

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.

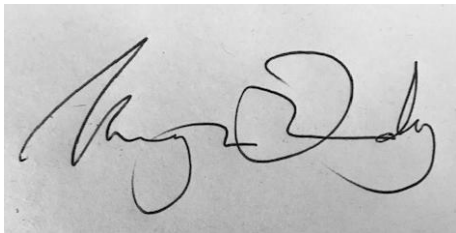
Our work with emerging artists has included a range of innovative commissions and events inspired by the presence of WOMEX, supporting new work that examines or challenges the future of the music industry and global music cultures.

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, appearing to read 'Virginia Tandy', written on a light-colored background.

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.

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:

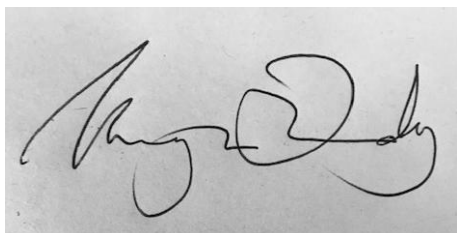
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition – October 2019);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, 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', is 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.

Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason

For and on behalf of:

HGA Accountants & Financial Consultants Ltd
t/a Chittenden Horley - Chartered Accountants

Hyde Park House
Cartwright Street, Newton
Manchester SK14 4EH

Date: 18/12/2025

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><u>57,760</u></u>	<u><u>73,702</u></u>	<u><u>131,462</u></u>	<u><u>151,931</u></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>131,462</u>		<u>151,936</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted					
General fund	14		57,760		50,320
Restricted	14		<u>73,702</u>		<u>101,611</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>131,462</u>		<u>151,931</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.

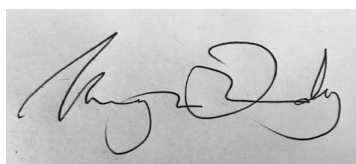
Directors' responsibilities

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>61,720</u>	<u>93,144</u>
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:			
Cash at bank and in hand		61,720	93,144
		<u>61,720</u>	<u>93,144</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

2 DONATIONS

	2025			2024		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
ACE	170,234	-	170,234	213,766	-	213,766
Esmeé 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
	13,204	423,883	437,087	70,413	346,687	417,100

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	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	79,681	79,681	-	79,700	79,700

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
	-	89,787	89,787	-	115,336	115,336

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
	13,204	254,415	267,619	70,413	151,651	222,064

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
	<u>14,687</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,687</u>	<u>14,212</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,212</u>

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	-
	<u>165,546</u>	<u>471,792</u>	<u>637,338</u>	<u>279,415</u>	<u>413,928</u>	<u>693,343</u>

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
	<u>225,549</u>	<u>169,614</u>	<u>242,175</u>	<u>637,338</u>
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>

7 SUPPORT & GOVERNANCE COSTS

			Emerging	Other	Total
	Fundraising	Youth Music	Musicians	Activities	2025
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>
			Emerging	Other	Total
	Fundraising	Youth Music	Musicians	Activities	2024
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.

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>
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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	<u>311</u>	<u>-</u>
	Number	Number
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		
	Equipment	Equipment	Total
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

	2025	2024
12 DEBTORS	£	£
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	31/03/2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
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	-	-
	-	-
Less interest	-	
	-	-