

# THE STRINGCREDIBLES

England & Wales · Charity number 1158652

## Details

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Other names	STRINGCREDIBLES
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2014-09-24
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	55 Bunbury Road Birmingham B31 2DS
Phone	07976205794
Email	<a href="mailto:contact@thestringcredibles.com">contact@thestringcredibles.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.thestringcredibles.com">www.thestringcredibles.com</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE ART OF MUSIC, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY FACILITATING CREATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES WHICH ALLOW PARTICIPANTS TO DISCOVER AND DEVELOP THEIR INDIVIDUAL CAPABILITIES, SKILLS AND POTENTIAL.

**Activities:** Developing creative learning and appreciation of music by young persons allowing them to develop their individual skills and potential. This is being carried out in association with schools and by performances of " Tunes from the Trenches" at museums and other locations throughout the West Midlands.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£30,930	£32,334	-	-
2024-03-31	£45,324	£42,216	-	-
2023-03-31	£11,358	£23,603	-	-
2022-03-31	£30,201	£23,400	-	-
2021-03-31	£33,910	£18,813	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Isabel Kathleen Churcher</b>	Chair	2023-07-24
Amrit Kaur Sohal		2025-03-25
Louise Ann Braithwaite		2023-07-24
Michele Clare Deeks		2023-07-24
PHILIP DAVID MILLS		2019-09-10
Zoe Georgia Mountford		2025-03-25

**THE STRINGCREDIBLES**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158652

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# Accounts

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# **THE STRINGCREDIBLES**

**Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts  
for the year ended 31 March 2025**

## **Charity information**

### **Trustees**

Isabel Churcher (Chair)  
Louise Braithwaite  
Michele Deeks  
Seb Lovell-Huckle  
Eluned Mansell (resigned 9 June 2025)  
Philip Mills  
Zoe Mountford (appointed 25 March 2025)  
Amrit Sohal (appointed 25 March 2025)

### **Charity Name**

The Stringcredibles

### **Charity Number**

1158652 (registered in England and Wales as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

### **Bankers**

Co-operative Bank plc, Delf Way, Skelmersdale. WN8 6GH

### **Independent Examiner**

Emma Bunting, MA, FCCA

### **Charity Principal Address**

55 Bunbury Road, Birmingham, B31 2DS

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025**

The Trustees of the Charity present their Annual Report and Accounts for the 12-month period ended 31 March 2025.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The objects of the Charity are to advance the education of the public in the art of music, in particular, but not exclusively, by facilitating creative learning experiences which allow participants to discover and develop their individual capabilities, skills and potential.

The Trustees have complied with their duty in Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The objects of the charity have been achieved by:

- Enabling children to be active participants in classical music.
- Encouraging young performers to communicate better through their music.
- Sharing and developing dynamic performance practice among professionals.

### **Activities**

2024-25 has been a year of consolidation and development for The Stringcredibles. We:

- continued to deliver our regular portfolio of performances - Making Music, Feeling Good, Tunes from the Trenches and Stringlebell Rock
- evolved our Apprentice programme in partnership with Services for Education Music Service, Birmingham and the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- continued our involvement with Wolverhampton Music Service's Elevate programme
- delivered CPD for teachers at Lincolnshire Music Service
- partnered with Milverton Concert Society to deliver performances for primary school children in Somerset
- used our Pitch Pace Perform methodology to deliver a training session for the Birmingham Services of Education String Sinfonia
- toured our newly created show - The Butterfly Lands - with support from Arts Council England, in partnership with music services in Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell, delivering 15 performances to complete a run of 22 performances in schools
- set in motion a second tour of The Butterfly Lands - gathering support from

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)**

trusts and foundations to fund a further 28 performances in partnership with Birmingham Services for Education and the newly formed Black Country Music Hub (the first partnership project of this new Hub which includes Walsall, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley) - the first 2 of these 28 performances were delivered in this period.

### **Stringcredible Apprentices 2024**

With generous support from the Albert and Eugenie Frost Music Trust for the third year running (this the first year of a further three year grant), our Stringcredible Apprentices programme 2024 was one of the highlights of this period. Our Apprentices programme has been running since 2014, and is designed to support young musicians and their performance skills. It allows for the development of young string players in inspirational roles, widens the reach of our performance methodologies programme, creates diverse role models in a very diverse city and support the work of an excellent music hub.

In the autumn term, we took on a new cohort of learners in partnership with Birmingham's Music Service at Services for Education (SFE). Throughout the term we worked with 8 young string quartet players and 4 music teachers. The teachers and young musicians came to see The Stringcredibles perform in a primary school, then learned how to perform the show as brand new quartets. The Stringcredibles trained the quartet of teachers, and then mentored the teachers as they trained up the quartets of young musicians.

Our 8 Apprentices were a culturally diverse cohort of male and female string players, selected by Sally Hobbs (Head of Strings at SFE) as being musicians of promise, who would benefit most from the experience. All participants had been taught by SFE teachers at some/all stages, and were part of either Birmingham Schools String Symphony or Birmingham Schools Symphony Orchestra. The project helped them to really hone their performance and public speaking skills, and use these to inspire other children to engage with music. In a new development for 2024 we had student placements from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire shadowing all activity.

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)**

This year we are proud to have reached:

- 8 young strings players
- 4 music service teachers
- 4 music students from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- 8 primary schools
- Over 2,000 primary school children
- 1,000+ additional instrumental learners

The project has had positive impacts on:

- Primary school children and their engagement with music
- Primary school staff and their experience of music in a school setting
- Young musicians, and their performance skills
- Music teachers and their ability to reach more schools through delivering ensemble performances
- Young instrumental learners taught by the music teacher quartet
- Music Education Hub staff, and their strategic approach to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and widening participation
- Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Students and their confidence in delivery

### **Pitch Pace Perform**

Our trademark Pitch Pace Perform methodology is still very much a core thread of our work. Designed to connect performers powerfully with their audiences, we have delivered training for the Birmingham Services for Education String Sinfonia and for teachers at the Lincolnshire Music Education Hub.

### **Wolverhampton Elevate**

We continue to support Wolverhampton Music Service's fast-track progression programme Elevate. This is an ongoing partnership, delivering workshops in performance and ensemble skills for the young people selected for the programme.

### **The Butterfly Lands**

Considerable time this year has been spent delivering our newest show for primary schools, The Butterfly Lands, alongside saxophonist Nate Holder. The show is an interactive performance for primary schools, bringing together excellence in classical music with hip hop, world music and bespoke creative writing to explore themes of migration and inclusion. The show celebrates cultural diversity and

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)**

connects to the Kindness Curriculum, promoting empathy, respect and compassion.

The project was established as a partnership between The Stringcredibles and Nate Holder, with shared ambitions to explore themes of migration through the universal language of music. We commissioned a diverse creative team to support us in bringing our vision to life, and worked with Music Education Hubs to ensure the project had relevance and value to schools in areas of priority for music engagement. The show includes bespoke compositions, poetry, illustrations and visual presentations. Data relating to migration in local communities was curated by the University of Birmingham. Over the course of an hour, audiences join the journey of a butterfly to five islands; music, language, food, clothing and belief. Each island introduces new musical compositions linked together with original poetry. The varied programme includes lively classical and fusion music, movement, singing, interaction, and quiet moments of calm to reflect on the themes.

The project offers access to high quality live music, and supports cross-curricular learning, encouraging take-up of instrumental lessons and promoting pro-social development. It demonstrates the power of music to connect across cultures, to communicate challenging ideas in accessible ways, and to inspire active participation. The show explores how each individual's unique background contributes to a colourful community.

During this period, we have delivered 17 performances in primary schools across the West Midlands (15 for phase 1 and 2 for phase 2) and created a film summarising the achievements of this tour. Our funding structure of this project is a combination of support from Arts Council England, trusts and foundations, earned income, and generous individual donors. The show has been the catalyst for developing new partnerships, including additional Music Education Hubs and the Schools of Sanctuary networks.

Schools we have visited with all our projects in this period:

- Solihull Preparatory School, Solihull
- Rounds Green Primary School, Sandwell
- Merridale Primary School, Wolverhampton
- Adderley Primary School, Birmingham
- Leighswood Primary School, Walsall
- The Radleys Primary School, Walsall
- Kineton Green Primary School, Solihull

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)**

- Stowlawn Primary School, Wolverhampton
- St Luke's C of E Primary School, Wolverhampton
- The Rosary Catholic Primary School, Birmingham
- Goldthorn Park Primary School, Wolverhampton
- St Stephen's C of E Primary School, Wolverhampton
- Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Birmingham
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Birmingham
- St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School, Birmingham
- Harborne Primary School, Birmingham
- Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, Sutton Coldfield
- Mere Green Primary School, Sutton Coldfield
- Sy Mary's Catholic Primary School, Redditch
- Christ Church C of E Primary School, Birmingham
- Bellfield Junior School, Birmingham
- St Mary Magdalene C of E Primary School, West Bromwich
- Rookery Primary School, Handsworth
- Welford Primary School, Handsworth
- The Meadows Primary School, Northfield
- Kings Norton Primary School, Kings Norton

Organisations we have worked with in this period:

- Services for Education Music Service Birmingham
- Newly formed Black Country Music Hub (Walsall Music Education Service, SIPS Education Music and Arts, Wolverhampton Music Service and Dudley Performing Arts)
- Lincolnshire Music Education Hub
- Milverton Concert Society
- Royal Birmingham Conservatoire
- Schools of Sanctuary Networks (Birmingham and Wolverhampton)

Trust and Foundations we have been supported by in this period:

- The Rowlands Trust
- The Albert and Eugenie Frost Music Trust
- The Turner Trust
- The Patrick Trust
- The Grimmitt Trust
- The Birmingham Municipal Charity

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)**

- The Golsoncott Foundation
- The Birmingham and Black Country Communities Fund (Heart of England Community Foundation)

Quotes from our participants.

