

# BLACKDOWNS EARLY MUSIC PROJECTS

England & Wales · Charity number 1156177

## Details

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**Other names** BEMP

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2014-03-14

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

## Contact

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**Address** Cadbury House  
Fore Street  
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**Website** [www.blackdownsearlymusic.co.uk](http://www.blackdownsearlymusic.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE APPRECIATION AND PRACTICE OF EARLY MUSIC (PREDOMINANTLY MUSIC COMPOSED BEFORE 1720) BY THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC CONCERTS AND EVENTS, PRIMARILY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, IN THE BLACKDOWN HILLS AND SURROUNDING AREAS

**Activities:** Performance of lesser-known early choral and instrumental music

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Bath And North East Somerset
- Bristol City
- City Of London
- Devon
- Dorset
- North Somerset
- Somerset

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£14,171	£11,221	-	-
2023-12-31	£28,341	£22,930	-	-
2022-12-31	£29,810	£35,845	-	-
2021-12-31	£13,977	£12,234	-	-
2020-12-31	£20	£862	-	-

## Trustees

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Name	Role	Appointed
Alison Louise Baily		2019-06-15
GEOFFREY MARK BASS BSC		2014-01-13
Malcolm Plastow		2014-04-30
ROGER WILLIAMS		2014-01-28

**BLACKDOWNS EARLY MUSIC PROJECTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1156177

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# Accounts

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## **Blackdowns Early Music Projects**

**Charity Number: 1156177**

Report by the Trustees

Year 2024

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2024 was another exciting year for Blackdowns Early Music. Our financial position over the year improved by almost £3,000 after three separate performances.

We were delighted to host the first UK performance by the Basle based Phaedrus; they focussed on the remarkable music of the court of Henry VIII playing on a selection of old renaissance flutes, which proved most rewarding for our enthusiastic audience. We also welcomed a solo performance by Jamie Akers on baroque guitar and lute, a tour de force.

Without a doubt it was the residential choral even “Laudate Dominum” which brought us closer than ever to our ideals of *“advancing the education of the public in the appreciation and practice of early music”*. Alongside Palestrina’s Laudate motet was the most extraordinary musical creation by Orlando Lassus describing the twelve prophecies of Sibyl. Composed before 1600, this was the most progressive and experimental music of the renaissance with new harmonic structures and contrapuntal techniques that influenced later generations. It may well have been the first UK performance of all movements of this strange work.

Once again it was rewarding to share the performance with musicians just emerging from music college, giving colour to performances as well as a rare performing experience to up & coming musicians.

Audiences for each event were good and costs were well controlled. In summary BEMP can look forward with funding over £11,600 in 2025 and beyond.

19th October 2025

Signed by Managing Trustee: Geoffrey Bass

Signed remotely by Trustees: Roger Williams, Malcolm Plastow & Alison Baily



**BLACKDOWN EARLY MUSIC PROJECT****Profit and loss and Balance Sheet - 31 December 2024**

	2024	2023 £
Turnover	14,171	28,341
Cost of Sales	(11,124)	(22,930)
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>3,048</b>	<b>5,411</b>
Administrative expenses	(97)	(267)
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>2,951</b>	<b>5,144</b>
<b>Profit for the period</b>	<b><u>2,951</u></b>	<b><u>5,144</u></b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank and in hand	11,726	8,851
Creditors : amounts falling due within one year	(75)	(150)
<b>Net Current assets</b>	<b>11,651</b>	<b>8,701</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b><u>11,651</u></b>	<b><u>8,701</u></b>
Capital and reserves	8,701	3,557
Profit and loss account	2,951	5,144
<b>Shareholders funds</b>	<b><u>11,652</u></b>	<b><u>8,701</u></b>

Signed:  17/9/25

Jane Alagappa

ACA

**BLACKDOWNS EARLY MUSIC PROJECTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1156177

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# Accounts

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## **Blackdowns Early Music Projects**

**Charity Number: 1156177**

Annual Report by the Trustees

Year 2023

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2023 was another exciting year for Blackdowns Early Music. The two main choral concerts celebrated important anniversaries, the 400<sup>th</sup> year since the death of William Byrd on July 4<sup>th</sup> 1623 and an unusual set of Vespers composed in the same year by the Italian Ignatio Donati. The former concert compared the works of Byrd with Thomas Weelkes and the Danish composer Mogens Pedersøn, both of whom also died in that same fateful year. Their music will have been familiar to the other composers having shared performances in London.

