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
As at April 1 2021	16,624	24,034	40,658
As at March 31 2022	16,624	24,034	40,658
Depreciation			
As at April 1 2021	16,624	22,873	39,497
Charge for the year	-	1,161	1,161
As at March 31 2022	16,624	24,034	40,658
Net Book Value			
As at March 31 2022	-	-	-
As at March 31 2021	-	1,161	1,161

11 INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost	Website	Total
	£	£
As at April 1 2021	6,600	6,600
Additions	19,800	19,800
Disposals	(6,600)	(6,600)
As at March 31 2022	19,800	19,800
Amortisation		
As at April 1 2021	6,600	6,600
Charge for the year	-	-
Disposals	(6,600)	(6,600)
As at March 31 2022	-	-
Net Book Value		
As at March 31 2022	19,800	19,800
As at March 31 2021	-	-

12 DEBTORS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	17,391	1,200
Income receivable	258,155	83,366
Prepayments	1,846	-
	<u>277,392</u>	<u>84,566</u>

13 CREDITORS falling due within one year

Trade creditors	24,986	29,829
Other taxes and social security	6,658	5,221
Accruals	5,483	2,195
Finance lease creditor	-	384
Income and grants in advance	-	3,900
	<u>37,127</u>	<u>41,529</u>

14 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	2020/21				2021/22			
	01/04/2020	Income	Expenditure	transfers	Income	Expenditure	transfers	31/03/2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds:								
General fund	70,930	160,685	(141,466)	(18,845)	128,999	(109,004)	-	91,299
Designated funds:								
Esmée Fairbairn	-	-	-	18,845	-	(18,845)	-	-
Total unrestricted funds	70,930	160,685	(141,466)	-	128,999	(127,849)	-	91,299
Restricted Funds:								
ACE - CRF1	-	51,555	(51,555)	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
GMCA - staffing	7,272	7,272	(14,544)	-	14,544	(14,544)	-	-
Kickstart	-	-	-	-	5,543	(5,543)	-	-
MCC - staffing	-	20,275	(20,275)	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Music	26,696	280,949	(165,086)	-	166,711	(195,235)	-	114,035
Emerging Musicians	46,356	31,040	(20,922)	-	96,242	(137,556)	-	15,160
Other activities	59,405	201,475	(77,827)	-	291,125	(310,757)	-	163,421
Total restricted funds	139,729	592,566	(350,209)	-	599,165	(688,635)	-	292,616
	210,659	753,251	(491,675)	-	728,164	(816,484)	-	383,915

Restricted funds

All the grants will be used to support the ongoing projects in 22/23

14 STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

	2020/21				2021/22			
	01/04/2020	Income	Expenditure	transfers	Income	Expenditure	transfers	31/03/2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Youth Music								
Love Music Trust	-	5,000	(20)	-	-	(4,980)	-	-
Manchester City Council	-	12,000	(12,000)	-	4,781	(220)	-	4,561
Prince's Trust	-	15,520	(14,597)	-	9,130	(6,989)	-	3,064
Youth Music Grant	19,904	235,000	(134,208)	-	152,800	(167,086)	-	106,410
Young Manchester	6,792	13,429	(4,261)	-	-	(15,960)	-	-
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	26,696	280,949	(165,086)	-	166,711	(195,235)	-	114,035
Emerging Musicians								
ACE/YM - Both Sides Now	41,480	-	(6,612)	-	59,508	(94,376)	-	-
British Council - Both Sides Now	-	-	-	-	9,742	(9,742)	-	-
Manchester C C - Both Sides Now	-	-	-	-	19,492	(19,492)	-	-
Help Musicians UK	4,876	13,500	(4,502)	-	1,500	(9,896)	-	5,478
Mayfield Arts Trust	-	11,540	(3,808)	-	-	-	-	7,732
PRS Foundation	-	6,000	(6,000)	-	6,000	(4,050)	-	1,950
Other grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	46,356	31,040	(20,922)	-	96,242	(137,556)	-	15,160
Other activities								
ACE - transforming leadership	55,655	101,200	(42,635)	-	202,500	(229,938)	-	86,782
British Council - Womex	-	50,000	-	-	-	(16,163)	-	33,837
British Council - We are equals	-	-	-	-	12,600	(6,498)	-	6,102
Music Cities Network	3,750	33,175	(21,944)	-	57,125	(49,844)	-	22,262
MCC - Danish Cities	-	-	-	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
My Hub Music trust - Manchester	-	-	-	-	12,000	(2,562)	-	9,438
experimental orchestra	-	17,100	(13,248)	-	1,900	(5,752)	-	-
Sick! Festival- channelled grant	-	-	-	-	291,125	(310,757)	-	163,421
	59,405	201,475	(77,827)	-				

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022

15 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Company fund balances at March 31 2022

are represented by:-

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	
	£	£	£	£
Intangible fixed assets	19,800	-	-	19,800
Net current assets	71,499	-	292,616	364,115
	<u>91,299</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>292,616</u>	<u>383,915</u>

Free Reserves:

Net current assets

71,499

Company fund balances at March 31 2021

are represented by:-

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,161	-	-	1,161
Net current assets	70,143	18,845	382,086	471,074
	<u>71,304</u>	<u>18,845</u>	<u>382,086</u>	<u>472,235</u>

16 RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASHFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure)	(88,320)	261,576
Add back depreciation	1,161	1,168
Add back amortisation intangible assets	-	1,320
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(192,826)	(23,674)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(4,018)	24,938
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities	<u>(284,003)</u>	<u>265,328</u>

17 MOVEMENT IN NET DEBT

	at 31/3/21	cashflows	leases	cash	as 31/3/22
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents					
Cash at bank and in hand	428,037	- 304,187	-	-	123,850
Debt					
Finance lease obligations	384	(384)	-	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents net of debt	<u>427,653</u>				<u>123,850</u>

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2022

18 CONSTITUTION

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. In the event of the Company being wound up the members are committed to contributing £1 each.