Primary school children:

*"We learned without realising because it's so much fun."*

*"We've let go of our differences and found out we've had so much in common."*

Parent of Young Apprentice:

*"Thank you so much for your hard work and support... [he] has loved the experience, which would not have been nearly as special without your collective input. It's been such an enriching experience!"*

Primary school teachers"

*"Wow!! What can I say? All I heard from members of staff was that it was absolutely amazing on both our sites. I received loads of emails saying how professional, talented and wonderful everyone was. The children absolutely loved it. Thank you so much for giving our children and staff an amazing musical experience. What a treat!"*

*"As a headteacher, I sat through it all and thought it one of the best performances we've ever hosted"*

*"It's priceless"*

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)**

### **Board recruitment and development**

This year has seen useful board consolidation and expansion for The Stringcredibles. We advertised for new Trustees and received excellent applications leading to the appointment of two new Trustees: Amrit Sohal and Zoe Mountford. They both bring a passion for music as well as providing us with respective key experience and skills in the areas of music education and safeguarding and of charity finance.

Amrit Sohal is a professional French Horn player, teacher and workshop facilitator. With a passion for creating an inclusive environment within music education, during her time at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Amrit created Motherland Music CIC where she runs workshops based on composers and musicians from global majority backgrounds. She is also a trustee for the People's Orchestra.

Zoe Mountford is a Corporate Finance Advisor at Springboard Corporate Finance. She holds a BA(Sons) in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the University of Warwick and is a qualified Chartered Accountant (ACA), having also worked in Audit and Transaction Advisory Services at Grant Thornton. In addition to her finance career, Zoe has a background in music, having studied violin, viola and classical voice at the Junior Birmingham Conservatoire for over 10 years.

Eluned Mansell will step down in the next financial year, while Isabel Churcher (Chair), Philip Mills, Michele Deeks, Louise Braithwaite and Seb Lovell-Huckle will continue to provide essential board support and particularly continuity, with the introduction of two new trustees.

As Chair, Isabel Churcher has guided the Board through a cycle of governance updates to ensure that our policies and procedures are all up to date, led The Stringcredibles through the 7 Principles of the Charity Governance Code, and facilitated the implementation of Values and Strategy documents, created by a working group led by Michele Deeks.

### **Financial Review**

Income for the year was £30,930 (2024: £45,324), and expenditure was £32,334 (2024: £42,216). The resulting deficit of £1,404 (2024: £3,108 surplus), left the charity with closing funds of £21,678 (2024: £23,082). The deficit was due to lower grant income.

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)**

### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have set a policy that committed expenditure does not exceed the value of unrestricted funds, and that the unrestricted funds do not exceed 12 months of planned expenditure. The total unrestricted funds at 31 March 2025 amounted to £21,568 (2024: £22,452); the Trustees consider that the reserves do not exceed what is necessary for the Charity to continue as a going concern and expect the unrestricted funds to be applied to the charitable purposes within a reasonable period. Restricted funds at 31 March 2025 were £110 (2024: £630).

### **Going Concern**

The Charity's work is delivered in programmes of work based on funding achieved. It does not, therefore, commit expenditure that is not funded, and at the end of the year had reserves to cover committed expenditure. The Trustees believe that the Charity will be able to meet its ongoing commitments for more than 12 months from the signing of the Balance Sheet, and that it is therefore appropriate to continue accounting on a going concern basis.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which was registered with the Charity Commission on 24 September 2014. It is governed by a constitution using the foundation model dated 22 November 2022. The Trustees make strategic decisions and ensure overall control; they delegate day to day management and delivery of this objective to the Stringcredibles' musicians, who are:

- Catherine Arlidge
- Helen Edgar
- Bryony Morrison
- Amy Thomas

The Trustees during the year under review and up to the date the accounts were approved are listed on page 1.

The Board recruits new trustees by assessing the skills required and skills of existing trustees, determining a skills gap and advertising for suitable applicants. New trustees are appointed at duly convened meetings of the board of trustees.

This year we advertised for new Trustees and received numerous interesting

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)**

applications. Following a rigorous recruitment process, we appointed two new Trustees: Amit Kaur Sohal and Zoe Mountford. They all bring a passion for music and professional and personal insights into the world of The Stringcredibles.

### **Risk Management**

Our charity takes a proactive and proportionate approach to risk management to support effective decision-making and safeguard the achievement of our charitable purposes.

We maintain a comprehensive risk register that is regularly reviewed by both The Stringcredibles and the Board. This register considers strategic, operational, financial, reputational, and compliance risks, with clear mitigating actions and assigned responsibilities. The Board formally reviews the risk register at every meeting, with ongoing updates provided throughout the year as circumstances evolve. Particular attention is given to safeguarding risks, data protection, financial sustainability, and the delivery of services to our beneficiaries.

### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity and of incoming resources and application of resources of the charity 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 of the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable 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 charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the

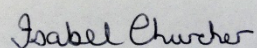
## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2025 (continued)**

Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's governing document. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Declaration**

The Trustees declare that they approved the Trustees' report above on 23 September 2025.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's trustees:

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isabel Churcher".

Isabel Churcher  
Chair of Trustees

## **Independent Examiner's Report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 14 to 21.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(3) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## **Independent Examiner's Report (continued)**

### **Independent Examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirement to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and the regulations made thereunder have not been met;
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Bunting'.

Emma Bunting, MA, FCCA  
Independent Examiner

Date Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

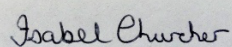
	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 Total	2024 Total
<b>INCOME</b>					
Donations & legacies	2	3,713	20,868	24,581	36,198
Charitable activities	3	6,349	-	6,349	9,126
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>10,062</b>	<b>20,868</b>	<b>30,930</b>	<b>45,324</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Charitable activities	4	10,321	21,388	31,709	42,216
Cost of raising funds	6	625	-	625	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>10,946</b>	<b>21,388</b>	<b>32,334</b>	<b>42,216</b>
<b>NET INCOME BEING</b>					
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(884)</b>	<b>(520)</b>	<b>(1,404)</b>	<b>3,108</b>
<b>FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD</b>		<b>22,452</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>23,082</b>	<b>19,974</b>
<b>FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>21,568</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>21,678</b>	<b>23,082</b>

## Balance Sheet at 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2025 Total	2024 Total
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	7	638	-	638	8,023
Cash at Bank		20,930	110	21,040	21,734
		<u>21,568</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>21,678</u>	<u>29,757</u>
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within 1 year</b>					
	8	-	-	-	6,675
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>21,568</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>21,678</u>	<u>23,082</u>
<b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>21,568</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>21,678</u>	<u>23,082</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted		21,568	-	21,568	22,452
Restricted		-	110	110	630
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	9	<u>21,568</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>21,678</u>	<u>23,082</u>

The notes on pages 16 to 21 form part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 23 September 2025 and authorised to be signed by:



Isabel Churcher  
Chair of Trustees

## Accounting Policies

### Note 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared 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 (FRS 102) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following 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 (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn. The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### 1.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds and expected income and expenditure for the following 12-month period.

#### 1.3 Incoming Resources

##### ***Recognition of incoming resources***

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the Charity becomes entitled to the resources,
- it is more likely than not that the Charity will receive the resources, and

## **Accounting Policies (continued)**

- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

### ***Incoming resources with related expenditure***

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contractual income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.

### ***Grants and donations***

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

### ***Tax reclaims on donations and gifts***

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

### ***Contractual income and performance related grants***

This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

### ***Volunteer help***

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the Trustees' annual report.

### ***Investment income***

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

## 1.4 Expenditure and liabilities

### ***Liability recognition***

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out funds.

### ***Charitable activities***

These costs relate to the musicians' fees for the provision of concerts, etc..

### ***Governance costs***

These include the costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

## **Accounting Policies (continued)**

### ***Grants with performance conditions***

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient has provided the specified service or output.

### ***Grants payable without performance conditions***

There are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the charity.

### ***Support costs***

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to the activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

## Notes to the Accounts

### Note 2 DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total	2024 Total
Grants	1,000	20,868	21,868	32,485
Donations	1,875	-	1,875	3,227
Gift Aid	838	-	838	486
Donations & Legacies	<u>3,713</u>	<u>20,868</u>	<u>24,581</u>	<u>36,198</u>

Grants includes £2,893 (2024:£26,035) from Arts Council England.

### Note 3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total	2024 Total
Musical performances	6,349	-	6,349	9,126
Charitable activities	<u>6,349</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,349</u>	<u>9,126</u>

### Note 4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total	2024 Total
Musician fees & expenses	8,390	13,880	22,270	26,080
Commissions	-	1,800	1,800	8,000
Programme materials	-	311	311	655
Project management	1,580	5,391	6,971	7,145
Marketing	110	-	110	25
Admin & sundry expenses	241	6	247	311
Charitable activities	<u>10,321</u>	<u>21,388</u>	<u>31,709</u>	<u>42,216</u>

### Note 5 STAFF COSTS

There were no employees during the year (2024: no employees).

### Note 6 GOVERNANCE COSTS

There have been no governance costs during the year (2024: £nil).

## Notes to the Accounts (continued)

### Note 7 DEBTORS - amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total	2024 Total
Trade debtors	150	-	150	3,095
Gift Aid	488	-	488	4,928
Debtors	<u>638</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>638</u>	<u>8,023</u>

### Note 8 Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total	2024 Total
Accruals	-	-	-	6,675
Creditors < 1 year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,675</u>

### Note 9 FUNDS

	brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	carried forward
Unrestricted	22,452	10,062	(10,946)	-	21,568
Restricted					
Migrations	411	14,618	(15,029)	-	-
Apprentices	219	6,250	(6,359)	-	110
	<u>630</u>	<u>20,868</u>	<u>(21,388)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>110</u>
	<u>23,082</u>	<u>30,930</u>	<u>(32,334)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,678</u>

Migrations is a programme to deliver experience of live music to primary school children, that also addresses the issues of migration, diversity and inclusion. This is funded by Arts Council England.

Apprentices is a programme designed to support young musicians and their performance skills.

