

**CHAIR's REPORT FOR THE 8TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, reviewing our 2023/24 period, OF CLASSICAL MUSIC ROCKS ON 19/11/24 at 4pm
(for circulation to Trustees, donors, supporters, sponsors, schools, community organisations and musicians)**

The Trustees

2023/24 has been a period of tumult within the charity, marked by resignations of several Trustees. We have just begun to recover but recognise that the age of our managing group leaves us highly vulnerable to closure. We need to replace our Chair as a priority and must look ahead to changing our long serving Treasurer within a year or two, whilst enlarging and widening our group to include more women and locally based members, reflective of the community we serve. It is concerning that that our committee has no representatives from the school sector. *Readers of this report may have suggestions to make.*

The growing burdens of running CMR means that it is no longer possible for the Chair to carry out the bulk of the administration and organisational detail without assistance. To this end the Trustees recently appointed Julie Atkins as our Project Manager. Her prior involvement with CMR over several years suits her well for her role. Julie's training has already commenced and she will take up her freelance role in the near future

The Achievements of CMR

After 8 years it is important to reflect on our achievements since 2016. This is our case for continuing!

From the small number of children reached at our inception, our brilliant team of 12 musicians now perform approximately 30 days of visits per annum. Our Introductions to Classical Music have been enjoyed by 30,000 children mainly in West Norfolk. We expect to achieve 9 - 10,000 child contacts each year, subject to funding. All without cost to schools

Repeat visits to schools have been highly successful in enabling children to enjoy classical music which, by and large, they have not heard before. Our experience is that children tune into classical music with ease and anticipate our visits with a sense of excitement.

Teachers appreciate our visits too. Many years of downgraded music education has led to a serious neglect of 500 years of classical music, leaving most people with little experience of this very important genre.

Alongside our school visits, we have also managed to create a programme of concerts in the community with the aim of reaching those who would not normally attend. These have occurred twice per year from 2017 until 2023 when we endeavoured to continue the outstanding work of the Kings Lynn Music Society with more concerts in the Town Hall, St Nicholas' Chapel and Snettisham Parish church. However, in the post covid era attendance was low and we had decreasing success in reaching children and young people. The Trustees closed the series.

An important benefit of this decision was a refocussing on one of our objectives – to provide free concerts for children. This was achieved this year with two splendid “shows” in which our musicians performed 6 concerts for an audience of 280 children on each occasion, nearly 1,700 in all! The fabulous St George's Guildhall in Kings Lynn was the venue, perfect for the many children who had never experienced a real concert before.

Zooming

During the devastating period of lockdown, CMR musicians adapted to zooming into individual schools and more recently have had several successful on line performances for 1,500 children or more. But there is strong growing evidence of weariness with screens. We are now likely to concentrate more on our in person visits to schools.

Our partnership with the Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub

Norfolk Music Hub has been a key funder of CMR from the outset. In recent years we have appreciated the advantages of being partners with the Hub, which has recently expanded to combine in one Regional Hub for the whole of Norfolk and Suffolk. Very recently, CMR has just made its first bookings with a school in Haverhill, Suffolk.

Safeguarding

The safeguarding of children is a key policy for CMR. We reconsider our procedures each year. All our musicians are DBS checked, have an enhanced check and receive training provided and required by the schools they are attached to. I am pleased to report that in our 8 years of existence there have been no safeguarding incidents of any kind. Musicians perform for audiences of 80 – 150 children and have no individual contact with children. Pictures on our website are of musicians and not children.

We are in contact with Gemma Hampton of the Safer Norfolk Programme to overhaul our policy for the New Year.

Funding

Raising money for CMR has been a stressful and anxiety provoking task from the outset. Our success has depended on being able to book our busy musicians a long way in advance, so we are compelled to gamble that we will raise the money to pay them. Planning programmes has been problematic. To date CMR has been successful through applications to external national charities, though the awareness that usually it is necessary to make 4 applications to achieve one success is burdensome.

Apart from funding by the Music Hub, CMR has been largely unsupported by organisations and public bodies in West Norfolk, though in recent days we have been informed of success with the charity, West Norfolk Lives. We have raised over £100,000 over our 8 years. The Music Hub initially funded us with commissions for £5,000pa and more recently for £8,500. Our audience of children has quadrupled. Regrettably the hot house atmosphere over funding has necessitated the withdrawal of the Chair from this demanding activity.

It is now necessary for public bodies to decide whether CMR should be supported in the long term. Our programme of 30 days of visits, giving 90 Introductions to Classical Music costs £45,000, or approximately £5 per child contact.

The CMR constitution and a need to reconsider our structure

The CMR constitution was given to us by the Charity Commission in October 2019 when we gained charitable status. (no. 1185672). It included our objects: to enable the children of Norfolk to experience classical music and to attend free or low cost concerts in the community.