19 TAXATION

The company is a registered charity and is entitled to claim annual exemption from UK corporation tax under sections 466 to 477 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010.

20 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The company had no capital commitments at the year end (2021 - none)

21 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions in either year which are required to be disclosed.

22 LEASE COMMITMENTS

The company had no commitments under operating leases (2021 - none).

The company has the following commitments under finance lease:

Payable within one year	-	400
Payable between 2 and 5 years	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>400</u>
Less interest	-	(16)
	<u>-</u>	<u>384</u>

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD

England & Wales - Charity number 1154803

Accounts

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR

THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

INDEX

Chair's statement	1
Administrative information	2
Trustees' and Directors' annual report	3 – 9
Independent examiner's report	10
Statement of financial activities	11
Balance sheet	12
Statement of cash flows	13
Notes to the financial statements	14 – 25

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
CHAIR'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

The past year has been a challenging and uncertain time for music and as the Chair it has been encouraging to see Brighter Sound continue to play a vital and relevant role throughout the disruption caused by the pandemic. The world has experienced a seismic shift and we have witnessed the visible fragility of our sector, the decimation of the live music scene, the vulnerability of independents and highlighted the structural inequality that exists across the music landscape. The COVID reset has affected not only the young and emerging artists that we work with, but also the livelihoods of the broader supply chain from road crew to sound engineers. In response, our charity delivered a digital programme of emergency support webinars and surveyed its stakeholders to inform the framework for a series of events that focused on mental health and well-being, career support, skills development, creative collaboration, paid opportunities and building support networks.

Throughout the year Brighter Sound has continued to strive to secure an equitable music landscape, shaped and built through a diverse rather than a monocultural mono-gender lens. Specific action has been taken to address the systematic and cultural inequalities that exist within our charity, across our work and more broadly across the cultural and music landscape. I have been encouraged to see how our gender equality programme has created and developed transformational models that can be utilised to support our endeavour to strive for a fair and equal industry and that place action-based change at the heart of our work.

Our strategic work as sector lead for Manchester Music City supporting and growing opportunities for, and profiling, the city's broad and diverse music offer locally, nationally and internationally has developed. As part of the Post Covid Recovery steering committee and the Cultural Leadership Group, we have played our part in the city-wide approaches to cultural recovery and planning and contributed to strategies to support city centre re-animation. Our membership of the Manchester Cultural Education Partnership has enabled us to work with colleagues across the city on a collaborative approach to build resources and activity to support schools.

Brighter Sound has kept creative collaboration at its heart, cultivating an online delivery offer on digital platforms that has felt connected and relaxed making virtual spaces for co-creation and networking. Encouragingly throughout the year our indicators demonstrate that despite the challenges, music leaders, practitioners and project managers have developed and demonstrated skills in delivering high quality music activity online, and have ensured young people have remained engaged throughout, and been at the centre of delivery.

Feedback from the young people we have worked with suggests that the delivery of online work was handled in a way that supported them to make friends with each other and build social groups, and that this in turn improved their experience and developed their skills. Young people have repeatedly talked about the warmth, acceptance and non-judgmental environment that was created by facilitators throughout the sessions, and referred to the skills, experience and knowledge of the music leaders and the sense of belonging that they gave them.

The Digital Creative's programme enabled six emerging independents from the North of England including audio producers, artists and photographers to create new digital content that interrogated themes of connection, disconnection and reconnection in bold, exciting and personal ways. This variety of creative responses to experiences of the pandemic demonstrated the positive impact of music on our mental health and wellbeing.

Our flexible and fleet of foot approach to embracing the change and challenges of this year combined with sound financial and operational management and governance have placed us in a strong position as an organisation to continue to cultivate innovative and viable programmes to support and nurture the young and emerging musicians, creatives and independents of the future. We are grateful to all the funders who have supported our work. I feel honoured to be part of the committed and industrious team of staff and board members at Brighter Sound and would like to thank all the trustees, staff, artists practitioners and participants that have worked with us during this difficult year. Finally, I would like to recognise the particular contribution of Jon Child who, as a trustee, has provided invaluable financial expertise and advice to Brighter Sound over many years and whose term of office comes to an end in 2021.

Dr Virginia Tandy - Chair, Brighter Sound

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

DIRECTORS	M Ball S J Child R Davies L M Feeley A G Lovatt J Mundy S Rahim T F Rabbani L O Shaw W H A Lee Dr V A Tandy M Wilde	(appointed 5 August 2021) (resigned 31 July 2020) (appointed 1/07/21) (appointed 22/03/21) (appointed 1/07/21) (appointed 1/07/21) (Chair - appointed 29 June 2020)
KEY STAFF	D King G Davies K Lowes	Chief Executive Head of Operations & Finance Head of Programmes
REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS	456 Chester Road Old Trafford Manchester M16 9HD	
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER & ACCOUNTANTS	Peter Smith BA FCA DChA Chittenden Horley – Chartered Accountants HGA Accountants & Financial Consultants Ltd 456 Chester Road Old Trafford Manchester M16 9HD	
BANKERS	Lloyds Bank Plc 42-46 Market Street Manchester M1 1PW	

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended March 31 2021 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019), referred to as the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable objects

1. The Charity is established to act as a resource for young people, living in the UK by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities as a means of:
 - a. advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals;
 - b. advancing education, particularly in music;
 - c. relieving unemployment;
 - d. Providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for young people living in the area of benefit who have need by reason of their youth. Age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.
2. Advancing education in the Arts by providing training in music, including working with emerging musicians who have been unable to find, or need support in finding employment.