**Notes to the Accounts (continued)**

	2023 brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	2024 carried forward
Unrestricted	19,974	12,839	(10,361)	-	22,452
Restricted					
Migrations	-	26,035	(25,624)	-	411
Apprentices	-	6,450	(6,231)	-	219
	-	32,485	(31,855)	-	630
	19,974	45,324	(42,216)	-	23,082

Migrations is a programme to deliver experience of live music to primary school children, that also addresses the issues of migration, diversity and inclusion. This is funded by Arts Council England.

Apprentices is a programme designed to support young musicians and their performance skills.

**Note 10 RELATED PARTIES**

One trustee received a gift on retiring (Sarah Gee, £100) (2023: £nil); no trustee received any remuneration in the year (2023: £nil). One trustee was paid expenses in the year (Isabel Churcher £110), (2023: nil).

There were no other related party transactions (2023: £nil).

**THE STRINGCREDIBLES**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158652

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# Accounts

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# **THE STRINGCREDIBLES**

**Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts  
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

## **Charity information**

### **Trustees**

Sarah Gee (resigned 19 September 2023), Chair (until 19 September 2023)

Isabel Churcher (appointed 24 July 2023), Chair (from 19 September 2023)

Louise Braithwaite (appointed 24 July 2023)

Michele Deeks (appointed 24 July 2023)

Seb Lovell-Huckle (from 24 July 2023)

Eluned Mansell

Philip Mills

Sally-Ann Sinclair (resigned 25 May 2023)

### **Charity Name**

The Stringcredibles

### **Charity Number**

1158652 (registered in England and Wales as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

### **Bankers**

Co-operative Bank plc, Delf Way, Skelmersdale. WN8 6GH

### **Independent Examiner**

Emma Bunting, MA, FCCA

### **Charity Principal Address**

55 Bunbury Road, Birmingham, B31 2DS

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024**

The Trustees of the Charity present their Annual Report and Accounts for the 12-month period ended 31 March 2024.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The objects of the Charity are to advance the education of the public in the art of music, in particular, but not exclusively, by facilitating creative learning experiences which allow participants to discover and develop their individual capabilities, skills and potential.

The Trustees have complied with their duty in Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The objects of the charity have been achieved by:

- Enabling children to be active participants in classical music.
- Encouraging young performers to communicate better through their music.
- Sharing and developing dynamic performance practice among professionals.

### **Activities**

2023 - 2024 has been one of the busiest years to date for The Stringcredibles. We:

- continued to deliver our regular suite of performances - Making Music, Feeling Good, Tunes from the Trenches and Stringlebell Rock;

ran our Apprentice programme for yet another year, in partnership with Services for Education Music Service, Birmingham;

- continued our involvement with Wolverhampton Music Service's Elevate programme;
- delivered CPD for teachers at Milton Keynes Music Education Hub;
- used our Pitch Pace Perform methodology to deliver training at the Toho Gakuen Music School in Tokyo, the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and with the Career Accelerator Fellows at the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra; and
- created a brand new show - The Butterfly Lands - with major support from Arts Council England.

### **Stringcredible Apprentices 2023**

With strong support from the Albert and Eugenie Frost Music Trust for the second year running, our Stringcredible Apprentices programme 2023 was a great success. Our Apprentices programme has been running since 2015, and is designed to

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

support young musicians and their performance skills. It allows for the development of young string players in inspirational roles, widens the reach of our performance methodologies programme, creates diverse role models in a very diverse city and support the work of an excellent music hub.

In the autumn term, we took on a new cohort of learners in partnership with Birmingham's Music Service at Services for Education (SFE). Throughout the term we worked with 8 young string quartet players and 4 music teachers. The teachers and young musicians came to see The Stringcredibles perform in a primary school, then learned how to perform the show as brand new quartets. The Stringcredibles trained the quartet of teachers, and then mentored the teachers as they trained up the quartets of young musicians.

Our 8 Apprentices were a culturally diverse cohort of male and female string players, selected by Sally Hobbs (Head of Strings at SFE) as being musicians of promise, who would benefit most from the experience. All participants had been taught by SFE teachers at some/all stages, and were part of either Birmingham Schools String Sinfonia or Birmingham Schools Symphony Orchestra. The project helped them to really hone their performance and public speaking skills, and use these to inspire other children to engage with music.

This year we are proud to have reached:

- 8 young strings players 4 music service teachers
- 8 primary schools
- 2,060 primary school children
- 1,000+ additional instrumental learners

The project has had positive impacts on:

- Primary school children and their experience of, and engagement with, music
- Young musicians and their performance skills
- Music teachers and their ability to reach more schools through delivering ensemble performances
- Young Instrumental learners taught by the music teacher quartet
- Music Education Hub Staff, and their strategic approach to Continuing Professional development and widening participation
- Recruitment of new instrumental learners and encouraging schools to increase and extend music provision.

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

### **Pitch Pace Perform**

Our trademark Pitch Pace Perform methodology is still very much a driving thread of our work. Designed to connect performers powerfully with their audiences we have delivered training at the Toho Gakuen Music School in Tokyo, the woodwind department of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, with the Career Accelerator Fellows at the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and with teachers at the Milton Keynes Music Education Hub.

### **Wolverhampton Elevate**

We continue to support Wolverhampton Music Service's fast-track progression programme Elevate. This is an ongoing partnership, delivering workshops in performance and ensemble skills for the young people selected for the programme.

### **The Butterfly Lands**

Considerable time this year has been spent developing our newest show for primary schools, The Butterfly Lands, focusing on migration, connected to the Kindness Curriculum. We have partnered with multiple creatives from composers and poets, to visual artists and academic researchers. The various components of the show were commissioned in the autumn term, and after taking part in workshops and rehearsals with Nate Holder we delivered our first pilot performance was at St Matthew's Church of England school in February 2024. We have had 22 performances funded in the first run of the show, across 4 music hubs - Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Walsall. Seven of these performances took place in this financial year. Our creative partners are:

- Lead partner: Saxophonist Nate Holder
- Composers: Dot Inc, Shruthi Rajasekar, Simmy Singh, Victoria Arlidge, Ryan Linham and Bobbie Jane Gardner
- Poet: Casey Bailey
- Illustrator: Rosie Brooks
- Researcher: Jenny Philimore (Professor of Migration and Superdiversity at the University of Birmingham) with support from student researcher Adam Stanley.

Our funding structure of this project is a combination of support from Arts Council England, trusts and foundations, earned income, and generous individual donors.

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

The show has been the catalyst for developing new partnerships, including additional Music Education Hubs and the Schools of Sanctuary networks.

### **Schools and partners**

Schools we have visited with all our projects in this period:

- Warwick Prep School, Warwickshire
- Woden Primary School, Wolverhampton
- Christ Church Primary School, Sparkbrook
- St Jude's Catholic Primary School, Birmingham
- St Matthew's Church of England Primary School, Birmingham
- Toho Gakuen Music School, Tokyo
- Ark Tindal School, Birmingham
- Kingsland Primary School, Birmingham
- Hollywood Primary School, Birmingham
- Raddlebarn Primary School, Birmingham
- Penns Primary School, Sutton Coldfield
- Story Wood Primary School, Erdington, Birmingham
- Woodhouse Primary School, Quinton, Birmingham
- St Laurence Church Junior School, Northfield
- St Bernard's Catholic Primary School, Birmingham
- St Clare's Catholic Primary School, Birmingham
- Lightwoods Primary School, Sandwell
- Langley Primary School, Sandwell
- Chandos Primary School, Birmingham
- St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School, Birmingham

Organisations we have worked with in this period:

- Services for Education Music Service, Birmingham
- Wolverhampton Music Service
- Sandwell Music Education Hub (SIPS)
- Walsall Music Education Hub
- Milton Keynes Music Education Hub
- City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra
- Schools of Sanctuary Networks (Birmingham and Wolverhampton)
- University of Birmingham

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

Quotes from our participants:

*"This has been an incredible experience for me. It is something I will never forget. This performance has been the most fun I've had performing ever. Thank you."  
(Young apprentice)*

*"Thank you so much for visiting our school. The feedback has been amazing. Children were inspired, enthused and excited by the music they heard."  
(Primary school teacher)*

*"I learned that it is amazing when people play together."*

*"Music is fun"*

*"You can play with your heart."  
(Primary school children)*

*"Working with phenomenal musicians from The Stringcredibles - their support and encouragement increased my own musical and educational confidence."  
(Music teacher)*

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

### **Financial Review**

Income for the year was £45,324 (2023: £11,358), and expenditure was £42,216 (2023: £23,603). The resulting surplus of £3,108 (2023: £12,245 deficit), left the charity with closing funds of £23,082 (2023: £19,974). The surplus was due to new projects starting, with expenditure slightly behind income, plus additional donations.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have set a policy that committed expenditure does not exceed the value of unrestricted funds, and that the unrestricted funds do not exceed 12 months of planned expenditure. The total unrestricted funds at 31 March 2024 amounted to £22,452 (2023: £19,974); the Trustees consider that the reserves do not exceed what is necessary for the Charity to continue as a going concern and plans are in place to apply the unrestricted funds to the charitable purposes within a reasonable timescale. Restricted funds at 31 March 2024 were £630 (2023: £nil).

### **Going Concern**

The Charity's work is delivered in programmes of work based on funding achieved. It does not, therefore, commit expenditure that is not funded, and at the end of the year had reserves to cover committed expenditure. The Trustees believe that the Charity will be able to meet its ongoing commitments for more than 12 months from the signing of the Balance Sheet, and that it is therefore appropriate to continue accounting on a going concern basis.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which was registered with the Charity Commission on 24 September 2014. It is governed by a constitution using the foundation model dated 22 November 2022. The Trustees make strategic decisions and ensure overall control; they delegate day to day management and delivery of this objective to the Stringcredibles' musicians, who are:

- Catherine Arlidge
- Helen Edgar
- Bryony Morrison
- Amy Thomas

The Trustees during the year under review and up to the date the accounts were approved are listed on page 1.