The second main event comprised a set of Donati's Vespers which proved to be a most remarkable work from Milan. A feature of our performance was the inclusion of an orchestral choir played by a band of graduating students. This has become a feature of some of our programming, giving colour to performances as well as a rare performing experience to up & coming musicians.

As in recent years, we also designed a series of smaller monthly concerts in local parish churches, giving an opportunity for local audiences to hear professional musicians in a wide variety of educative musical styles and instruments.

Audiences for each of the events were good and our control of costs was further improved. The gross profit of £ 5,412 managed to offset the £6,034 loss of the previous year which had included the B minor mass in the final Grand Baroque performance in Exeter Cathedral.

In summary, the funding of £8,700 carried forward into 2024 is very satisfactory.

28<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Trustee: Geoffrey Bass

Signed remotely by Trustees Roger Williams, Malcolm Plastow & Alison Baily

**BLACKDOWN EARLY MUSIC PROJECT**  
**Detailed profit and loss - 31 December 2023**

<b>Income</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Ticket Sales	4,296	11,081
Subscription	17,750	10,710
Gift Aid	3,792	2,181
Donation	121	13
Grants/ Loss guarantees	750	3,950
Programme sales	44	261
Singers accomodation	1,420	1,200
Food	33	378
Misc	124	35
Bank interest	10	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>28,341</b>	<b>29,810</b>
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Venue Hire	1,218	4,564
Musicians	10,773	21,754
Advertising		453
Instrument hire	500	-
Poster and leaflets	1,344	-
Tens Licences	21	-
Meals & Drink	6,752	4,492
Accomodation and transport	1,335	3,557
Revenue Share	75	351
Donations	200	
Misc	711	673
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>22,930</b>	<b>35,845</b>
<b>Gross profit/ (loss)</b>	<b>5,412</b>	<b>(6,034)</b>

Signed:



Jane Alagappa  
 ACA

18/10/24

**BLACKDOWN EARLY MUSIC PROJECT**  
**Profit and loss and Balance Sheet - 31 December 2023**

	2023 £	2022 £
Turnover	28,341	29,810
Cost of Sales	(22,930)	(35,845)
<b>Gross loss / profit</b>	<b>5,412</b>	<b>(6,034)</b>
Administrative expenses	(267)	(257)
<b>Operating loss / profit</b>	<b>5,144</b>	<b>(6,291)</b>
<b>Profit/Loss for the period</b>	<b><u>5,144</u></b>	<b><u>(6,291)</u></b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Accrued Income and Debtors	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	8,851	3,631
Creditors : amounts falling due within one year	(150)	(75)
<b>Net Current assets</b>	<b>8,701</b>	<b>3,556</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b><u>8,701</u></b>	<b><u>3,556</u></b>
Capital and reserves	3,556	9,848
Profit and loss account	5,144	(6,291)
<b>Shareholders funds</b>	<b><u>8,700</u></b>	<b><u>3,556</u></b>

Signed: 

18/10/24

Jane Alagappa  
 ACA

**BLACKDOWNS EARLY MUSIC PROJECTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1156177

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# Accounts

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This was an astonishing year for the Blackdowns Early Music Projects with a memorable performance in Exeter Cathedral of Bach's amazing Mass in B Minor. This late baroque work made a most satisfactory culmination to our decade of performances of many of the grandest royal compositions from the baroque era.

These large-scale works have been a rich source of really excellent unique works but which are little performed due to the very considerable cost of such large orchestras, often requiring eight vocal soloists, several baroque trumpets and various sets of wind instruments. In 2022 we decided to offer the quality and beauty of the Bach Mass which proved an excellent choice as both performers and audience found it to be even more satisfying than these earlier compositions we offered in previous years.

As previously all the instrumental performers and soloists were leading early music specialists. This emphasises BEMP's role in providing greater access to early music, giving audiences in the South-West a rare opportunity to hear authentic baroque live performances.

While the audience income of £8,316 was higher than for previous Grand Baroque performances, it did not make up for the £2,500 reduction in grant income due to the comparatively well-known programme. So despite the enthusiasm of the audience and performers, the concert made a loss of just over £4,000.

The year also included six chamber concerts offering an amazing variety of performances by baroque performers, often playing on less well-known instruments, the least recognisable of which was a solo concert on a Carnyx(!). Other groups included were of Waits, bagpipes, hurdy-gurdy, and return performances by the viol/lute group and folk violin duo. A highlight was also given by Crispian Steele-Perkins performance on his gamut of early trumpets with David Hill as organist.

