

School Ground Sounds - Trustees' Annual Report For the period 1 Jan 2023 to 31 Dec 2023

Section A – Reference and administration details

Charity Name	School Ground Sounds (Trading name: Grounded Sounds)
Registered charity number	1159676
Principal Address	14 Henderson Road, London SW18 3RR
Trustees	Tom Keohane – Chairman Jack Keeling – Trustee Charles Scott – Trustee
Chief Executive	Anthony Olanipekun

Section B – Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection method	Open advertisement, selection and appointment by resolution of existing trustees.

Section C – Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects set out in SGS' governing document	The advancement of musical education for the public benefit, in particular for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, by helping young people and school communities to access the music production process and musical activities, which develop their skills and promote engagement.
Summary of main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to the objects	We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Activities undertaken include: For 11 – 16 year olds from lower income backgrounds: • A programme of song-writing and music-making workshops for groups of young people in schools (now known as School Ground Sounds) For 18 – 24 year olds from lower income backgrounds with musical aspirations who are often NEET (not in education, employment or training) • A crash course in the music industry ('Spotlight', formerly 'Grit School'), with input from music industry professionals and opportunities to collaborate, perform and set goals and plans for the future • A programme of one-to-one mentoring for young people interested in pursuing a career in music • The provision of performance opportunities

	As well as engaging the young people in positive, worthwhile pursuits and developing their musical skills, all activities are intended to build participants' confidence, self-discipline, teamwork and resilience. We also manage a fund, 'Hatty's Fund', which donates instruments to selected keen young musicians who cannot otherwise afford them.
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Section D – Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year	- Secured c. £176k of funding, an increase of £22k over 2022 - Grew our corporate sponsorship from the music industry to £38k from just £4.5k in 2022 - Completed a strategy refresh and rebranding exercise, with a change of trading name to 'Grounded Sounds', launched in March, better to reflect our work both in schools and for post-school age participants - Had over 90 young people participating in SGS activities - Delivered our schools programme in three schools with a total of over 70 unique participants, and an average attending each term of 14 per school - Ran the revamped Spotlight programme (previously 'Grit School'), with 15 participants Unfortunately our Chief Executive had a significant period of absence due to ill health, from which he is now recovering and back at work, but this did mean that we had an additional expense of a stand-in Chief Executive for a couple of months, resulting in a small deficit for the year. We had two trustees leave during the year, due to weight of other commitments, and we are actively seeking to replace them. We enter 2024 with reserves of £73.3k, of which £51.9k are unrestricted (of which £17.7k are designated to Hatty's Fund)
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Section E – Financial Review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	SGS' aim is to build and maintain a level of reserves that will cover at least 4 - 6 months' forward committed expenditure. We will never let the level of reserves drop below 3 months of forward committed expenditure.
Details of any funds materially in deficit	There are none.

Section F – Other Optional Information

We would particularly like to thank all our funders, both private individuals and grant funders. The latter include:

• National Foundation for Youth Music • Arts Council England • Postcode Society Trust • National Lottery Community Fund • Lambeth Digital Inclusion Fund • PRS Foundation • BBC Children in Need • William Wates Memorial Trust • Three Monkeys Trust • D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust • Clore Fellowship • Artemis Charitable Foundation • Field Family Trust • John Coates Charitable Trust	• The Foyle Foundation • The Garrick Charitable Trust • Goldsmiths Company Charity • Locality • The Travers Smith Foundation • Woodward Charitable Trust • Amplify – London Music Fund • The Leathersellers Company • John Thaw Foundation • Q Charitable Trust • Ashley Family Foundation • Chelsea Arts Club Trust • Lucille Graham Trust • Tesco Bags of Help
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We would also like to thank those organisations that support SGS through monthly donations, fundraising events and offers of pro bono facilities or resources:

• Official Charts Company • Live Nation • Soho House • Def Jam • Kobalt	• Brixton Hill Studios • Hootananny • Baltic Studios • Brixton Buzz • London Oriana Choir
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Section G – Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature:



Full name: Tom Keohane
Position: Chairman of the Trustees
Date:

28/2/24

School Ground Sounds (now known as Grounded Sounds)