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

The Board recruits new trustees by assessing the skills required and skills of existing trustees, determining a skills gap and advertising for suitable applicants. New trustees are appointed at duly convened meetings of the board of trustees.

This year has seen board recruitment and development for The Stringcredibles. We advertised for new Trustees and received numerous interesting applications. Following a rigorous recruitment process, we appointed four new Trustees: Louise Braithwaite, Isabel Churcher, Michele Deeks and Seb Lovell-Huckle. They all bring a passion for music and professional and personal insights into the world of The Stringcredibles.

Louise is a professional orchestral performer and has significant experience in project management and board experience. She also brings considerable insight into the issues involved in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion for cultural organisations.

Isabel brings many years' experience of Boards locally and nationally. Her professional experience is primarily in heritage and most recently in the Museums team at the Arts Council. Her connection to music is through personal and family interests.

Michele is a psychologist who has run her own consultancy business for many years. She brings a wealth of insight and experience in supporting high performing teams, enabling young people to become more resilient as well as enabling her own three children to explore musical opportunities.

Seb is CEO of The English Symphony Orchestra and was Executive Director of Birmingham Contemporary Music Group from 2019 to 2022. He has significant board experience both as a CEO and as a board member. He brings a particular interest in equitable access to performances and participation, and is a keen amateur cellist.

Eluned Mansell and Philip Mills continue to provide essential board support and particularly continuity, with the introduction of four new trustees.

In September, we said a very fond farewell to Sarah Gee, our Chair who had supported us so well over the years, and during the Covid pandemic. Isabel Churcher was appointed the new Chair. With an interest in Charity governance, Isabel has been leading the Board to ensure that our policies and procedures are all up to date and proportionate to our scale of operation. We have approved a regular cycle of governance updates throughout the year to give us a rhythm to our governance work. This also enables The Stringcredibles players and creatives to focus on their programming and funding applications.

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)**

### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity and of incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

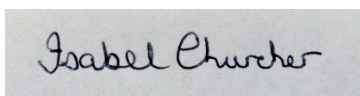
- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's governing document. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Declaration**

The Trustees declare that they approved the Trustees' report above on 23 September 2024.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's trustees:



Isabel Churcher  
Chair of Trustees

## **Independent Examiner's Report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 12 to 19.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(3) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## **Independent Examiner's Report (continued)**

### **Independent Examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirement to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and the regulations made thereunder have not been met;
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Emma Bunting, MA, FCCA  
Independent Examiner

Date. 01 October2024

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

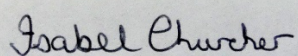
	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
INCOME					
Donations & legacies	2	3,713	32,485	36,198	9,558
Charitable activities	3	9,126	-	9,126	1,800
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>12,839</b>	<b>32,485</b>	<b>45,324</b>	<b>11,358</b>
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	4	10,361	31,855	42,216	22,103
Governance costs	6	-	-	-	1,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>10,361</b>	<b>31,855</b>	<b>42,216</b>	<b>23,603</b>
NET INCOME BEING					
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		2,478	630	3,108	(12,245)
FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		19,974	-	19,974	32,219
<b>FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>22,452</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>23,082</b>	<b>19,974</b>

## Balance Sheet at 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	7	8,023	-	8,023	4,442
Cash at Bank		14,429	7,305	21,734	17,032
		<u>22,452</u>	<u>7,305</u>	<u>29,757</u>	<u>21,474</u>
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within 1 year</b>					
	8	-	6,675	6,675	1,500
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>22,452</u>	<u>630</u>	<u>23,082</u>	<u>19,974</u>
<b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>22,452</u>	<u>630</u>	<u>23,082</u>	<u>19,974</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted		22,452	-	22,452	19,974
Restricted		-	630	630	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	9	<u>22,452</u>	<u>630</u>	<u>23,082</u>	<u>19,974</u>

The notes on pages 14 to 19 form part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 23 September 2024 and authorised to be signed by:



Isabel Churcher  
Chair of Trustees

## Accounting Policies

### Note 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared 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 (FRS 102) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following 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 (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn. The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### 1.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds and expected income and expenditure for the following 12-month period.

#### 1.3 Incoming Resources

##### ***Recognition of incoming resources***

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the Charity becomes entitled to the resources,
- it is more likely than not that the Charity will receive the resources, and

## **Accounting Policies (continued)**

- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

### ***Incoming resources with related expenditure***

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contractual income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.

### ***Grants and donations***

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

### ***Tax reclaims on donations and gifts***

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

### ***Contractual income and performance related grants***

This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

### ***Volunteer help***

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the Trustees' annual report.

### ***Investment income***

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

## 1.4 Expenditure and liabilities

### ***Liability recognition***

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out funds.

### ***Charitable activities***

These costs relate to the musicians' fees for the provision of concerts, etc..

### ***Governance costs***

These include the costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

## **Accounting Policies (continued)**

### ***Grants with performance conditions***

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient has provided the specified service or output.

### ***Grants payable without performance conditions***

There are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the charity.

### ***Support costs***

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to the activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

## Notes to the Accounts

### Note 2 DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
Grants	-	32,485	32,485	6,224
Donations	3,227	-	3,227	2,682
Gift Aid	486	-	486	652
Donations & Legacies	<u>3,713</u>	<u>32,485</u>	<u>36,198</u>	<u>9,558</u>

Grants includes £26,035 from Arts Council England.

### Note 3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
Musical performances	<u>9,126</u>	-	<u>9,126</u>	<u>1,800</u>
Charitable activities	<u>9,126</u>	-	<u>9,126</u>	<u>1,800</u>

### Note 4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
Musician fees & expenses	6,955	19,125	26,080	14,384
Commissions	-	8,000	8,000	-
Programme materials	-	655	655	4,466
Project management	3,079	4,066	7,145	2,591
Marketing	25	-	25	429
Admin & sundry expenses	302	9	311	233
Charitable activities	<u>10,361</u>	<u>31,855</u>	<u>42,216</u>	<u>22,103</u>

### Note 5 STAFF COSTS

There were no employees during the year (2023: no employees).

### Note 6 GOVERNANCE COSTS

There have been no governance costs during the year (2023: £1,500 Independent Examiner fees).

## Notes to the Accounts (continued)

### Note 7 DEBTORS - amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total
Trade debtors	3,095	-	3,095
Gift Aid	4,928	-	4,928
Debtors	<u>8,023</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,023</u>

### Note 8 Creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
Accruals	-	6,675	6,675	1,500
Creditors < 1 year	<u>-</u>	<u>6,675</u>	<u>6,675</u>	<u>1,500</u>

### Note 9 FUNDS

	2023 brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	2024 carried forward
Unrestricted	19,974	12,839	(10,361)	-	22,452
Restricted					
Migrations	-	26,035	(25,624)	-	411
Apprentices	-	6,450	(6,231)	-	219
	<u>-</u>	<u>32,485</u>	<u>(31,855)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>630</u>
	<u>19,974</u>	<u>45,324</u>	<u>(42,216)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,082</u>

Migrations is a programme to deliver experience of live music to primary school children, that also addresses the issues of migration, diversity and inclusion. This is funded by Arts Council England.

Apprentices is a programme designed to support young musicians and their performance skills.

**Notes to the Accounts (continued)**

	2022 brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	2023 carried forward
Unrestricted	26,974	5,134	(12,134)	-	19,974
Restricted					
Apprentices (Albert & Eugenie Frost Music Trust)	-	4,750	(4,750)	-	-
Power Up (Arts Council England)	5,245	1,474	(6,719)	-	-
	5,245	6,224	(11,469)	-	-
	32,219	11,358	(23,603)	-	19,974

Apprentices is a programme designed to support young musicians and their performance skills.

Power Up includes a grant from Arts Council England of £13,267. This programme builds on the Pitch, Pace, Perform programme by training teachers in four music hubs.

**Note 10 RELATED PARTIES**

One trustee received a gift on retiring (Sarah Gee, £100) (2023: £nil); no trustee received any remuneration in the year (2023: £nil). One trustee was paid expenses in the year (Isabel Churcher £110), (2023: nil).

There were no other related party transactions (2023: £nil).

**THE STRINGCREDIBLES**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158652

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# Accounts

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# **THE STRINGCREDIBLES**

**Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

## Contents

	Page
Charity information	1
Trustees Annual Report	2-5
Independent Examiners Report	6
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance Sheet	8
Accounting Policies	9-11
Notes to the accounts	12-14

## **Charity information**

### **Trustees**

Sarah Gee (resigned 19 September 2023), Chair (until 19 September 2023)  
Isabel Churcher (appointed 24 July 2023), Chair (from 19 September 2023)  
Louise Braithwaite (appointed 24 July 2023)  
Michele Deeks (appointed 24 July 2023)  
Mark Devin (resigned 31 December 2022)  
Sebastian Lovell-Huckle (appointed 24 July 2023)  
Eluned Mansell  
Philip Mills  
Sally-Ann Sinclair (resigned 25 May 2023)

### **Charity Name**

The Stringcredibles

### **Charity Number**

1158652

### **Bankers**

Co-operative Bank plc  
Delf Way  
Skelmersdale  
WN8 6GH

### **Independent Examiner**

Kirsty Jackson BA (Hons) FCCA ACA  
JW Hinks LLP  
19 Highfield Road  
Edgbaston  
Birmingham  
B15 3BH

### **Charity Principal Address**

55 Bunbury Road  
Birmingham  
B31 2DS

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023**

The Trustees of the Charity present their Annual Report and Accounts for the 12-month period ended 31 March 2023.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The objects of the Charity are to advance the education of the public in the art of music, in particular, but not exclusively, by facilitating creative learning experiences which allow participants to discover and develop their individual capabilities, skills and potential.

The Trustees have complied with their duty in Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The objects of the charity have been achieved by:

- Enabling children to be active participants in classical music.
- Encouraging young performers to communicate better through their music.
- Sharing and developing dynamic performance practice among professionals.