These smaller concerts were of an educational nature about early music given in our local church. In 2022 they added a cost of £1,100 making an overall concert deficit for the year of just over £6,000.

Signed remotely by the Trustees

Geoffrey Bass

Roger Williams

Malcolm Plastow

October 2023

**BLACKDOWN EARLY MUSIC PROJECT**  
**Detailed profit and loss - 31 December 2022**

<b>Income</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Ticket Sales	11,081	7,324
Subscription	10,710	4,170
Gift Aid	2,181	1,167
Donation	13	-
Grants/ Loss guarantees	3,950	-
Programme sales	261	-
Singers accomodation	1,200	585
Food	378	-
Misc	35	731
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>29,810</b>	<b>13,977</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Venue Hire	4,564	987
Musical Director	350	1,500
Musicians	21,404	7,363
Advertising	453	135
Music Cost	-	320
Poster and leaflets	-	55
Tens Licences	-	21
Meals & Drink	4,492	448
Accomodation and transport	3,557	-
Revenue Share	351	495
Misc	673	760
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>35,845</b>	<b>12,084</b>
<b>Gross profit/ (loss)</b>	<b>(6,034)</b>	<b>1,893</b>

Signed:  10/10/23  
Jane Alagappa  
ACA

**BLACKDOWN EARLY MUSIC PROJECT**  
**Profit and loss and Balance Sheet - 31 December 2022**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Turnover	29,810	13,977
Cost of Sales	(35,845)	(12,084)
<b>Gross loss / profit</b>	<b>(6,034)</b>	<b>1,893</b>
Administrative expenses	(257)	(150)
<b>Operating loss / profit</b>	<b>(6,291)</b>	<b>1,743</b>
<b>Profit/Loss for the period</b>	<b><u>(6,291)</u></b>	<b><u>1,743</u></b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Accrued Income and Debtors	-	767
Cash at bank and in hand	3,631	9,456
Creditors : amounts falling due within one year	(75)	(375)
<b>Net Current assets</b>	<b>3,556</b>	<b>9,848</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b><u>3,556</u></b>	<b><u>9,848</u></b>
Capital and reserves	9,848	8,105
Profit and loss account	(6,291)	1,743
<b>Shareholders funds</b>	<b><u>3,556</u></b>	<b><u>9,848</u></b>

Signed:

*J. Alagappa* 10/10/23

Jane Alagappa  
 ACA

**BLACKDOWNS EARLY MUSIC PROJECTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1156177

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# Accounts

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# **Trustees Annual Report**

# **Blackdowns Early**

## **Music Projects**

**Year: 2021 (1<sup>st</sup> Jan to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec)**

**Charity No: 1156177**

- Following the inevitable cessation of activities throughout 2020, Blackdowns Early Music used the time to devise a series of professional recitals in a local church in order to help restore the income of some of the professional players who have played with us regularly. Seven monthly events were arranged, the first two events in the late Spring being performed under strict social distancing, but in later months attracting larger audiences.
- There was a very strong feeling among the regular singing participants in BEMP projects that if a choral weekend could be organised, it would be supported, even at very short notice. Indeed this was what happened, a three or four week window appeared in September 2021 when we were able to recruit participants, gather them together and perform a programme of very interesting music from Bologna, focussing on the music of the great Italian composer Maurizio Cazzati composed between 1650 and 1700. We again fulfilled our aims to offer little known music for the education of the public with performances of more of the greatest music composed before the Classical age.
- Despite the overall restrictions imposed on public performance by the pandemic, the BEMP bank balance improved overall in 2021, carrying forward an additional £1,900 into 2022, while at the same time making a modest contribution to the local church for the benefit and wellbeing of future generations.

Agreed remotely by the Trustees of Blackdowns Early Music Projects

Geoffrey Bass

Roger Williams

Malcolm Plastow

Alison Baily  
2022

October 18<sup>th</sup>

**BLACKDOWN EARLY MUSIC PROJECT**  
**Profit and loss and Balance Sheet - 31 December 2021**

	2021	2020 £
Turnover	13,977	20
Cost of Sales	(12,084)	(862)
<b>Gross loss / profit</b>	<b>1,893</b>	<b>(842)</b>
Administrative expenses	(150)	(166)
<b>Operating loss / profit</b>	<b>1,743</b>	<b>(1,008)</b>
<b>Profit/Loss for the period</b>	<b><u>1,743</u></b>	<b><u>(1,008)</u></b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Accrued Income and Debtors	767	-
Cash at bank and in hand	9,456	8,155
Creditors : amounts falling due within one year	(375)	(50)
<b>Net Current assets</b>	<b>9,848</b>	<b>8,105</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b><u>9,848</u></b>	<b><u>8,105</u></b>
Capital and reserves	8,105	9,113
Profit and loss account	1,743	(1,008)
<b>Shareholders funds</b>	<b><u>9,848</u></b>	<b><u>8,105</u></b>