Aims and Objectives for the year ending 31st March 2021

- Develop the next generation of musicians
- Engage and support young people through music
- Increase audience engagement in the support of new and emerging talent
- Become an impactful player across the broader music industry with a national and international profile
- Increase diversity and access within the music offer for young people and emerging musicians

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Objective 1: To act as a resource for young people living in the UK by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational or other activities:

Young Musicians Programme

Following the impact of the pandemic we are working across three main priority areas for children and young people:

1. Mental health and wellbeing - through a partnership with mental health charity 42nd Street we have created a programme of online and (when possible) in-person drop-in sessions to support young people to engage in positive creative activities to support their mental health and wellbeing.
2. Youth Employability - working collaboratively with the Prince's Trust and partners from across the music industry we have developed and delivered an online creative employability programme, to support young people aged 18-25, disengaged from employment or training. Over twelve weeks the participants learnt new musical skills alongside personal and social skills as they took part in a group challenge to create, record and release an EP of new music. They experienced industry insight masterclasses alongside employability workshops including CV writing for creatives, interview techniques, time management skills, leadership, project management and event management which they put into practice as they worked together to produce a music-based streamed, celebration event to launch their EP.
3. Artistic Progression - over the course of the last twelve months we have delivered a range of creative workshops, project resources and digital events to support the creative development of young artists from across the North. The workshops included song writing camps, digital production skills and tips and techniques for composing and recording music online

Objective 2: Advancing education in the Arts by providing training in music including working with emerging musicians who have been unable to find or need support in finding employment.

Over the last year we have worked to ensure that emerging musicians from across the North are supported and developed, given direct and inspirational guidance and that throughout this process the infrastructure is brought closer together leaving a legacy of access and support.

Our programme in this area works across three main priorities:

- Empowering Musicians to Realise Their Artistic Potential.
- Equipping Musicians with Skills for a Sustainable Career.
- Developing Industry Professionals through Leadership Training and Development.

Across all these areas we are committed to supporting gender equality and to supporting musicians and industry professionals who are underrepresented and marginalised.

Empowering Musicians to Realise Their Artistic Potential:

The residency programmes provide ground-breaking opportunities for emerging musicians. Led by inspirational artists, the process enables the selected cohort of musicians to test ideas, experiment, and gain a deeper understanding of their next steps and strategies.

Our commissioning strand focuses on the development of talented, diverse, emerging music creators and increases the quality and range of arts commissioning partnerships. The opportunity enables them to make new work through a creative cultural exchange and cross-sector partnerships. The commissioned artists receive high quality mentoring/advice from established artists and the new work is showcased at high profile performance opportunities.

Equipping Musicians with Skills for a Sustainable Career

In addition to our creative development opportunities, we offer more structured and practical support for artists to assist them with their career planning and strategy development.

The key aspects of this support include 1:1 mentoring in a specific area of support, masterclasses and events, funding advice and guidance and networking sessions. A key part of this work is combining expert advice and guidance with bringing together musicians from a range of different backgrounds and disciplines. Over the last twelve months we have supported a cohort of 14 mentees through 1:1 and group mentoring. They have received personalised advice and guidance to help them navigate the next phase of their career. The programme this year has been particularly impactful as many of the musicians are operating in dramatically different personal and professional circumstances compared to where they started their career.

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

Developing Industry Professionals through Leadership Training and Development.

As part of our Transforming Leadership initiative, we have supported industry professionals in a number of areas, firstly, through the development of a social enterprise record label and training programme.

A 12 session Leadership Development programme that supports professionals to build their confidence and ambition, learn about effective leadership styles, create an individual leadership development plan and build a supportive network and create connections with other people working across the industry that will have long-term professional benefits.

We have also run a 12-week Business Accelerator programme for women and marginalised genders looking to launch and grow their own businesses within the music industry. Alongside this we have developed a paid work placement stream.

Workforce Development

Practitioner Drop-In sessions: One session themed around the CME qualification (ahead of our recruitment) and another themed around ways into music facilitation careers.

CME: Following a research, development and consultation period we have now recruited 5 music practitioners (out of 60 applicants) to mentor through the CME qualification delivered by Music Education Solutions.

Traineeship: We have recruited 3 new Trainees to work across our CYP programme

Apprentice: We had over 200 applications to our apprenticeship opportunity. Our new Apprentice Projects Assistant, Kinaya Said Ibrahim, started work with us in November 2020 after a recruitment process which was significantly delayed due to COVID-19 related restrictions and uncertainties.

Practitioner training: Although a session was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, we still managed to host 2 online training sessions for 8 participants (4 CME learners, 3 trainees and 1 young leader).

Manchester Music City - Music Cities Network

We have continued our work as sector lead for Manchester, as part of the Music Cities Network. Manchester Music City aims to support the city's successful and vibrant music sector, enhancing international relationships and sustaining an inclusive grass roots music ecology. We are currently contributing to the development and recovery of the music industry and its eco system, including the live music scene, independent artists and freelancers in the sector and commissioning research into the economic impact music has on the city. To support this, we have worked with Nardi City and Sound Diplomacy, hosting a steering group consultation and have launched the Manchester Music Economy Survey.

Public Benefit

The Charity has concern for the guidance for the charity commission guidance on Public benefit and Trustees and Management Personnel act and make decisions accordingly in line with this guidance. The Charity delivers a wide range of activities in the Public Benefit, described in detail above. In summary, our work in the public benefit includes reaching children and young people through music in order to give them personal, musical and life skills that can enable them to pursue a personal passion with support and training, improve their personal wellbeing, engage with other like-minded young musicians, and become aware, social, skilled and confident people.

Outcomes

Brighter Sound produced and facilitated 29 separate projects over the year, delivering 256 sessions for 797 people, of which 207 were young people (0-26). The gender split being 54% female, 35% male, 2% identifying as non-binary or preferring to self-describe. The remainder being unknown or preferring not to say. We have also delivered a significantly increased amount of work online in this financial year due to the challenges of in-person delivery brought on by the pandemic. We are working on how to get audience figures more accurately for this work.

Reach, Marketing and Communications

Our small yet dynamic marketing team continue to implement our marketing and communications strategy to reach and engage our key audience groups - young people, early career musicians and emerging industry professionals.

While lockdown significantly impacted our output over this period, we were pleased to have maintained a strong online presence, delivering online workshops for artists and music professionals, and collaborating with partners to reach people remotely via streamed events and the creation of a new mobile app.