### **Activities**

2022 - 2023 was a year of continued delivery, consolidation and future planning. We ran our Apprentices programme once again with Birmingham Music Hub, continued our involvement with Wolverhampton Music Hub's Elevate programme, visited primary schools across the West Midlands and started to plan an exciting new show focusing on Migration, in partnership with saxophonist Nate Holder.

### **Stringcredible Apprentices 2022**

Our Apprentices programme has been running since 2015, and is designed to support young musicians and their performance skills. It allows for the development of young string players in inspirational roles, widens the reach of our performance methodologies programme, creates diverse role models in a very diverse city and supports the work of an excellent music hub.

The Apprentices programme offers:

- A first point of access for primary school children to watch live string performance and to explore opportunities to take up instrumental learning
- A chance for young musicians to up-skill and perform as a quartet, acting as inspirational role models for their peers
- Professional development opportunities for music teachers
- Cascading of learning from The Stringcredibles to music teachers and then to the pupils they teach

Support for the regional Music Education Hub (Birmingham Music Service) in recruiting more young musicians and developing the skillset of existing performers.

We worked with:

- 4 string teachers from Services for Education, Birmingham Music Service
- 8 young school aged string players, from 5 different schools in 2 string quartets

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

We performed in 9 primary schools to audiences of over 1,600 children:

- Acocks Green Primary School
- Chad Vale Primary School
- Bournville Primary School
- Town Junior School
- George Dixon Academy
- Benson Primary School
- Broadmeadow Primary School
- Mansfield Green Primary Academy
- Benson Community School

Having been an Arts Council funded programme to date, Stringcredible Apprentices has moved to a new model, funded by Albert and Eugenie Frost Music Trust.

### **Wolverhampton Elevate**

We continue to support Wolverhampton Music Services' fast track progression programme Elevate. This is an ongoing partnership, delivering workshops in performance and ensemble skills for the young people selected for the programme.

### **Planning of Migration show**

Considerable time this year has been spent planning our newest show for primary schools focused on migration, connected to the Kindness Curriculum. We are partnering with multiple creatives from composers, to visual artists, to statisticians. To build a bid for Arts Council England projects funding, we had conversations with:

- Lead partner: saxophonist Nate Holder
- Composers: Dot Inc, Shruthi Rajasekar, Cassie Kinoshi, Victoria Arlidge, Ryan Linham and Bobbie Jane Gardner
- Poet: Casey Bailey
- Researcher: Jenny Philimore, Professor of Migration and Superdiversity at the University of Birmingham
- Music Hubs in Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton and Sandwell

We heard later in the year that our funding bid was successful, and we have moved into the phase of creating the show, ready for delivery in schools in early 2024.

Our funding structure remains a combination of earned income with support from trusts and foundations, Arts Council England on a project by project basis and generous individual donors.

### **Financial Review**

Income for the year was £11,358 (2022: £30,201), and expenditure was £23,603 (2022: £23,400). The resulting deficit of £12,245 (2022: £6,801 surplus), left the charity with closing funds of

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

£19,974 (2022: £32,219). The deficit was due to the Power Up programme coming to an end, and so applying brought forward funds, and preparing for the Migrations programme.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have set a policy that committed expenditure does not exceed the value of unrestricted funds, and that the unrestricted funds do not exceed 12 months of planned expenditure. The total unrestricted funds at 31 March 2023 amounted to £19,974 (2022: £26,974); the Trustees consider that the reserves do not exceed what is necessary for the Charity to continue as a going concern and plans are in place to apply the unrestricted funds to the charitable purposes within a reasonable timescale. Restricted funds at 31 March 2023 were £nil (2022: £5,245).

### **Going Concern**

The Charity's work is delivered in programmes of work based on funding achieved. It does not, therefore, commit expenditure that is not funded, and at the end of the year had reserves to cover committed expenditure. The Trustees believe that the Charity will be able to meet its ongoing commitments for more than 12 months from the signing of the Balance Sheet, and that it is therefore appropriate to continue accounting on a going concern basis.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which was registered with the Charity Commission on 24 September 2014. It is governed by a constitution using the foundation model dated 22 November 2022. The Trustees make strategic decisions and ensure overall control; they delegate day to day management and delivery of this objective to the Stringcredibles' musicians, who are:

- Catherine Arlidge
- Helen Edgar
- Bryony Morrison
- Amy Thomas

The Trustees during the year under review and up to the date the accounts were approved are listed on page 1.

The Board recruits new trustees by assessing the skills required and skills of existing trustees, determining a skills gap and advertising for suitable applicants. New trustees are appointed at duly convened meetings of the board of trustees.

There was one change to the board during the year to 31 March 2023. Mark Devin resigned from the board on 31 December 2022.

## Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity and of incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

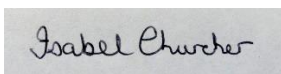
- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's governing document. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### Declaration

The Trustees declare that they approved the Trustees' report above on 24 October 2023.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's trustees:



Isabel Churcher  
Chair of Trustees

## Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 7 to 14.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

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

### Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### Independent Examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



Kirsty Jackson, BA (Hons) FCCA ACA  
Independent Examiner  
15 January 2024

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
<b>INCOME</b>					
Voluntary income	2	3,334	6,224	9,558	25,601
Charitable activities	3	1,800	-	1,800	4,600
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>5,134</b>	<b>6,224</b>	<b>11,358</b>	<b>30,201</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Charitable activities	4	10,634	11,469	22,103	23,400
Governance costs	6	1,500	-	1,500	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>12,134</b>	<b>11,469</b>	<b>23,603</b>	<b>23,400</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>(7,000)</b>	<b>(5,245)</b>	<b>(12,245)</b>	<b>6,801</b>
<b>FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD</b>		<b>26,974</b>	<b>5,245</b>	<b>32,219</b>	<b>25,418</b>
<b>FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>19,974</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,974</b>	<b>32,219</b>

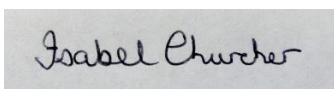
The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these accounts.

## Balance Sheet at 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	7	4,442	-	4,442	3,790
Cash at Bank		17,032	-	17,032	28,429
		<u>21,474</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,474</u>	<u>32,219</u>
<b>CREDITORS:</b>					
Amounts falling due within 1 year	8	1,500	-	1,500	-
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>19,974</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,974</u>	<u>32,219</u>
<b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>19,974</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,974</u>	<u>32,219</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted		19,974	-	19,974	26,974
Restricted		-	-	-	5,245
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	9	<u>19,974</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,974</u>	<u>32,219</u>

The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 24 October 2023 and authorised to be signed by:



Isabel Churcher  
Chair of Trustees

## Accounting Policies

### Note 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared 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 (FRS 102) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following 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 (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn. The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### 1.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds and expected income and expenditure for the following 12-month period.

#### 1.3 Incoming Resources

##### ***Recognition of incoming resources***

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the Charity becomes entitled to the resources,
- it is more likely than not that the Charity will receive the resources, and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

##### ***Incoming resources with related expenditure***

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contractual income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.

## Accounting Policies (continued)

### ***Grants and donations***

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

### ***Tax reclaims on donations and gifts***

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

### ***Contractual income and performance related grants***

This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

### ***Volunteer help***

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the Trustees' annual report.

### ***Investment income***

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

## 1.4 Expenditure and liabilities

### ***Liability recognition***

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out funds.

### ***Charitable activities***

These costs relate to the musicians' fees for the provision of concerts, etc..

### ***Governance costs***

These include the costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

## **Accounting Policies (continued)**

### ***Grants with performance conditions***

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient has provided the specified service or output.

### ***Grants payable without performance conditions***

There are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the charity.

### ***Support costs***

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to the activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

## Notes to the Accounts

### Note 2 VOLUNTARY INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
Grants	-	6,224	<b>6,224</b>	24,029
Donations	2,682	-	<b>2,682</b>	1,252
Gift Aid	652	-	<b>652</b>	320
	<u>3,334</u>	<u>6,224</u>	<u>9,558</u>	<u>25,601</u>

Grants includes £1,474 from Arts Council England.

### Note 3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
Fees from musical education performance	<u>1,800</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,800</u>	<u><b>4,600</b></u>

### Note 4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
Musician fees & expenses	5,598	8,786	14,384	14,875
Programme materials	4,466	-	4,466	756
Project management	78	2,513	2,591	5,197
Marketing	259	170	429	2,480
Admin & sundry expenses	233	-	233	92
	<u>10,634</u>	<u>11,469</u>	<u>22,103</u>	<u>23,400</u>

Fees paid to the Independent Examiner totalled £1,500 (2022: £nil).

### Note 5 STAFF COSTS

There were no employees during the year (2022: no employees).

### Note 6 GOVERNANCE COSTS

Independent examiners fees have been incurred for the year ended 31 March 2023 totalling £1,500. (2022: £nil).

**Notes to the Accounts (continued)****Note 7 DEBTORS – amounts falling due within one year**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 To- tal	2022 To- tal
Gift Aid	4,442	-	4,442	3,790
	<u>4,442</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,442</u>	<u>3,790</u>

**Note 8 CREDITORS**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 To- tal	2022 To- tal
Accruals	1,500	-	1,500	-
	<u>1,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>-</u>

**Note 9 FUNDS**

	2022 brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	2023 carried forward
Unrestricted	26,974	5,134	(12,134)	-	19,974
Restricted					
Apprentices (Albert & Eugene Frost Music Trust)	-	4,750	(4,750)	-	-
Power Up (Arts Council England)	5,245	1,474	(6,719)	-	-
	<u>5,245</u>	<u>6,224</u>	<u>(11,469)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>32,219</u>	<u>11,358</u>	<u>(23,603)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,974</u>

Apprentices is a programme designed to support young musicians and their performance skills.

Power Up includes a grant from Arts Council England of £13,267. This programme builds on the Pitch, Pace, Perform programme by training teachers in four music hubs.

