

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

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 £
CURRENT ASSETS					
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>
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within 1 year					
	8	650	-	650	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>24,418</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>25,418</u>	<u>10,321</u>
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>24,418</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>25,418</u>	<u>10,321</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted		24,418	-	24,418	12,771
Restricted		-	1,000	1,000	(2,450)
TOTAL FUNDS	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	13,324	3,709
Donations	13,891	-	13,891	7,115
Gift Aid	3,480	-	3,480	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	<u>1,292</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,292</u>	<u>1,180</u>
	<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
	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

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).