

Wensleydale Concert Series

Registered Charity 1172472

Lairdswood Cottage, Carperby, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 4DB

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Annual Report 2023

Trustees

Our Trustees during 2023 were:

Carol Haynes	Carperby, Leyburn
Elizabeth Sowter	Carperby, Leyburn
Jacqueline Simper	Carperby, Leyburn
Sir Joseph Pilling	Gayle, Hawes
Brian Kershaw	Woodhall, Leyburn
Pip Pointon	Aysgarth, Leyburn

Our 2023 Season

In 2023 we held seven concerts, with our season running from May to September. We did not restrict audience numbers as we did during the Covid pandemic, but we continued our practice of not serving refreshments in the interval, as this can be disruptive.

Our concerts included several returning artists, often with different ensembles, and some who were new to the series.

13 th May 2023	Meera Maharaj flute and Lucy Nolan harp
23 rd June 2023	Fitzwilliam String Quartet
8 th July 2023	Ivana Gavric, piano
22 nd July 2023	Pixels Ensemble
19 th August 2023	Mark Bebbington, piano
2 nd September 2023	Moray Welsh, cello and Martin Roscoe, piano
16 th September 2023	Nicholas Daniel, oboe and Huw Watkins, piano

This was our best year so far in terms of audience numbers. The concert with the Fitzwilliam String Quartet was particularly well attended and helped to establish our reputation as a concert series with musicians of the highest calibre. The final concert with Nicholas Daniel was a last-minute substitution for the planned concert with horn and piano.

Finances

Once again we received many donations, some as small top-ups on TicketSource, others as more substantial gifts. A specific generous donation in 2022 enabled us to invite the Fitzwilliam String Quartet. We also received a grant from the Ireland Trust for the concert with Mark Bebbington

Priorities for 2024/2025 and onwards

At the time of writing our 2025 programme is finalised with a series of eight concerts and includes UK artists with considerable international reputations. This has only been made possible by generous gifts and sponsorship from individuals.

In late 2019 we were offered support for 12 months from the Coop Community Fund. This funding is specifically aimed at promoting the series to a wider audience in and around Wensleydale and further developing community links. We have attempted to contact local schools, but so far no one has taken up our offer of bringing musicians in to perform to the children. A few people have taken up the offer of free tickets in return for bringing an audience member with mobility issues and one attended the whole series, thanks in part to our provision of a taxi to and from concerts. We continue to advertise this offer, in person at concerts and in our printed materials.

Elizabeth Sowter
October 2024

Wensleydale Concert Series

Financial Summary Jan 1st -Dec 31st 2023

Income

Ticket & Programme Sales	Online (Ticketsource)	£7,026.11
	Cheque	£1,633.00
	Cash sales	£1,407.00
Other Income	Donations	£4,217.09

Total Income **£14,283.20**

Expenses

Artist Fees & expenses	£9,723.68
Venue costs	£768.00
Piano Tuner	£637.50
Printing	£354.39
Advertising	£355.00

Total Expenses **£11,838.57**

Income over expenditure **£2,444.63**

Community Bank Account

Barclays	20-45-45	90771023
Opening Balance Jan 1st		£10,408.01
Closing Balance Dec 31st		£12,852.64
Outstanding transactions		0.00