**Notes to the Accounts (continued)**

	2021 brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	2022 carried forward
Unrestricted	24,418	7,234	(4,678)	-	26,974
Restricted					
Pitch Pace Performance (Arts Council England)	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-
Power Up (Arts Council England)	-	22,967	(17,722)	-	5,245
	1,000	22,967	(18,722)	-	5,245
	25,418	30,201	(23,400)	-	32,219

**Note 10 RELATED PARTIES**

No Trustee received any remuneration in the year (2022: £nil). No Trustee was paid any expenses in the year (2022: nil).

There were no other related party transactions (2022: £nil).

**THE STRINGCREDIBLES**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158652

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# Accounts

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# **THE STRINGCREDIBLES**

**Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts  
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

## **Charity information**

### **Trustees**

Sarah Gee, Chair  
Mark Devin (resigned 31 December 2022)  
Eluned Mansell  
Philip Mills  
Sally-Ann Sinclair

### **Charity Name**

The Stringcredibles

### **Charity Number**

1158652

### **Bankers**

Co-operative Bank plc, Delf Way, Skelmersdale. WN8 6GH

### **Independent Examiner**

Robert Page, CPFA, MSc. 187 Franchise Street, Wednesbury, WS10 9RH

### **Charity Principal Address**

131 Sellywood Road, Birmingham, B30 1XA

## Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees of the Charity present their Annual Report and Accounts for the 12-month period ended 31 March 2022.

### Objectives and Activities

The objects of the Charity are to advance the education of the public in the art of music, in particular, but not exclusively, by facilitating creative learning experiences which allow participants to discuss and develop their individual capabilities, skills and potential.

The Trustees have complied with their duty in Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The objects of the charity have been achieved by:

- Enabling children to be active participants in classical music.
- Encouraging young performers to communicate better through their music.
- Sharing and developing dynamic performance practice among professionals.

### Achievements and Performance

The Stringcredibles emerged from the Covid pandemic with a successful funding bid, from multiple funders, to deliver our largest project to date: Power Up. With this activity, and alongside other performing engagements, from April 2021 to March 2022 we have shared our music making with:

- over 5000 children
- 4 primary schools
- 4 music education hubs

**Power Up** was designed to boost the performance skills of young musicians and music teachers across the West Midlands, and to reconnect schools with live music after the challenges of the pandemic.

The project built on the success of our Pitch Pace Perform programme, established in 2015. This instils the premise that by pitching, pacing and performing classical music in a way that really considers the audience, you can create powerful connections, learning and relevance for the widest audiences and participants. Pitch Pace Perform enhances the musicians' delivery of their music through stronger stage presence, body language, communication of emotion, projection, and self-confidence. Connecting as powerfully as possible to audiences is a theme endorsed by ABRSM in their new Performance Grades and also in the adjudication of the recent BBC Young Musician of the Year competition. It is more important than ever, and actually very rarely taught in an applied way. Using these skills to in turn inspire younger children is the cascading model of Power Up.

Working in partnership with four music education hubs - Birmingham, Coventry, Sandwell, and Wolverhampton - and combining in-person training with brand new digital resources, Power Up aimed to cascade our methodology and dramatically increase the reach and impact of our Pitch Pace Perform content.

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)**

Together, we aimed to bring live music into primary schools in each hub area, and to reinvigorate music engagement with thousands of children.

Our key objectives were:

- To up-skill music teachers and young musicians in performance methodologies, using in-person and online training from world-class musicians
- To improve knowledge and confidence in teaching performances skills and ensemble work
- To promote renewed commitment to instrumental lessons and music in the school curriculum
- To support cross-hub collaboration and deeper embedding of applied learning, allowing Pitch Pace Perform methodology to reach far further than ever before.

### **Activity:**

Over the summer and autumn of 2021, we delivered a training scheme in each hub area, working with music hub staff, teachers and young musicians.

The project took place in two phases:

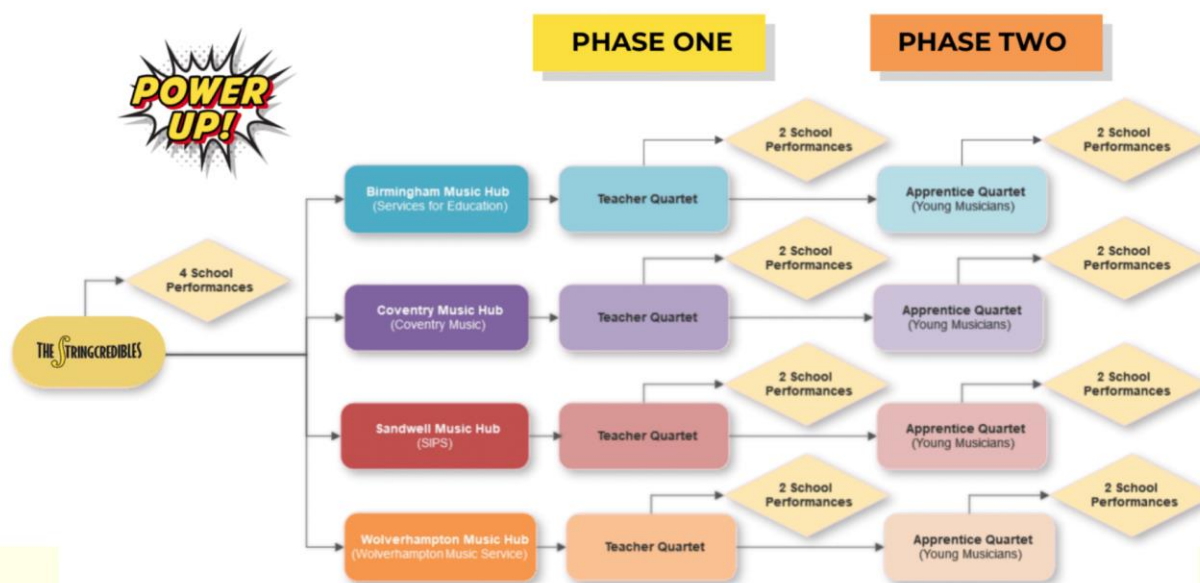
Phase One - The Stringcredibles performed in primary schools with opportunity for music teachers and young musicians to come along and observe. We then delivered a training programme for a quartet of music teachers in each hub, who then performed their own version of this interactive show in two local primary schools.

Phase Two - Those music teachers went on to train a quartet of young musicians in each hub, who then also performed in two local primary schools (with mentoring from The Stringcredibles).

All teachers and students had access to an online portal with all the resources they needed as well as child centred engaging videos supporting the Pitch Pace Perform method.

## Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

### PROJECT MODEL



### Key Achievements

- increased reach and impact of the Stringcredibles' expertise, and working both in-person and digitally, both regionally and nationally
- partnership working with **4** music hubs - Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton, and Sandwell, gaining greater insight into the opportunities and challenges
- provided in depth CPD for **17** peripatetic music teachers and a much needed boost in morale and sense of value
- **6** string quartets, made up of **16** of young musicians and **17** music teachers, performed in **21** primary schools, in **4** hub areas, to combined audiences of **3,540** children, whilst still observing the ever changing restrictions of the Covid pandemic
- **84%** of the primary school audiences said they either liked or loved the performances
- **92%** of teachers said their skills at holding the attention of a large audience improved
- **92%** of teachers said they felt more able to control their nerves when performing
- **100%** of apprentices showed improvement in communication skills
- **83%** of apprentices were more confident when presenting and performing
- increased demand for instrumental learning in those primary schools, and renewed commitment to supporting music teaching in the classroom
- embedded a hybrid (in-person and digital) way of working going forward
- created an opportunity for an emerging music administrator to gain valuable

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)**

experience working on a region-wide project with multiple partners

As a result of this programme, other organisations approached us to deliver this activity for them. These include:

- Wolverhampton's Elevate programme for pupils with potential
- Sheffield Music Hub, as part of the Awards for Young Musicians Furthering Talent programme
- Benedetti Foundation
- Chetham's School of Music

Primary schools visited in April 2021 – March 2022

### Birmingham

St Matthew's Church of England Primary School  
St Edward's Primary School  
Whitehouse Common Primary School  
St Mary's Church of England Primary School  
Colmore Junior School  
St Francis Church of England Primary School and Nursery

### Coventry

Hill Farm Primary School  
Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Primary School  
Stivichall Primary School  
Frederick Bird Primary School  
St Mary and St Benedict Catholic Primary School  
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

### Sandwell

Devonshire Junior Academy  
Ryders Green Primary  
Ferndale Primary School  
St Gregory's Catholic Primary School  
Abbey Junior School

### Wolverhampton

Holy Trinity Catholic Primary School  
St Michael's Church of England Primary School  
Woodthorne Primary School  
Castlecroft Primary School  
Christ Church Junior School

### Walsall

Pinfold Street Primary School

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)**

Warwickshire

Kings High Warwick, Warwick

### **Financial Review**

Income for the year was £30,201 (2021: £33,910), and expenditure was £23,400 (2021: £18,813). The resulting surplus of £6,801 (2021: £15,097), left the charity with closing funds of £32,219 (2021: £25,418).

### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have set a policy that committed expenditure does not exceed the value of unrestricted funds, and that the unrestricted funds do not exceed 12 months of planned expenditure. The total unrestricted funds at 31 March 2022 amounted to £26,974 (2021: £24,418); the Trustees consider that the reserves do not exceed what is necessary for the Charity to continue as a going concern and plans are in place to apply the unrestricted funds to the charitable purposes within a reasonable timescale. Restricted funds at 31 March 2022 were £5,245 (2021: £1,000).

### **Going Concern**

The Charity's work is delivered in programmes of work based on funding achieved. It does not, therefore, commit expenditure that is not funded, and at the end of the year had reserves to cover committed expenditure. The Trustees believe that the Charity will be able to meet its ongoing commitments for more than 12 months from the signing of the Balance Sheet, and that it is therefore appropriate to continue accounting on a going concern basis.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which was registered with the Charity Commission on 24 September 2014. It is governed by a constitution using the foundation model dated 22 November 2022. The Trustees make strategic decisions and ensure overall control; they delegate day to day management and delivery of this objective to the Stringcredibles' musicians, who are:

- Catherine Arlidge
- Helen Edgar
- Bryony Morrison
- Amy Thomas

The Trustees during the year under review and up to the date the accounts were approved are listed on page 1.