As we plan towards a brand refresh and website redevelopment (to be launched next period) we continue to develop our existing website where possible, to ensure it remains accessible and functional. Traffic and engagement with the website has decreased over this period, with 22,484 visitors, which is to be broadly expected given the decrease in our output.

Our mailing list contains 3,000 subscribers overall, with the ability to segment by interest. Open rates are on average 53% and click rates are on average 7.7%. Our mailing list re-engagement campaign in Feb 2020 has boosted stats substantially, making them more authentic to active subscribers and higher than the industry average.

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

As COVID-19 initially resulted in a dip in our comms output, we focused on re-sharing old content including videos, audio and photos from past projects as part of an #OnThisDay campaign to remain as active as possible across the different platforms.

The content produced and shared on our YouTube channel diversified - with a total of 16 tutorials, 3 streamed events and 4 professional music videos this period. These provided musicians with digital tools throughout lockdown, while continuing to highlight our work to stakeholders, supporters, audiences and funders.

In this period the marketing team have taken advantage of the huge range of free webinars delivered by the Arts Marketing Association and the Arts Council's Digital Culture Network to ensure our comms stay relevant and respond to the needs of our audiences at this challenging time.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

This year we are reporting a surplus on unrestricted funds of £19,219, with free reserves increasing to £70,143. This surplus relates in the main to unrestricted grant funds which will be spent on activity in the 2021/22 financial year. This is shown in the notes to the accounts as an unrestricted designated fund amount, as agreed with the funder.

The impacts of the pandemic are evident in our financial performance, with our carrying forward £382k (increased from £139k in 2020/21) of restricted funds which relates to activity we couldn't deliver effectively in 2020/21, which will now be delivered in the 2021/22 financial year.

As our core costs are largely covered from cost recovery aligned to project delivery, income from the various Central and Local Government support schemes supported our core costs, offsetting our reduced potential for delivery of activity due to the restrictions in place. We did continue to deliver activity virtually, which was important to our beneficiaries, but this core support from schemes such as the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), alongside close cost control, undoubtedly helped ensure that we were able to retain the staff needed to deliver activity when restrictions eased. These support schemes also meant we could deliver value, outputs and impacts to those funders, and beneficiaries, rather than having to use those funds to support our financial survival.

The activity moved into 2021/22, by agreement with funders, means that we start 2021/22 on a solid financial basis, in what is going to be another year of potential challenges as we look to move out of the delivery restrictions resulting from the pandemic.

Risk management

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises: a rolling review of the risks the charity may face; the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan; and the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise. The full board reviews this plan on a quarterly basis, focusing on new items and on anything scored as high risk.

During the financial year, our Finance Sub-committee has continued to meet monthly to provide increased scrutiny of our finances, and to ensure that risk is effectively managed in a timely manner. As the impacts of the pandemic continued to provide uncertainty, this forum provided invaluable advice and ensured that decisions could be stress tested before implementation.

Reserves

The company has targeted a level of free reserves (unrestricted reserves not invested in fixed assets or otherwise designated) of £60,000, approximately three months running costs. At the year end its free reserves were £70,143. The reserves target will be reviewed further during the 21/22 financial year, when Trustees will decide if the target is to be revised upwards, in light of the addition of staff members, and the potential for increased running costs that would need to be considered in the 3-month calculation used by the company.

Going concern

Whilst the pandemic has continued to create challenges for Brighter Sound as an organisation, we have used this period to ensure that we come out of it stronger as an organisation, and more able to handle similar challenges as they arise in the future. As an organisation which is not reliant on a venue, we have continued to deliver our activity remotely, and digitally, and we see this adaptability as a strength. We have allocated some funding to strengthen our systems and infrastructure to enable us to deliver activity and operate remotely more effectively and efficiently going forward. With this more robust infrastructure, and work already secured, we have no issues around declaring the organisation a viable going concern.

Pricing policy

Wherever possible, we offer our provision - workshops, residencies, masterclasses, mentoring, and support – Free of Charge to the end user.

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

FUTURE PLANS

Over the next year Brighter Sound plans to focus its energies on supporting the music creators, young people and independents across the music landscape with the new challenges that we will face as a sector as we integrate the impact of the pandemic into our working lives. Our programme will continue to build with our 'Reconnect' season and our commitment to working creatively and astutely, reflecting the needs of young and emerging musicians and independents and the broader sector during the pandemic.

We plan to deliver a digital festival to culminate the season, build a young people's mental health and wellbeing programme in partnership with 42nd Street and continue our gender equality programme Both Sides Now with a series of commissions and residencies and the further development of our education resource and manifesto for change.

We will continue to take a strategic role across the Music Education Hubs in the North West - for example we will support MyHub, the Manchester Music Education Hub, in their endeavour to set up a Third Orchestra in the city and will work with hubs to support their diversity and inclusion strategies and subsequent delivery models.

As sector lead for Manchester Music City will continue our work with the City Council and the Steering Group and plan to commission a detailed economic analysis of the music sector in Manchester. We hope this work will capture a baseline describing the economic impact of the sector and identifying the centres (sub-sectors, venues, clusters) of economic activity which can be used to inform further strategic interventions and help to make a case for a focus on and support for the music sector in the city.

We will be placing our approach to communications and marketing at the centre of our thinking as we grow our record label and young leadership initiatives. We will be developing our brand architecture and our brand communications as well as developing a new identity and look for Brighter Sound.

We will continue to place EDI at the core of our work with the appointment of a Board lead, a staff action group and operations coordinator and an EDI Advisory Group. The operations team will gather statistics to accurately define what our current EDI representation is externally and internally and will set targets which we will review on a twice-yearly basis. Structurally this will result in a decision-making process and route that ensures our commitment to conscious inclusivity is at the heart of all of our work and is action focused.

We will work closely with our Chair to support the development of our Board and plan to embark on a process of trustee recruitment, the development of an Ambassador programme and a future facing approach to finances, ensuring that our governance is continuously strengthened and that our resilience continues to build as a charity.