Registered Charity Number: 1159676

Period: 1 Jan 2023 to 31 Dec 2023

Section A - Receipts and Payments

All figures in £	Latest period (12 months to 31 Dec 2023)			Prior period 12 months to 31 Dec 2022	Notes
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total		
A1 Receipts					
Grant funding	29,000	76,860	105,860	75,639	
Donations from private individuals	20,304	0	20,304	40,262	includes Hatty's Fund donations (Note 3)
Corporate donations	38,100	0	38,100	4,500	
Fundraising event income	0	0	0	26,697	
Earned income	4,408	7,350	11,758	6,772	
Total Income	91,812	84,210	176,022	153,870	
A2 Asset and investment sales	None	None	None	None	
A3 Payments					
Core team people costs:					
Salary and pension costs, including tax	39,221	39,559	78,779	77,220	
Freelance contractors	3,487	21,664	25,151	1,725	
Total core team people costs:	42,708	61,223	103,930	78,945	
Direct project costs:					excl. core team time on projects
Freelance contractors - non-core team	160	45,963	46,123	45,740	
Project collaboration partners	0	150	150	3,400	
Performance fees for SGS participants	2,532	1,594	4,126	3,430	
Studio / workshop space hire	0	1,435	1,435	12,199	
Artist fund	0	706	706	1,916	
Video/photography/live streaming	514	775	1,289	1,500	
Equipment hire (and support technicians)	0	40	40	0	
Instruments for young people	3,851	0	3,851	2,635	
Showcase ticketing fees	0	20	20	0	
Travel expenses	110	1,366	1,476	1,385	
Project consumables / stationery	0	45	45	80	
Food / refreshments	23	819	842	1,430	
Social media & offline promotion	0	60	60	326	
DBS checks	57	133	190	141	
Total direct project costs (excl. core team time):	7,247	53,105	60,352	74,182	
Direct fundraising costs:					excl. core team time on fundraising
Fundraising event costs	4,473	0	4,473	1,067	
Online fundraising tools	377	0	377	460	
Total direct fundraising costs:	4,850	0	4,850	1,527	
General overheads:					
Office space	600	0	600	600	
Branding & website design & development	1,637	0	1,637	229	
Website hosting	118	0	118	234	
Insurance	610	0	610	565	
SGS/GS branded merchandise	0	0	0	23	
Offline promotional materials	883	128	1,012	0	
Online software tools	3,390	0	3,390	2,410	
Training	2,478	0	2,478	166	
Stationery (general)	78	0	78	122	
Equipment - IT, mobiles, other	140	0	140	415	
Recruitment costs	874	0	874	395	
Miscellaneous expenses	70	0	70	34	
Contribution to overheads from restricted funding	0	0	0	0	
Total general overheads:	10,878	128	11,006	5,194	
Total Expenses	65,683	114,456	180,139	159,847	
A4 Asset and investment purchases	None	None	None	None	
Surplus/(Deficit)	26,129	(30,246)	(4,117)	(5,977)	
A6 Opening cash funds	57,505	19,949	77,454	83,432	
Transfer of unrestricted funds	(31,733)	31,733	-	-	See Note 2
Closing Cash funds	51,902	21,436	73,337	77,455	See Note 3

Notes

- Accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, i.e. on cash in and cash out. Since, at this stage, we are not issuing any customer invoices and we aim to pay supplier invoices as soon as they are received this gives an accurate view of the financial position.
- Some spend on projects for which we have restricted funding is funded from unrestricted funds. All expenditure on these projects is shown under restricted funding. Total restricted funds actually used has been £82,723. The amount of unrestricted funds used on these projects has been £31,733.
- Closing unrestricted funds include £17,686 designated for 'Hatty's Fund' - set up to purchase musical instruments for selected young people in need of

Section B - Assets and liabilities at the end of the period

	Latest period (12 months to 31 Dec 2023)			Prior period
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	12 months to 31 Dec 2022
	£	£	£	£
B1 Cash funds				
HSBC Account	51,901	21,436	73,337	77,455
Total cash funds	51,901	21,436	73,337	77,455
				see Note 4
B2 Other monetary assets	None	None	None	None
B3 Investment assets	None	None	None	None
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	None	None	None	None
				see Note 5
B5 Liabilities	None	None	None	None

Notes

- 4 Since December 2023, £50,000 is held in a 4-month HSBC 'money market' interest-bearing account.
- 5 Our accounting policy is to treat purchase of equipment less than £3,000 (e.g. camera, recording equipment, laptop, iPads) as an expense. SGS/GS branded merchandise is bought for promotional purposes rather than for sale so is not treated as an asset.

Signed on behalf of all the trustees

Signature


Date of approval
 28.2.24.

Printed Name

TOM KEOHANE

Signature


28.2.24

CHARLES SCOTT



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the
trustees

Charity Name
School Ground Sounds (Trading name: Grounded Sounds)

On accounts for
the year ended

31 December 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1159676

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities
and basis of report

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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did 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.

Signed:

Date:

26 February 2024

Name:

Edmund Massey

Address:

185 Elsley Road

London

SW11 5LG