



**CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

## **Trustees' annual report (including Directors' report) for the period**

**From: Period start date January 2023**

**To Period end date December 2023**

**Charity name: Music For Hope**

**Charity registration number: 1167556**

### **Objectives and activities**

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To actively promote our work as a positive, non-violent alternative to gangs for young people in the Bajo Lempa;</li><li>• To promote confidence and leadership qualities in all the young musicians we work with and create opportunities for cross-project team building;</li><li>• To support our team to explore alternative options for funding Music for Hope's activities and team expenses;</li><li>• To support and promote Music for Hope's bands to achieve higher standards and greater exposure inside and outside of the Bajo Lempa;</li><li>• To provide students and teachers with instruments, equipment and various learning materials including online tuition for our teaching team;</li><li>• To continue to improve communication and coordination between Music for Hope collaborators locally and internationally;</li><li>• To continue to improve our music classes;</li><li>• To maintain and develop our social media capacity and build our Facebook community;</li><li>• To capture and record aspects of Music for Hope's cultural history and legacy, as well as that of the Bajo Lempa communities.</li></ul>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	<p>To actively promote our work as a positive, non-violent alternative to gangs for the young people of the Bajo Lempa, we continue to provide safe spaces for music-making in various communities within the region to foster connections and personal and societal development. Our commitment to the social value of music within these communities remains strong. Our psychologist continues to work with our students to highlight the social and emotional skills that develop when making music with others. We have also made plans to open a new music centre in the community of La Canoa in 2024. This centre will provide children with the opportunity to learn music and to collaborate with children from other communities. Music for Hope fosters reconciliation among young people, children, parents and communities, promoting a more harmonious coexistence among residents in the area.</p> <p>To promote confidence and leadership qualities in our young people we encourage them to give classes and train other children. Music for Hope students support music classes in our centre in El Marillo, and more experienced students will give classes in our other centres, when the teachers are unable to do so. The creative process of songwriting still maintains strong roots in Music for Hope across the five music centres which provides an opportunity for independent and collaborative thinking. Our music teachers encourage students to contribute ideas and lyrics which are incorporated into the writing of new songs.</p>

To support our team in exploring alternative funding options we have started hiring out our new sound system. This will generate extra income that can help with covering some of the day-to-day costs for our work in the communities. We are supporting our team in El Salvador to explore an income generation pilot project that could help to generate funds towards the costs of our work in the future and help the charity become more sustainable. Sustainability is now a fixed agenda item for our Trustee Meetings. Students and teachers also get involved in small-scale fundraising activities - the income from which supports instrument repair, refreshments for the students, the purchase of art supplies, and other small-scale purchases.

To ensure that the Music for Hope bands can continue striving for high standards and receive more exposure, our teacher team have sought various opportunities for the bands to participate in community events throughout the year. The music teachers have been using social media platforms to keep our Facebook followers updated about our work. We have a number of tracks on our Bandcamp page, and we also launched the Music for Hope Instagram page, with the aim of reaching a new, wider audience within this platform. The curation of a CD of poems continued during this year. The poems will be converted to songs by many different bands and musicians from Music for Hope. The poems are archived in the CAMeNA, Mexico, and were written by different people who fought in the civil war in El Salvador during the 80's. This project aims to preserve the history of those communities through poetry and songs.

We have maintained our commitment to providing students and teachers with instruments, equipment, and various learning materials. Every year, we ensure there is a budget for instrument purchase and repair, as we know that high quality music education is dependent on maintaining our instrument stock in good condition.

To continue to improve communication and coordination between Music for Hope collaborators locally and internationally, the UK team meets online bi-monthly and always receive an update from El Salvador. Our coordinator has ensured frequent, effective communication between the teams in El Salvador, England, and Igualada (Spain), enabling the project's sustainability. The social media subgroup meets regularly online with our teachers to exchange skills and information on social media platform performance. Two of our trustees had the opportunity to travel to El Salvador this year, further strengthening our connection and collaboration across the teams.

We always strive to improve our music classes, and our teacher team do this by staying in regular contact with one another and sharing learning. They are proactive in seeking out learning opportunities for themselves. Students with more experience at their music centres have taken on leadership roles, which helps us in our aim to develop the next generation of teachers.

Our active social media platforms have experienced growth in online followers in 2023. The addition of Instagram has enabled Music for Hope to reach a new audience, allowing our team in El Salvador to showcase their impactful work in the communities. We have also maintained regular updates on the website and blog.

We aim to capture and preserve the cultural history and legacy of Music for Hope and the Bajo Lempa by teaching in the traditional oral traditions of the region. This year, our students and teachers have written original songs, which have helped to preserve the history of the area and Music for Hope. Through music, we are passing down this history to the new generations.