Finally we plan to have a partnership approach to identifying new premises and with other arts organisations will look for a central flexible working space that has shared workshop and rehearsal facilities.

Strategic Developments

In the coming year we build on our period of visioning and business planning to take us to 2026. We will continue to develop the reach, impact and content of our programming, exploring new partnership opportunities, using our resources to maximum effect, and innovating to ensure our offer stays future facing, relevant and inspiring.

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is a company limited by guarantee governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated April 13 2004, as amended by special resolution(s) dated October 11 2013. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

Members of the company

The members of the company comprise the Directors and such other persons who have been admitted to membership by the Directors in accordance with the Articles of Association. The minimum number of members is three and the maximum eleven.

Appointment of trustees/directors

The Trustees (who are also directors of the company) are appointed by the members in general meetings. The Directors have the power to co-opt. .

Co-opted directors/trustees hold office until the next AGM and are then eligible for election.

No Director can serve for more than six years, unless as a serving director they are elected chair in the fourth year of serving as a Director. In which case they may serve for up to a maximum of eight years providing they continue as chair of the Board.

New Trustees are nominated by existing Trustees and can be put forward by the company's executive team for consideration by the board.

Trustee induction and training

Potential trustees are invited to meet the board and the executive team before attending a trustees' meeting as an observer. Following this process, suitability is assessed, and suitable candidates are invited to become Trustees. On joining new Trustees are given an induction and a set of resources to support their introduction to the company and provide guidance on their obligations and responsibilities as a trustee, and their role for the Charity including the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Trustees are expected to attend training when requested including whole company visioning, and fundraising training relevant to their role as trustees.

Organisation

The minimum number of directors is three and the maximum fourteen. The board meets quarterly and there is a finance sub-committee.

An executive Director is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity.

To facilitate effective operations, the executive Director has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and artistic performance related activity. The Director leads the executive team consisting of two senior managers (Head of Programmes and Head of Operations) three project managers associated with activity delivery, a communications coordinator, projects coordinator and a digital marketing apprentice

Pay and remuneration for senior staff

Pay and remuneration of key management personnel is agreed by trustees by ordinary resolution in relation to a company pay scale. Any changes to the level of pay or significant changes in working hours are agreed by trustees by ordinary resolution.

Related parties

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their trustee role with the charity other than travel expenses which must be claimed. In the current year, no trustees claimed any expenses or remuneration.

Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a production company, contracted supplier, practitioner or beneficiary must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. The Charity has a Conflict-of-Interest Policy which is provided to all Trustees and adhered to by all parties.

If trustees undertake work for the charity outside of their role as trustees, they may not in any way influence or take part in the decision of trustees to engage their services and must declare in full any arrangements with the charity.

**BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The trustees (who are also directors of Brighter Sound Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the 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 financial year, 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:

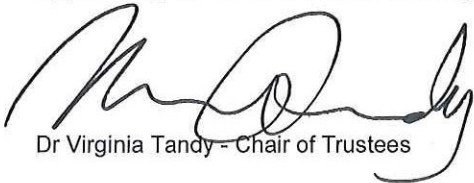
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will 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 for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS AND APPROVAL

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Dr Virginia Tandy - Chair of Trustees

Date: September 27 2021

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended March 31 2021 which are set out on pages 11 to 25.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts 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 your company'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 company'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 *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 that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts 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 accounts 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).

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.



Peter Smith BA FCA DChA

For and on behalf of:
HGA Accountants & Financial Consultants Ltd t/a Chittenden Horley
Chartered Accountants

456 Chester Road
Old Trafford
Manchester M16 9HD

Date:

29/9/21



BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including the income and expenditure account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Donations	2	134,512	79,102	213,614	74,507
Charitable activities	3	24,223	513,464	537,687	574,286
Other trading income	4	1,950	-	1,950	-
Investment income - bank interest		-	-	-	22
TOTAL INCOME		<u>160,685</u>	<u>592,566</u>	<u>753,251</u>	<u>648,815</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Costs of raising funds	5	12,623	-	12,623	6,178
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	128,843	350,209	479,052	556,546
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>141,466</u>	<u>350,209</u>	<u>491,675</u>	<u>562,724</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS		19,219	242,357	261,576	86,091
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		19,219	242,357	261,576	86,091
TOTAL FUNDS : BROUGHT FORWARD	15	<u>70,930</u>	<u>139,729</u>	<u>210,659</u>	<u>124,568</u>
CARRIED FORWARD	15	<u>90,149</u>	<u>382,086</u>	<u>472,235</u>	<u>210,659</u>

The notes on pages 14 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT MARCH 31 2021

	Notes	2021	2021	2020	2020
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	10		1,161		2,329
Intangible Assets	11		-		1,320
			<u>1,161</u>		<u>3,649</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	84,566		60,892	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>428,037</u>		<u>163,393</u>	
		512,603		224,285	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due in one year	13	<u>41,529</u>		<u>16,890</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
			<u>471,074</u>		<u>207,395</u>
			472,235		211,044
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due in more than one year	14		-		385
NET ASSETS					
			<u>472,235</u>		<u>210,659</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted					
General fund	15		90,149		70,930
Restricted					
	15		<u>382,086</u>		<u>139,729</u>
TOTAL FUNDS					
			<u>472,235</u>		<u>210,659</u>

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

For the year ending March 31 2021, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and no notice has been deposited under section 476 requiring the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question.

