



Rye Wurlitzer Academy
Rye College
The Grove
Rye
East Sussex
TN31 7NQ

RYE WURLITZER ACADEMY - REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1161821
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR PERIOD 1ST SEPTEMBER 2019 to 31ST AUGUST 2020

This has been a year which started with many hopes and aspirations for a well-planned fund-raising programme of events and also opportunities to perform, particularly for senior student Jamyma Hanson. Half-way through it dramatically changed due to a world-wide pandemic, something that no-one had ever experienced in their lifetime, including long periods of national lockdown and a 'new normal' that completely changed how we operate.

Our year of events started well in September, with a which was well attended and profitable Rye Proms night. We were honoured that our Christmas concert was attended by the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex and his wife, who had a thoroughly enjoyable evening with Michael Wooldridge and some of our students at the mighty Wurlitzer, joined by the Kent Police Male Voice Choir. Supper with the Shadows in February 2020 produced a record profit of over £1,300. We hoped this strong trend would continue with a Variety Show in March, a Rye Mayor Making Concert in May and our popular student concert in July, planned in readiness for the Young Theatre Organist Competition to which we had high hopes for six of our students but alas, these latter events had to be cancelled.

Student Jamyma played her first headlining concert in Bognor Regis in January, with Robert Eldridge performing a cameo appearance. She had other appearances planned at Worthing, Somerset, Banstead and Norfolk – all cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

We were not going to let a pandemic stop us teaching the students, so with support and permission from the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) at Rye College, we commenced giving virtual lessons via Microsoft Teams in April and this continued on a twice a month basis to the end of our year and subsequently will continue for the time being. Whilst not all felt able to continue in this way, perhaps due to the absence of suitable home technology, poor home internet speed or their family situation, we are pleased to have kept the interest of a strong cohort, including three new recruits who have progressed very well in a short space of time.

Fortunately, regular, and new, donations continued to be received throughout the year from a variety of people and organisations, as you will see from our financial report, and all are very much appreciated, whatever their value. I would like to take this opportunity in thanking those who regularly donate to our Sponsor a Student plan. With all our fund-raising events cancelled, support during this period has been invaluable. In fact, we finished the year with a healthy credit balance, the best for some years, but this is sadly due to our reduced quantity of teaching; events into our new year are also cancelled, so this only provides a much-needed cushion to support ongoing teaching.

We continue to enjoy good relations with Rye College, part of the Aquinas Trust, and welcomed the support in this current year of Executive Headteacher Barry Blakelock and his team. In fact, part of our 2016 short film about the RWA was used in a presentation to the new intake students, as they prepared for moving up to Rye College.

The project could not be the success it is without the continued professionalism and commitment of Principal Tutor Michael Wooldridge, who gives much of his personal time to support the whole project and who, in his professional capacity, has continued to work wonders with the students in their lessons. Our publicity at events during the first part of the year always looked so vibrant and different for each event and bear no cost whatsoever to our budget, due to the designs of Michael Wooldridge and the generosity of local print house, Adams of Rye. Our E-Newsletters have continued throughout the year, sent to some 300 supporters around the UK and overseas.

To conclude, 2020 will be remembered for wonderful support in strange times, virtual teaching to our students and a period where we all adjust to the 'new normal.'

Richard Moore - Chairman & Founder





Registered Charity No: 1161821

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE BALANCE SHEET
FOR YEAR ENDED
31ST AUGUST 2020**

INCOME

Donations	7,733.50
Sponsor-A-Student	1,092.00
Show - Door Admissions	5,487.00
Raffle	931.10
Catering Donations	80.25
Other Donations	39.50
Gift Aid Reclaim	1,084.00
Sale of Instruments	1,000.00
Other - Sale of Organ	0.00
TOTAL INCOME:	17,447.35

EXPENDITURE

Tuition	9,025.00
Artists Fees	1,800.00
Hall Hire	495.00
Accommodation	0.00
Printing/Stationery	66.99
Organ Removals/Purchases/Storage	2,518.67
Organ Repairs	0.00
Catering	888.00
Music Books	47.94
Other	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	14,841.60

Opening Balance: 01/09/2019	682.45
Plus Income	17,447.35
Less Expenditure	(14,841.60)
Closing Balance: 31/08/2020	<u>3,288.20</u>

Barclays Bank Balance: 31/08/2020	3,288.20
Uncleared Cheques	
Funds Available: 31/08/2020	<u>3,288.20</u>