Signed: 

25/8/22

Jane Alagappa  
 ACA

**BLACKDOWNS EARLY MUSIC PROJECTS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1156177

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# Accounts

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**Charity Commission – 2020 Annual Report - Blackdowns Early Music Projects**  
**Charity no: 1156177**

**Report by the Trustees for the period 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2020**

- Consistent with most musical organisations, Blackdowns Early Music Projects (BEMP) found that all its planned performances in 2020 were cancelled due to the effect of the COVID pandemic.
- The Trustees decided that a contract made previously for an annual instrumental festival in May 2020 should be honored to the extent of the professional recital fees involved for the tutors, a cost of £812.09.
- After minimizing the overheads, the musical activities during 2020 brought a gross loss of £1,008.21 which was carried into the balance sheet for 31/12/2020 with residual Shareholders' Funds of £8,104.95.
- The cancellation of BEMP's planned programme of activities due to the pandemic prevented it from meeting its charitable objectives in 2020. However, the organisers used this time to invent and promote a series of monthly concerts for 2021 designed to increase knowledge and appreciation of early music in the local area as soon as restrictions were eased.

We the Trustees are sure that the charity is properly managed in line with its objectives and that the finances are properly represented in the accompanying account.

Agreed electronically by the Trustees:-

Geoffrey Bass

Malcolm Plastow

Roger Williams

Alison Baily

Culmstock  
31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

**BLACKDOWN EARLY MUSIC PROJECT****Profit and loss and Balance Sheet - 31 December 2020**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Turnover	20.00	45,497.33
Cost of Sales	(862.09)	(41,566.63)
<b>Gross loss / profit</b>	<b>(842.09)</b>	<b>3,930.70</b>
Administrative expenses	(166.12)	(720.67)
<b>Operating loss / profit</b>	<b>(1,008.21)</b>	<b>3,210.03</b>
<b>Profit/Loss for the period</b>	<b>(1,008.21)</b>	<b>3,210.03</b>

**Current assets**

Accrued Income and Debtors	-	7,495.48
Cash at bank and in hand	8,154.95	6,526.54

Creditors : amounts falling due within one year	(50.00)	(4,908.86)
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<b>Net Current assets</b>	<b>8,104.95</b>	<b>9,113.16</b>
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<b>Net assets</b>	<b>8,104.95</b>	<b>9,113.16</b>
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Capital and reserves	9,113.16	5,903.13
Profit and loss account	(1,008.21)	3,210.03

<b>Shareholders funds</b>	<b>8,104.95</b>	<b>9,113.16</b>
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Signed: *J. Alagappa* 8/8/21

Jane Alagappa  
ACA

**BLACKDOWN EARLY MUSIC PROJECT**  
**Profit and loss and Balance Sheet - 31 December 2020**

Income	2020	2019
	£	£
Ticket Sales	-	8,207.10
Subscription	-	21,592.50
Wine donation	-	278.10
Programme Sales	-	335.00
Grants/Loss guarantee	-	8,250.00
Gift Aid	-	4,031.73
Donation	20.00	521.50
Singers accomodation	-	2,155.00
Misc	-	126.40
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>20.00</u></b>	<b><u>45,497.33</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Venue Hire	-	4,066.50
Musical Director	-	4,087.86
Musicians	812.09	12,926.67
Organ	-	0.00
Scholars expenses	-	0.00
Instrument Hire	-	228.00
Vocal Soloists	-	5,235.43
Staging,lights,props	-	100.00
Programmes	-	422.00
Advertising	-	381.50
Music cost	-	602.93
Poster and leaflets	-	307.00
Tens Licences	-	21.00
Meals & Drink	-	7,467.51
Accommodation	-	5,377.64
Misc	50.00	342.59
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b><u>862.09</u></b>	<b><u>41,566.63</u></b>
<b>Gross profit/ (loss)</b>	<b><u>(842.09)</u></b>	<b><u>3,930.70</u></b>
Signed: <i>J. Alagappa</i>	<i>8/8/21</i>	
Jane Alagappa		
ACA		