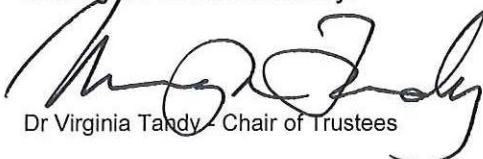
Directors' responsibilities

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The notes on pages 14 to 25 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Board and authorised for issue on: September 27 2021

And signed on their behalf by:



Dr Virginia Tandy - Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 05100495

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
AS AT MARCH 31 2021

	notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash used in operating activities	17	<u>265,328</u>	<u>107,027</u>
Cashflows from investing activities			
Interest and dividends		<u>-</u>	<u>22</u>
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>22</u>
Cashflows from financing activities			
Repayment of borrowing - Finance lease		<u>(684)</u>	<u>(571)</u>
Cash used in financing activities		<u>(684)</u>	<u>(571)</u>
Increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents in the year		264,644	106,478
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		163,393	56,915
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		<u><u>428,037</u></u>	<u><u>163,393</u></u>
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:			
Cash at bank and in hand		428,037	163,393
		<u><u>428,037</u></u>	<u><u>163,393</u></u>

Details of the movements in net debt are given in note 18.

The notes on pages 13 to 24 form part of these financial statements.

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared: under the historic cost convention; in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) effective January 1 2019 (second edition – October 2019); FRS102; and the Companies Act 2006. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The accounts are prepared in £ sterling, which is the functional currency.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably. The following applies to particular types of income:

Grants, whether of a capital or revenue nature, are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met and it is probable that the income will be received.

Donations from individuals and other bodies (not being of the nature of a grant) are recognised when receivable.

Earned income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for services and goods supplied, net of discounts and VAT.

Deferred income

Income is only deferred and included in creditors when:

- The income relates to a future accounting period
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and there is no contractual entitlement to the income until the work has been done
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded

Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that the settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

Costs of raising funds including those associated with fundraising activities, managing investments and commercial trading by the subsidiary company.

Charitable activities costs of undertaking the work of the charity.

The charity is registered for VAT and is able to recover some of the input tax charged as it relates to Vatable supplies. Costs are stated net of VAT where charged and irrecoverable VAT is included as a separate charge either within direct costs or support costs as appropriate.

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions which assist the work of the charity either by supporting the delivery of charitable activities or by supporting the generation of funds. They include staff costs; depreciation; legal and financial costs; marketing, network, research & organisational costs; office, equipment & IT cost; and property costs. The basis of allocations is set out in note 6.

Pension Contributions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme into which all employees are auto enrolled unless they opt out. Contributions are employer 3% and employee 5%, on eligible earnings. These arrangements meet the requirements to provide a work place pension. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year that they are payable.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Individual fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful lives on a straight-line basis as set out below.

Depreciation rates are as follows:

Equipment	10% p.a
Computers & office equipment	33%pa

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets costing more than £500 are capitalised. The charity's website is classified as an intangible fixed assets and the costs of its development have been capitalised. The website is being amortised over its useful economic life of five years on a straight-line basis.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due and prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

Financial instruments

The charity has only basic financial instruments which are initially recorded at cost, subsequently measured at their settlement value.

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.

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

	2021			2020		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
2 DONATIONS						
ACE Catalyst	-	-	-	28,700	-	28,700
ACE CRF1	-	51,555	51,555	-	-	-
Esmeé fairbairn	60,000	-	60,000	-	-	-
GMCA - grant re staffing	-	7,272	7,272	-	21,816	21,816
HMRC - CJRS	61,514	-	61,514	-	-	-
MCC - COVID support	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
MCC - grant re staffing	-	20,275	20,275	-	20,000	20,000
Donations						
Donations re Youth Music	-	-	-	-	955	955
General donations	2,998	-	2,998	3,036	-	3,036
	<u>134,512</u>	<u>79,102</u>	<u>213,614</u>	<u>31,736</u>	<u>42,771</u>	<u>74,507</u>

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

	2021			2020		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES						
Youth Music	3,550	280,949	284,499	28,991	173,394	202,385
Emerging Musicians	11,500	31,040	42,540	3,950	223,782	227,732
Workshops, consultancy & other	9,173	201,475	210,648	32,369	111,800	144,169
	<u>24,223</u>	<u>513,464</u>	<u>537,687</u>	<u>65,310</u>	<u>508,976</u>	<u>574,286</u>

Income is analysed as follows:

Youth Music

Love Music Trust	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
Manchester City Council	-	12,000	12,000	-	-	-
Prince's Trust	-	15,520	15,520	-	-	-
Youth Music Grant	-	235,000	235,000	-	160,000	160,000
Young Manchester	-	13,429	13,429	-	13,394	13,394
Fees and other income	3,550	-	3,550	28,991	-	28,991
	<u>3,550</u>	<u>280,949</u>	<u>284,499</u>	<u>28,991</u>	<u>173,394</u>	<u>202,385</u>

Emerging Musicians

ACE G4A - Both Sides Now	-	-	-	-	138,852	138,852
Help Musicians UK	-	13,500	13,500	-	29,130	29,130
Manchester City Council (MCC)	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
Manchester Histories Channelled ACE	-	-	-	-	42,800	42,800
Mayfield Arts Trust	-	11,540	11,540	-	-	-
PRS Foundation	-	6,000	6,000	-	12,000	12,000
Other grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	11,500	-	11,500	3,950	-	3,950
	<u>11,500</u>	<u>31,040</u>	<u>42,540</u>	<u>3,950</u>	<u>223,782</u>	<u>227,732</u>

Workshops, consultancy & other activities

ACE - transforming leadership	-	101,200	101,200	-	101,250	101,250
British Council	-	50,000	50,000	-	-	-
MCC - Music Cities Network	-	28,175	28,175	-	10,550	10,550
Sick! Festival- channelled grant	-	17,100	17,100	-	-	-
Youth Music - Music Cities Network	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
Box office	-	-	-	66	-	66
Other income	9,173	-	9,173	32,303	-	32,303
	<u>9,173</u>	<u>201,475</u>	<u>210,648</u>	<u>32,369</u>	<u>111,800</u>	<u>144,169</u>

4 OTHER TRADING INCOME

Sponsorship - mentoring programme	1,950	-	1,950	-	-	-
	<u>1,950</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,950</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

5 COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS	2021			2020		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs	216	-	216	167	-	167
Support costs	12,407	-	12,407	6,011	-	6,011
	<u>12,623</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,623</u>	<u>6,178</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,178</u>