As part of this cultural history tradition and combined with our goals of developing the personal skills (leadership, communication and friendship) of our participants, Music for

	<p>Hope took a group of students from each of our music centres (together with their teachers) to historical sites in Chalatenango. There they met up with young musicians from that region, visited historical sites, listened to the oral histories connected with the sites and attended workshops to transform some of the stories they heard into songs. After they returned further workshops were held with all of the Music for Hope participants to transmit those oral histories and further develop the songs that had been written. Through these workshops, the participants transmitted their cultural and historical legacies built new friendship bonds (between participants in different music centres) and developed their social and communication skills.</p>
<p><b>Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit</b></p>	<p>The trustees of Music for Hope continue to work in accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and always hold this guidance in mind when making decisions and planning activities as trustees.</p>

## Achievements and performance

<p><b>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</b></p>	<p>In 2023, our teachers in El Salvador delivered music lessons on an individual or group basis in 5 music training centres in Nueva Esperanza, El Zamoran, Amando López, La Papalota and El Marillo. Currently, 200 children, young people, and even some adults engaged with the Music for Hope project. They came from 18 different communities in the municipality of Jiquilisco and were aged between 7 and 29 years old. It is estimated that we had approximately 1,000 beneficiaries in total, including students, and indirect beneficiaries such as family members, school teachers and community leaders.</p> <p>We understand that music is a medium that allows us to be closer to our communities, to get to know them and help them. Music and art play a very important role in society. Knowing and playing an instrument helps young people to communicate more effectively, be more creative, develop their confidence, and improve interpersonal relationships. The most important thing for Music for Hope is that children, young people and adults do not get involved in criminal groups such as gangs.</p> <p>We are also incredibly grateful for the ongoing support received from our anonymous donor, and Music for Hope's friends in 2023, enabling the charity to successfully achieve its goals for the year. We have introduced innovative teaching methods, including music classes and games, and actively involved parents and caregivers in their children's development. We are delighted to report that these efforts have resulted in excellent outcomes, strengthening the teaching of popular music in the communities of El Bajo Lempa.</p> <p>We have nurtured a strong sense of belonging and community spirit among our students. Our values and the excellent relationships that exist between students from different communities have fostered inclusivity and a sense of common purpose. Many students who faced personal and social challenges before joining our music groups have been able to build more confidence and are now able to communicate with their communities through music. They are now exploring different topics such as climate change, nature and community history.</p> <p>The UK based team of the charity worked with a student of Spanish Studies from Lancaster University. The student assisted Music for Hope trustees with a variety of tasks -</p>
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including developing Music for Hope's social media profile and the transcription and translation of a video interview. This work took place during a work placement that forms part of a professional skills optional module offered to second year students at the Department of Languages and Cultures at Lancaster University. The placement introduces British students to aspects of charity work and enhances their linguistic competencies and cultural knowledge and awareness specifically with regards to El Salvador and Central America. In this way the charity works with young people in the UK, putting Central America onto their mental map, nurturing interests, and creating personal bonds – an opportunity that is open to few young people in the UK, given the scarcity of in-roads for young people into charity and solidarity work with Latin America and the under-representation of Latin America in school curricula.

Our social media engagement has developed further this year both in terms of increasing our follower community and increasing the knowledge and confidence of our team in using social media. The subgroup works closely with the teacher team to ensure suggestions are realistic and reflect the work of Music for Hope. In 2023 Music for Hope's Instagram account has been rolled out publicly. Overall our online community grew in 2023, despite losing followers on Twitter/X. We will continue to monitor things as this platform undergoes significant global changes.

Music for Hope is dedicated to preserving the history of the Bajo Lempa communities, for the benefit of our students and future generations. We believe it's important to honour the sacrifices made by previous generations to secure the necessities of life; education, housing, and clean water. When composing music, we follow our traditional writing process and create songs that reflect our community, environment, land, and way of life. This year, we have put four poems written during the Civil War by unknown authors to music. These poems are stored in a public file at CAMENA (Centro Académico de la Memoria de Nuestra América) and were donated by someone who fled to Mexico during the Civil War in El Salvador. Through the process of putting music to these poems, our students can explore their creativity and emotions while also learning about the history of our community.

In October 2023, our Salvadorean coordinator and former music students travelled to Catalunya, Spain to represent Music for Hope and the El Bajo Lempa communities. They visited the Associació d'Agermanament Igualada-Nueva Esperanza, which is a partner organisation. The association was celebrating the 30th anniversary of the twinning between Igualada and the community of Nueva Esperanza. We are very grateful to the Associació d'Agermanament Igualada-Nueva Esperanza for their long-standing support, which has enabled us to pay three music teachers and a psychologist. During their visit, our Salvadorean coordinator spoke to various schools and youth groups about the work that Music for Hope is doing in the Bajo Lempa

