

# **THE STRINGCREDIBLES**

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

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## **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:

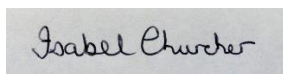
- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed 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>

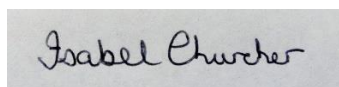
The notes on pages 9 to 14 form part of these accounts.

## 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 & Eugenie 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).