6 CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

Youth Music	40,627	165,086	205,713	23,844	165,553	189,397
Emerging Musicians	119,540	20,922	140,462	2,165	216,081	218,246
Workshops, consultancy & other	55,050	77,827	132,877	96,508	52,395	148,903
Staffing funding	(34,819)	34,819	-	(34,544)	34,544	-
ACE CRF1 funded	(51,555)	51,555	-	-	-	-
	<u>128,843</u>	<u>350,209</u>	<u>479,052</u>	<u>87,973</u>	<u>468,573</u>	<u>556,546</u>

Expenditure is analysed as follows:

	Direct Costs	Direct Salaries	Support Costs	Total
	£	£	£	£
2020/21				
Youth Music	60,771	71,233	73,709	205,713
Emerging Musicians	13,112	4,500	122,850	140,462
Workshops, consultancy & other	58,612	35,083	39,182	132,877
	<u>132,495</u>	<u>110,816</u>	<u>235,741</u>	<u>479,052</u>
2019/20				
Youth Music	85,595	68,537	35,265	189,397
Emerging Musicians	89,779	69,691	58,776	218,246
Workshops, consultancy & other	56,197	72,534	20,172	148,903
	<u>231,571</u>	<u>210,762</u>	<u>114,213</u>	<u>556,546</u>

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

7 SUPPORT & GOVERNANCE COSTS

			Emerging	Other	Total
	Fundraising	Youth Music	Musicians	Activities	2021
2020/21	£	£	£	£	£
Support costs					
Staff costs	8,151	48,908	81,514	24,454	163,027
Depreciation & amortisation	124	746	1,244	373	2,487
Legal & financial	330	1,979	3,298	989	6,596
Marketing	598	3,586	5,977	1,793	11,954
Network, research and organisational	1,078	6,468	10,780	3,234	21,560
Office, equipment and IT	705	4,227	7,045	2,114	14,091
Property costs	1,049	6,295	10,492	3,148	20,984
	<u>12,035</u>	<u>72,209</u>	<u>120,350</u>	<u>36,105</u>	<u>240,699</u>
Governance costs					
Staff costs	250	1,500	2,500	750	5,000
Professional fees	122	-	-	2,327	2,449
	<u>372</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>3,077</u>	<u>7,449</u>
	<u>12,407</u>	<u>73,709</u>	<u>122,850</u>	<u>39,182</u>	<u>248,148</u>

			Emerging	Other	Total
	Fundraising	Youth Music	Musicians	Activities	2020
2019/20	£	£	£	£	£
Support costs					
Staff costs	1,819	10,914	18,190	5,457	36,380
Depreciation & amortisation	200	1,197	1,996	599	3,992
Legal & financial	308	1,851	3,085	925	6,169
Marketing	599	3,595	5,992	1,798	11,984
Network, research and organisational	843	5,060	8,434	2,530	16,867
Office, equipment and IT	698	4,187	6,978	2,093	13,956
Property costs	1,160	6,961	11,601	3,480	23,202
	<u>5,627</u>	<u>33,765</u>	<u>56,276</u>	<u>16,882</u>	<u>112,550</u>
Governance costs					
Staff costs	250	1,500	2,500	750	5,000
Professional fees	134	-	-	2,540	2,674
	<u>384</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>3,290</u>	<u>7,674</u>
	<u>6,011</u>	<u>35,265</u>	<u>58,776</u>	<u>20,172</u>	<u>120,224</u>

Support costs are allocated on the following basis:

Area	basis
Staff costs, training and recruitment	estimate of staff time
Office rent and service charge	head count based on estimate of staff time.
Other costs	estimate of resources used.

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

8 STAFF INFORMATION	2021	2020
	£	£
a Employees		
Salaries and wages	261,710	235,938
Employer's pension contributions	5,308	4,672
Employers NI allowance	(4,000)	(3,000)
Employer's NI contributions	<u>21,133</u>	<u>19,204</u>
	<u>284,151</u>	<u>256,814</u>

No employees earned more than £60,000 p.a. in either year.

b Key management personnel

The key management of the charity comprise the trustees and senior staff (as set out on page 1).

The trustees do not receive any remuneration for their services.

The total employee benefits, including employer pension and NI contributions, of other key management were as follows:

<u>122,249</u>	<u>109,181</u>
-----------------------	-----------------------

c Average staff numbers

The average number of employees was as follows:-

Average number	Average number
<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>

9 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS (for the Group)

This is stated after charging/(crediting):

	£	£
Independent examiners & accountants fees:		
Examination	800	800
Accountancy fees	1,558	1,603
Other services	-	270
Operating lease rentals	-	-
Depreciation of fixed assets	1,168	2,672
Amortisation of intangible assets	1,320	1,320
Trustees remuneration	-	-
Trustees expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	Number	Number
Trustees claiming expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Depreciation on assets held on finance leases was £543 (2020 - £543) and the net book value of assets held on finance leases included in tangible assets in note 9 was £1 (2020 - £544).

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

	Computers & Office		
	Equipment £	Equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
As at April 1 2020	16,624	24,034	40,658
Additions	-	-	-
As at March 31 2021	<u>16,624</u>	<u>24,034</u>	<u>40,658</u>
Depreciation			
As at April 1 2020	16,624	21,705	38,329
Charge for the year	-	1,168	1,168
As at March 31 2021	<u>16,624</u>	<u>22,873</u>	<u>39,497</u>
Net Book Value			
As at March 31 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>1,161</u>	<u>1,161</u>
As at March 31 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>2,329</u>	<u>2,329</u>

	Website £	Total £
	Cost	
As at April 1 2020	6,600	6,600
Additions	-	-
As at March 31 2021	<u>6,600</u>	<u>6,600</u>
Amortisation		
As at April 1 2020	5,280	5,280
Charge for the year	1,320	1,320
As at March 31 2021	<u>6,600</u>	<u>6,600</u>
Net Book Value		
As at March 31 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
As at March 31 2020	<u>1,320</u>	<u>1,320</u>