Music for Hope has been working on developing materials for primary school workshops in the UK as part of its efforts to raise wider awareness and support. These workshops are primarily aimed at pupils in year 5 or 6 and aim to showcase Music for Hope's community work in El Salvador. The goal is to highlight the inspiring music and song lyrics produced by children in often very challenging circumstances. In October 2023, members of the UK Music for Hope team, delivered a workshop to year 5 pupils at St Alfege with St Peter's Primary School in Greenwich, London. The school is located near to Jane Gifford's 'Changing the Picture' mural, which is the most significant mural with Salvadoran content in the UK. The mural was painted as a result of UK-El Salvador solidarity in the 1980s - the same solidarity that gave rise to Music for Hope. During the workshop, short videos were shown that introduced the basic history of El Salvador, Salvadoran children performing, reading, and talking about some of the song lyrics. The mural outside the school was also discussed before the children turned their attention to designing their own murals. Another workshop

	was delivered in the evening to adult members of the community. The evening workshop was a warm exchange about the mural, the Bajo Lempa communities and Music for Hope.
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## Financial review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	See end of annual report
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	A reserve of 3 months' running costs continues to be accumulated in the U.K., to be kept as an emergency fund which can be sent to the El Salvadoran team at short notice if additional funds are required to enable the project to continue operating in the communities.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£5,121 which is broadly consistent with policy
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

## Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	X
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	X
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	X
Other		X

## Structure, governance and management

Description of charity's trusts:	N/A
Type of governing document: for example, trust deed, memorandum and articles of association etc	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? for example limited company, unincorporated association, CIO	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	<p>Trustees are usually selected after having served as a volunteer for the charity so that they have a thorough understanding of Music for Hope's mission. If we need to, we will advertise for a trustee by creating a job description and circulating to our contacts. The appointment of trustees takes place at our annual general meeting where someone puts themselves forward for election. A motion is officially passed after a vote of confidence is expressed, and only when the charity is quorate. The election and resignation of trustees is set out in our governing document.</p> <p>Music for Hope is a 'horizontally' rather than 'vertically' structured organisation and the work that we do is based on communication and consensus between the two teams.; one based in the UK and one in El Salvador. Both teams work closely together and communicate regularly with each other via online platforms such as Zoom. This communication is facilitated by our contracted coordinator based in the UK who meets monthly with the teacher team in El Salvador, and more frequently with our Salvadoran co-ordinator if necessary. The UK team is there to support the work and needs of the El Salvador team. Updates, needs, queries and issues from the El Salvador team are communicated to the UK team via the UK-based coordinator.</p>

## Reference and administrative details

Charity name	Music For Hope
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1167556
Charity's principal address	23 Fernleigh Avenue, Manchester, M19 3LU

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### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Andrew Redden	Chair		
Sophie Helsby	Treasurer		
Lucie Phillips	Secretary		
Katherine Girling Rogers			
Cornelia Graebner			

Emily McIndoe			
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## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

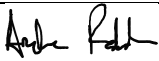
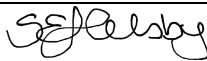
N/A
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## Declarations

The company has taken advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the report above.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report (including directors' report) above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Andrew Redden	Sophie Helsby
Position (for example Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	07/10/2024	

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

## TO THE TRUSTEES OF Music for Hope

I report on the accounts for the charity for the year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out on pages 9 to 10 and are receipts and payments accounts.

### 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(2) 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;
- to follow the procedure laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity 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 seeking 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 the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Paul Cowham*

Paul Cowham FCA DChA  
Withington Works  
Withington Baths  
30 Burton Road  
Manchester, M20 3EB

10/10/24



## Music for Hope

Year ending 31 December 2023

### Receipts and Payments Accounts

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>						
CD and book sales	144	-	144	857	-	857
Donations	2,512	-	2,512	2,736	150	2,886
Gift aid	789	-	789	-	-	-
Main project grant	-	12,800	12,800	-	16,000	16,000
Total receipts	3,445	12,800	16,245	3,593	16,150	19,743
<b>Payments</b>						
Banner painting costs	-	-	-	-	400	400
Books printing costs	-	-	-	-	196	196
Design fee	-	-	-	-	500	500
Programme delivery in El Salvador	-	-	-	-	22,296	22,296
Education trip	-	-	-	-	600	600
English Language Support	-	50	50	-	250	250
Accountancy and Independent examination	-	850	850	-	-	-
Postage	-	-	-	29	-	29
Project coordination	-	4,800	4,800	-	4,400	4,400
Travel expenses	-	117	117	44	101	145
Meeting expenses	-	40	40	-	-	-
IT costs	72	185	257	131	173	304
Venue Hire	-	250	250	-	-	-
Total payments	72	6,292	6,364	204	28,916	29,120
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,373	6,508	9,881	3,389	(12,766)	(9,377)
Transfers	-	-	-	(12,766)	12,766	-
Cash funds last year end	2,648	-	2,648	12,025	-	12,025
Cash funds this year end	6,021	6,508	12,529	2,648	-	2,648

# Music for Hope

Year ending 31 December 2023

## Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

		2023			2022		
	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Prior period
		£	£	£			£
Cash funds	1	6,021	6,508	12,529	2,648	-	2,648
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Assets							
Monies received after 31 Dec 23 relating to the period		-	980	980	-	-	-
Liabilities							
Items paid after 31 December 23 relating to the period		900	-	900	850	-	850
		5,121	7,488	12,609	1,798	-	1,798

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Andrew Redden

Name



Signed

Sophie Helsby

Name



Signed

Date 07/10/2024