The Board recruits new trustees by assessing the skills required and skills of existing trustees, determining a skills gap and advertising for suitable applicants. New trustees are appointed at duly convened meetings of the board of trustees.

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)**

There were no changes to the board during the year to 31 March 2022. Mark Devin resigned from the board on 31 December 2022.

### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity and of incoming resources and application of resources of the charity 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 of the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable 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 charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's governing document. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Declaration**

The Trustees declare that they approved the Trustees' report above on 24 January 2023.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's trustees:



Philip Mills  
Trustee

## **Independent Examiner's Report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 10 to 18.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(3) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## Independent Examiner's Report (continued)

### Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirement [to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and the regulations made thereunder have not been met;
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Robert Page, CPFA, MSc

Date 07 February 2023

Independent Examiner

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
<b>INCOME</b>					
Voluntary income	2	2,634	22,967	25,601	30,695
Charitable activities	3	4,600	-	4,600	3,215
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>7,234</b>	<b>22,967</b>	<b>30,201</b>	<b>33,910</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Charitable activities	4	4,678	18,722	23,400	18,813
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>4,678</b>	<b>18,722</b>	<b>23,400</b>	<b>18,813</b>
<b>NET INCOME BEING</b>					
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		2,556	4,245	6,801	15,097
FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		24,418	1,000	25,418	10,321
<b>FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>26,974</b>	<b>5,245</b>	<b>32,219</b>	<b>25,418</b>

The notes on pages 12 to 18 form part of these accounts.

## Balance Sheet at 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	7	3,790	-	3,790	4,120
Cash at Bank		23,184	5,245	28,429	21,948
		<u>26,974</u>	<u>5,245</u>	<u>32,219</u>	<u>26,068</u>
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within 1 year</b>					
	8	-	-	-	650
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>26,974</u>	<u>5,245</u>	<u>32,219</u>	<u>25,418</u>
<b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>26,974</u>	<u>5,245</u>	<u>32,219</u>	<u>25,418</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted		26,974	-	26,974	24,418
Restricted		-	5,245	5,245	1,000
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	9	<u>26,974</u>	<u>5,245</u>	<u>32,219</u>	<u>25,418</u>

The notes on pages 12 to 18 form part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 24 January 2023 and authorised to be signed by:



Philip Mills  
Trustee

## Accounting Policies

### Note 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared 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 (FRS 102) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following 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 (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn. The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### 1.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds and expected income and expenditure for the following 12-month period.

#### 1.3 Incoming Resources

##### ***Recognition of incoming resources***

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the Charity becomes entitled to the resources,
- it is more likely than not that the Charity will receive the resources, and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

##### ***Incoming resources with related expenditure***

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contractual income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.

##### ***Grants and donations***

## Accounting Policies (continued)

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

### ***Tax reclaims on donations and gifts***

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

### ***Contractual income and performance related grants***

This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

### ***Volunteer help***

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the Trustees' annual report.

### ***Investment income***

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

## 1.4 Expenditure and liabilities

### ***Liability recognition***

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out funds.

### ***Charitable activities***

These costs relate to the musicians' fees for the provision of concerts, etc..

### ***Governance costs***

These include the costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

## **Accounting Policies (continued)**

### ***Grants with performance conditions***

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient has provided the specified service or output.

### ***Grants payable without performance conditions***

There are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the charity.

### ***Support costs***

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to the activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

## Notes to the Accounts

### Note 2 DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
Grants	1,062	22,967	<b>24,029</b>	13,324
Donations	1,252	-	<b>1,252</b>	13,891
Gift Aid	320	-	<b>320</b>	3,480
	<u>2,634</u>	<u>22,967</u>	<u>25,601</u>	<u>30,695</u>

Grants includes £13,267, from Arts Council England.

### Note 3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
Fees from musical education performances	<u>4,600</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,600</u>	<u>3,215</u>

### Note 4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
Musician fees & expenses	4,600	10,275	14,875	6,551
Programme materials	-	756	756	2,500
Project management	78	5,119	5,197	8,128
Marketing	-	2,480	2,480	342
Admin & sundry expenses	-	92	92	1,292
	<u>4,678</u>	<u>18,722</u>	<u>23,400</u>	<u>18,813</u>

No fees were paid to the Independent Examiner (2021: £nil).

### Note 5 STAFF COSTS

There were no employees during the year (2021: no employees).

### Note 6 OVERNANCE COSTS

There have been no governance costs during the year (2021: £nil).

**Notes to the Accounts (continued)****Note 7 DEBTORS – amounts falling due within one year**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
Trade debtors	-	-	-	650
Gift Aid	3,790	-	3,790	3,470
	<u>3,790</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,790</u>	<u>4,120</u>

**Note 8 CREDITORS – amounts falling due within one year**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
Musicians' fees & travelling expenses	-	-	-	650

**Notes to the Accounts (continued)****Note 9 FUNDS**

	2021 brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	2022 carried forward
Unrestricted	24,418	7,234	(4,678)	-	26,974
Restricted					
Pitch Pace Perform (Arts Council England)	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-
Powe Up (Arts Council England)	-	22,967	(17,722)	-	5,245
	1,000	22,967	(18,722)	-	5,245
	25,418	30,201	(23,400)	-	32,219

Power Up includes a grant from Arts Council England of £13,267. This programme builds on the Pitch, Pace, Perform programme by training teachers in four music hubs.

	2020 brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	2021 carried forward £
Unrestricted	12,771	21,586	(7,489)	(2,450)	24,418
Restricted					
Power Up	-	12,324	(11,324)	-	1,000
Roadshow	(2,450)	-	-	2,450	-
	(2,450)	12,324	(11,324)	2,450	1,000
	10,321	33,910	(18,813)	-	25,418

Power Up includes a grant from Arts Council England of £8,100. This programme builds on the Pitch, Pace, Perform programme by training teachers in four music hubs.

**Note 10 RELATED PARTIES**

## **Notes to the Accounts (continued)**

No Trustee received any remuneration in the year (2021: £nil). No Trustee was paid any expenses in the year (2021: nil).

There were no other related party transactions (2021: £nil).

**THE STRINGCREDIBLES**

England & Wales - Charity number 1158652

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# Accounts

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# **THE STRINGCREDIBLES**

**Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts  
for the year ended 31 March 2021**

## **Charity information**

### **Trustees**

Sarah Gee, Chair (from 9 November 2020)  
Calum Nisbet, Chair (resigned 9 November 2020)  
Mark Devin (appointed 25 January 2021)  
Eluned Mansell  
Philip Mills  
Sally-Ann Sinclair

### **Charity Name**

The Stringcredibles

### **Charity Number**

1158652

### **Bankers**

Co-operative Bank plc, Delf Way, Skelmersdale. WN8 6GH

### **Independent Examiner**

Robert Page, CPFA, MSc. 187 Franchise Street, Wednesbury, WS10 9RH

### **Charity Principal Address**

131 Sellywood Road, Birmingham, B30 1XA

## Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021

The Trustees of the Charity present their Annual Report and Accounts for the 12-month period ended 31 March 2021.

### Objectives and Activities

The objects of the Charity are to advance the education of the public in the art of music, in particular but not exclusively, by facilitating creative learning experiences which allow participants to discuss and develop their individual capabilities, skills and potential.

The Trustees have complied with their duty in Section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The objects of the charity have been achieved by:

- Enabling children to be active participants in classical music.
- Encouraging young performers to communicate better through their music.
- Sharing and developing dynamic performance practice among professionals.

### Achievements and Performance

The Stringcredibles, an independent string quartet of CBSO musicians, is dedicated to supporting the connection between audiences and musicians. The Stringcredibles continue to perform in schools and community settings, work creatively with young children, support communication skills in instrumental learners and lead professional development for music professionals.

2020 – 21 was the year of Covid and for the Stringcredibles this meant two things, disruption to our core activities in schools and increased focus on delivering digital content.

#### Pitch Pace Perform, Stringcredibles Apprentices and Power Up

In the year April 2020 - March 2021 we had two major strands of work that are connected:

- **Pitch Pace Perform (PPP)** - the methodology and training content focused on supporting musicians to connect powerfully with audiences
- **Stringcredibles Apprentices** - the application of Pitch Pace Perform with young musicians

These programmes, alongside our own performances in schools and community settings, have been funded by Arts Council England and many other trusts, foundations and individuals since 2015.

At the time of the first lockdown in March 2020, we had shaped the next iteration of PPP into the new programme – **Power Up**. Our aim was to increase exponentially the reach and impact of our methodology and we therefore developed a model that supported music teachers across four music hubs in the West Midlands, to deliver the Stringcredibles Apprentices programme themselves with guidance and support from the Stringcredibles in person and also digitally.

We were successful in achieving funding from the first round of Arts Council England's Covid-19 Emergency Response Fund, receiving £8,100. This funding allowed us to continue momentum in our work, enabling us to:

## Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

- Research and create a new digital learning platform for Power Up
- Commission new arrangements from composers, for the ongoing delivery of Pitch Pace Perform and Apprentices
- Cement our partnerships with the four local music hubs - Birmingham, Coventry, Sandwell and Wolverhampton
- Film multiple videos to digitise the Pitch Pace Perform methodology (autumn 2020)
- Cover freelance project management costs
- Cover overheads such as IT and insurance
- Continue fundraising for future project work

Whilst live activity on the Power Up project was still impossible, we spent the spring of 2021 editing and uploading content to the new learning platform alongside creating worksheets and resources to accompany the videos.

### Other Online Activity in 2020 – 21

In the first lockdown, we created a series of tutorial videos called **Stringcredibles Connect**, which aimed to keep young musicians practising and feeling connected during a time of social isolation. These videos were made available for free on our website, on YouTube and on Vimeo. The videos also provided a starting point template for our further digital work and funding application to Arts Council England.

Further lockdown challenges meant we had to move in-person delivery planned for the summer term of 2021 to the autumn, and we also worked in other ways digitally.