	2021 £	2020 £
12 DEBTORS		
Trade debtors	1,200	9,615
Income receivable	83,366	51,102
Prepayments	-	175
	<u>84,566</u>	<u>60,892</u>

13 CREDITORS falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	29,829	9,325
Other taxes and social security	5,221	4,826
Accruals	2,195	2,056
Finance lease creditor	384	683
Income and grants in advance	3,900	-
	<u>41,529</u>	<u>16,890</u>

14 CREDITORS falling due in more than one year		
Finance lease creditor	-	385
	<u>-</u>	<u>385</u>

15 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	2019/20				b/f and c/f		2020/21			
	01/04/2019	Income	Expenditure	transfers	31/03/2020	01/04/2020	Income	Expenditure	transfers	31/03/2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds:										
General fund	68,013	97,068	(94,151)	-	70,930		160,685	(141,466)	(18,845)	71,304
Designated funds:										
Esmée Fairbairn -	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	18,845	18,845
Total unrestricted funds	68,013	97,068	(94,151)	-	70,930		160,685	(141,466)	-	90,149
Restricted Funds:										
ACE - CRF1	-	-	-	-	-		51,555	(51,555)	-	-
GMCA - staffing	-	21,816	(14,544)	-	7,272		7,272	(14,544)	-	-
MCC - staffing	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-		20,275	(20,275)	-	-
Youth Music	17,900	174,349	(165,553)	-	26,696		280,949	(165,086)	-	142,559
Emerging Musicians	38,655	223,782	(216,081)	-	46,356		31,040	(20,922)	-	56,474
Other activities	-	111,800	(52,395)	-	59,405		201,475	(77,827)	-	183,053
Total restricted funds	56,555	551,747	(468,573)	-	139,729		592,566	(350,209)	-	382,086
	124,568	648,815	(562,724)	-	210,659		753,251	(491,675)	-	472,235

Restricted funds

All the grants will be used to support the ongoing projects in 21/22

15 STATEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

	2019/20				b/f and c/f		2020/21			
	01/04/2019	Income	Expenditure	transfers	31/03/2020	01/04/2020	Income	Expenditure	transfers	31/03/2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Youth Music										
Love Music Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	(20)	-	4,980
Manchester City Council	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,000	(12,000)	-	-
Prince's Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,520	(14,597)	-	923
Youth Music Grant	17,900	160,000	(157,996)	-	19,904	19,904	235,000	(134,208)	-	120,696
Young Manchester	-	13,394	(6,602)	-	6,792	6,792	13,429	(4,261)	-	15,960
Donations	-	955	(955)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	17,900	174,349	(165,553)	-	26,696	26,696	280,949	(165,086)	-	142,559
Emerging Musicians										
ACE/YM - Both Sides Now	31,550	138,852	(128,922)	-	41,480	41,480	-	(6,612)	-	34,868
Help Musicians UK	-	29,130	(24,254)	-	4,876	4,876	13,500	(4,502)	-	13,874
Manchester City Council (MCC)	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manchester Histories Channelled ACE	-	42,800	(42,800)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mayfield Arts Trust	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,540	(3,808)	-	7,732
PRS Foundation	-	12,000	(12,000)	-	-	-	6,000	(6,000)	-	-
Other grants	7,105	-	(7,105)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	38,655	223,782	(216,081)	-	46,356	46,356	31,040	(20,922)	-	56,474
Other activities										
ACE - transforming leadership	-	101,250	(45,595)	-	55,655	55,655	101,200	(42,635)	-	114,220
British Council	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	50,000
Music Cities Network	-	10,550	(6,800)	-	3,750	3,750	33,175	(21,944)	-	14,981
Sick! Festival- channelled grant	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,100	(13,248)	-	3,852
	-	111,800	(52,395)	-	59,405	59,405	201,475	(77,827)	-	183,053

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Company fund balances at March 31 2021

are represented by:-

	Unrestricted		Restricted	Total
	General	Designated	Funds	
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,161	-	-	1,161
Net current assets	70,143	18,845	382,086	471,074
	<u>71,304</u>	<u>18,845</u>	<u>382,086</u>	<u>472,235</u>

Free Reserves:

Net current assets

70,143

Company fund balances at March 31 2020

are represented by:-

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	2,329	-	2,329
Intangible fixed assets	1,320	-	1,320
Net current assets	67,666	139,729	207,395
Creditors due in more than one year	(385)	-	(385)
	<u>70,930</u>	<u>139,729</u>	<u>210,659</u>

17 RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASHFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure)	261,576	86,091
Add back depreciation	1,168	2,672
Add back amortisation intangible assets	1,320	1,320
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities	-	(22)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(23,674)	25,655
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	24,938	(8,689)
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities	<u>265,328</u>	<u>107,027</u>

18 MOVEMENT IN NET DEBT

	at 31/3/19	cashflows	leases	cash	as 31/3/20
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents					
Cash at bank and in hand	163,393	264,644	-	-	428,037
Debt					
Finance lease obligations	1,068	(684)	-	-	384
Cash and cash equivalents net of debt	<u>162,325</u>				<u>427,653</u>

BRIGHTER SOUND LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2021

19 CONSTITUTION

The Company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. In the event of the Company being wound up the members are committed to contributing £1 each.

20 TAXATION

The company is a registered charity and is entitled to claim annual exemption from UK corporation tax under sections 466 to 477 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010.

21 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

The company had no capital commitments at the year end (2020 - none)

22 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions in either year which are required to be disclosed.

23 LEASE COMMITMENTS

The company had the following minimum commitments under non-cancellable operating leases at the year end:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Operating leases which expire:		
Within one year	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The above figures include service charge costs which can vary between years.

The company has the following commitments under finance lease:

Payable within one year	400	800
Payable between 2 and 5 years	-	400
	<u>400</u>	<u>1,200</u>
Less interest	(16)	(132)
	<u>384</u>	<u>1,068</u>