However, it is not entirely suited to our needs. It was a convenient template. We must revisit this document to make it more relevant to our purposes, including consideration of membership issues. This will be reviewed in the coming months.

The Trustees will also need to consider whether being a charity is still the most appropriate vehicle for supporting our activities. The anxiety caused by fundraising from Charities leads to questions about the viability of continuing with this modus operandi. It is an activity which no one volunteers for and is now almost beyond me. We started life in 2016 as a not-for-profit organisation and there is no reason for not returning to this model though we would rely solely on public bodies to ensure that we have sound finances.

The Future of CMR

Overall, it is clear that, due to the hard work of Trustees and the wonderfully creative contribution from our committed musicians, a great deal has been achieved, providing a platform for further growth in Norfolk and Suffolk. What has been developed since 2016 is ripe for extending elsewhere. CMR has demonstrated conclusively that if children are given the chance to hear classical music, they love it! Let us ensure that as many children as possible can benefit.

After a very successful but challenging first 8 years, the Chair will be choosing to step down from this increasingly stressful role during 2025, planning to remain a Trustee in a purely advisory role, but passing on all administration to our new Project Manager, who will take on much detailed work, liaising with schools and musicians. 2025 will be a crucial year with our new paid freelance staff member helping CMR to become a more cohesive organisation and without dependency on an ultimately unviable volunteer model.

Please do circulate this AGM report which may be of interest to many people and organisations. *And do bear in mind that we need support from new Trustees, someone with financial expertise to sign off our accounts and a new Chair.*

Many thanks to our inspirational team of musicians, to schools whose participation has been crucial and to many others who have shown an interest,

PETER BARKER

Chair

Classical Music Rocks (2016-2024)

7/10/24

Accounts for CMR 01 04 23 to 31 03 24 CASH receipts	General	Restricted	TOTALS
	Fund £	Fund £	£
private donors- monthly	1,938.00		1,938.00
grant Norfolk Music Hub	9,085.00		9,085.00
from Foyle Foundation	6,000.00		6,000.00
HMRC gift aid tax relief	520.99		520.99
grants from arts organisations	2343.36		2,343.36
from Norfolk Community Foundation Restricted Funds for performance in St George's Guildhall, 2024		5,830.00	5,830.00
grants from charities			-
post code places lottery	25,000.00		25,000.00
Revenue from concerts			
Ticket sales	997.86		997.86
sundry income	89.44		89.44
TOTAL receipts	45,974.65	5,830.00	51,804.65
CASH payments			
artistic director honorarium	2,480.00		2,480.00
Admin and mkting director honorarium	500.00		500.00
School events:			
payment to artistes fees/travel/expenses	17,260.20		17,260.20
artiste's subsistence (if provided by CMR)	1,382.75		1,382.75
mileage and subsistence for Chair/CMR helpers	285.87		285.87
IT website leaflets publicity	1,189.64		1,189.64
insurance	248.04		248.04
concerts: venue hire and expenses	2,412.61		2,412.61
concerts: sundry expenses	194.13		194.13
office hire	52.68		52.68
travel; for chair	38.85		£ 38.85
TOTAL payments	26,044.77	0	26,044.77
(Deficit)/surplus for year	19,929.88	5,830.00	25,759.88
OPENING BALANCES 01/04/ 23 b/f	3,549.88	0	3,549.88
Surplus for 23/24	19,929.88	5,830.00	25,759.88
CLOSING BALANCE 31/3/24 c/f	23,479.76	5,830.00	29,309.76

These accounts are certified to be a true and fair account and were presented to trustees and approved at the Classical Music Rocks (CMR) AGM held on 19/11/2024. CMR holds no assets, fixed or otherwise, other than at the bank as shown above, and has no liabilities carrying over. All funds, other than as indicated above, are for the charity's aims of bringing live music to young people and are unrestricted beyond that.

Signed:

Peter Barker

Signed:

A. C. Cosker

Peter Barker Chair CMR DATE: 16/12/24 Adrian Cosker Treasurer CMR DATE: 16/12/2024

SIGNED: Kenneth M. Hubbard C.P.F.A

KENNETH MALCOLM HUBBARD

External Examiner CMR

Date: 24/12/2024



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity name
CLASSICAL MUSIC ROCKS

On accounts for the year
ended

31/3/2024

Charity no
(if any)

Set out on pages

(Remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/3/2024.

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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. ~~Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

K M Hubbard

Date:

24/12/2024

Name:

KENNETH MALCOLM HUBBARD

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE & ACCOUNTANCY

(if any):

Address:

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

N/A

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Date: 24/12/2024