In June 2020 we delivered Presentation Skills workshops on Teams for children at Chetham's School of Music. And through the spring of 2021 Catherine Arlidge delivered Presentation Skills for Musicians workshops, based on PPP, on Zoom for professional orchestras and music colleges including:

- BBC Symphony Orchestra
- BBC Concert Orchestra
- BBC National Orchestra of Wales
- BBC Philharmonic
- Hallé
- City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra
- Scottish Chamber Orchestra
- Royal Northern Sinfonia
- Ulster Orchestra
- Sinfonia Cymru
- Musical Orbit
- Musicians' Union

## Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

- Leeds College of Music
- Royal Northern College of Music
- Trinity Laban.

### Performances

In November - December 2020 school visits once again became possible, and we had considerable interest from schools for live performances.

We created a new Christmas themed show - **Stringlebell Rock** - and delivered multiple performances in December to “bubbles” of children in Pinfold Street Primary School, Greenholm Primary School and St. Matthew's C.E. Primary Teaching and Research School.

In March 2021 we launched another new show - **Feeling Good** - based on the Five Ways of Wellbeing. This show had its first outing once again at St. Matthew's C.E. Primary Teaching and Research School.

### Feedback

*“This remains one of the best projects I’ve been involved with. So incredibly moving to see children and young people experience classical music for the first time and loving it.” – Senior Manager at Arts Council England & Primary School Governor*

*“It’s fabulous work that you do with these musicians, and they are so inspiring to their primary school audience. Thank you” – Parent of Stringcredible Apprentice*

*“Thank you Stringcredibles! You always bring the musical joy!” – St Matthew’s Research School*

### Future Plans

From 2021 onwards, The Stringcredibles will continue to develop a strong digital offering alongside their live performances, training opportunities and project work. This blended approach has already attracted continued support from Arts Council England as well as a range of other grants, trusts and individual donors.

By working in partnership with multiple Music Education Hubs across the West Midlands, The Stringcredibles will be extending their reach and impact in a strategic way. The introduction of new shows to support wellness and to share the joy of music during the festive season will offer additional modes of income.

Plans for further routes to sustainable income, such as the Patreon individual giving platform and pay-to-access online courses, are also in development.

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)**

### **Financial Review**

In the face of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on schools, performing arts and everyday life, The Stringcredibles adapted and finished the year in a financially stable position. By focussing on what could be achieved digitally, the charity attracted higher grant and donation income than the prior year.

Income for the year was £33,910 (2020: £12,699), and expenditure was £18,813 (2020: £29,366). The resulting surplus of £15,097 (2020: £16,667 deficit), left the charity with closing funds of £25,418 (2020: £10,321).

### **Reserves Policy**

The Trustees have set a policy that committed expenditure does not exceed the value of unrestricted funds, and that the unrestricted funds do not exceed 12 months of planned expenditure. The total unrestricted funds at 31 March 2021 amounted to £24,418 (2020: £12,771) the Trustees consider that, in the light of continuing uncertainty during the COVID-19 pandemic, the reserves do not exceed what is necessary for the Charity to continue as a going concern and plans are in place to apply the unrestricted funds to the charitable purposes within a reasonable timescale. Restricted funds at 31 March 2021 were £1,000 (2020: £2,450 deficit).

### **Going Concern**

The Charity's work is delivered in programmes of work based on funding achieved. It does not, therefore, commit expenditure that is not funded, and at the end of the year had reserves to cover committed expenditure. The Trustees believe that the Charity will be able to meet its ongoing commitments for more than 12 months from the signing of the Balance Sheet, and that it is therefore appropriate to continue accounting on a going concern basis.

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Charity is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which was registered with the Charity Commission on 24 September 2014. It is governed by a constitution using the foundation model dated 24 September 2014. The Trustees make strategic decisions and ensure overall control; they delegate day to day management and delivery of this objective to the Stringcredibles' musicians, who are:

- Catherine Arlidge
- Helen Edgar
- Bryony Morrison
- Amy Thomas

The Trustees during the year under review and up to the date the accounts were approved are listed on page 1.

The Board recruits new trustees by assessing the skills required and skills of existing trustees, determining a skills gap and advertising for suitable applicants. New trustees are appointed at

## Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

duly convened meetings of the board of trustees.

During the year, Calum Nesbit resigned as Trustee and Chair, having completed the maximum term allowed under the constitution. Sarah Gee replaced Calum as Chair. In January 2021, the Board appointed Mark Devin as a Trustee in January 2021.

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity and of incoming resources and application of resources of the charity 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 of the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable 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 charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the charity's governing document. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the Charity's trustees:



Sarah Gee  
Chair of Trustees

17 January 2022

## Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 8 to 14.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(3) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charities Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirement
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act and the regulations made thereunder have not been met;
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Robert Page, CPFA, MSc  
Independent Examiner

Date

14 January 2022

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
<b>INCOME</b>					
Donations & legacies	2	18,371	12,324	30,695	11,734
Charitable activities	3	3,215	-	3,215	965
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>21,586</b>	<b>12,324</b>	<b>33,910</b>	<b>12,699</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Charitable activities	4	7,489	11,324	18,813	29,366
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>7,489</b>	<b>11,324</b>	<b>18,813</b>	<b>29,366</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<b>14,097</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>15,097</b>	<b>(16,667)</b>
Transfers		(2,450)	2,450	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>11,647</b>	<b>3,450</b>	<b>15,097</b>	<b>(16,667)</b>
<b>FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD</b>		<b>12,771</b>	<b>(2,450)</b>	<b>10,321</b>	<b>26,988</b>
<b>FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>24,418</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>25,418</b>	<b>10,321</b>

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form part of these accounts.

## Balance Sheet at 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	7	4,120	-	4,120	1,960
Cash at Bank		20,948	1,000	21,948	8,361
		<u>25,068</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>26,068</u>	<u>10,321</u>
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within 1 year</b>					
	8	650	-	650	-
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>24,418</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>25,418</u>	<u>10,321</u>
<b>NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>24,418</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>25,418</u>	<u>10,321</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted		24,418	-	24,418	12,771
Restricted		-	1,000	1,000	(2,450)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	9	<u>24,418</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>25,418</u>	<u>10,321</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 17 January 2022 and authorised to be signed by:



Sarah Gee  
Chair of Trustees

# Accounting Policies

## Note 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### 1.1 Basis of preparation of accounts

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared 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 (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following 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 (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn. The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

### 1.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds and expected income and expenditure for the following 12-month period.

### 1.3 Incoming Resources

#### ***Recognition of incoming resources***

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

- the Charity becomes entitled to the resources,
- it is more likely than not that the Charity will receive the resources, and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

#### ***Incoming resources with related expenditure***

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (as with fundraising or contractual income) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SOFA.

#### ***Grants and donations***

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

#### ***Tax reclaims on donations and gifts***

Incoming resources from tax reclaims are included in the SOFA at the same time as the gift to which they relate.

## Accounting Policies (continued)

### ***Contractual income and performance related grants***

This is only included in the SOFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

### ***Volunteer help***

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the Trustees' annual report.

### ***Investment income***

This is included in the accounts when receivable.

## 1.4 Expenditure and liabilities

### ***Liability recognition***

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out funds.

### ***Charitable activities***

These costs relate to the musicians' fees for the provision of concerts, etc..

### ***Governance costs***

These include the costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the cost of trustee meetings and cost of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters.

### ***Grants with performance conditions***

Where the charity gives a grant with conditions for its payment being a specific level of service or output to be provided, such grants are only recognised in the SOFA once the recipient has provided the specified service or output.

### ***Grants payable without performance conditions***

There are only recognised in the accounts when a commitment has been made and there are no conditions to be met relating to the grant which remain in the control of the charity.

### ***Support costs***

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to the activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

## Notes to the Accounts

### Note 2 DONATIONS & LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Grants	1,000	12,324	<b>13,324</b>	3,709
Donations	13,891	-	<b>13,891</b>	7,115
Gift Aid	3,480	-	<b>3,480</b>	910
	<u>18,371</u>	<u>12,324</u>	<u>30,695</u>	<u>11,734</u>

Grants includes £8,100 from Arts Council England.

### Note 3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Fees from musical education performances	<u>3,215</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,215</u>	<u>965</u>

### Note 4 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Musician fees & expenses	4,051	2,500	6,551	13,983
Programme materials	-	2,500	2,500	2,340
Project management	2,118	6,010	8,128	10,329
Marketing	28	314	342	1,534
Admin & sundry expenses	1,292	-	1,292	1,180
	<u>7,489</u>	<u>11,324</u>	<u>18,813</u>	<u>29,366</u>

No fees were paid to the Independent Examiner (2020: £nil).

### Note 5 STAFF COSTS

There were no employees during the year.

## Notes to the Accounts (continued)

### Note 6 GOVERNANCE COSTS

There have been no governance costs during the year.

### Note 7 DEBTORS – amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Trade debtors	650	-	650	1,035
Gift Aid	3,470	-	3,470	925
	<u>4,120</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,120</u>	<u>1,960</u>

### Note 8 CREDITORS – amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Musicians' fees & travelling expenses	<u>650</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>650</u>	<u>-</u>

**Notes to the Accounts (continued)****Note 9 FUNDS**

	2020 brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	2021 carried forward £
Unrestricted	12,771	21,586	(7,489)	(2,450)	24,418
Restricted					
Power Up	-	12,324	(11,324)	-	1,000
Roadshow	(2,450)	-	-	2,450	-
	(2,450)	12,324	(11,324)	2,450	1,000
	<b>10,321</b>	<b>33,910</b>	<b>(18,813)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,418</b>

Power Up includes a grant from Arts Council England of £8,100. This programme builds on the Pitch, Pace, Perform programme by training teachers in four music hubs.

**Note 10 RELATED PARTIES**

No Trustee received any remuneration in the year (2020: £nil). No Trustee was paid any expenses in the year (2020: nil).

There were no other related party transactions (2020: £nil).