BLUES AND ROOTS Ensemble

Jazz for Creativity & Community

Annual Report For Year Ending July 31st 2024



Contents

Introduction - 3

Objectives - 4

Summary of Activities - 4

Projects & Performances - 5

Looking Ahead - 15

Structure, Governance & Management - 16

Financial Review - 17

Declarations - 22

Introduction

The trustees present their report with financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31st July 2024.

Incorporation

The CIO was registered and commenced trading on 26th November 2020.

Registered Charity Number
1192545

Registered Address
15 Arterberry Road, Wimbledon, London. SW208AF

Trustees
Soo Bishop (Chair), appointed 26/11/20
David Greening, appointed 26/11/20
Nancy Buchanan, appointed 26/11/20
Richard Mallett, appointed 7/9/23

Artistic Director
Ed Babar

Projects Manager
David Lalljee

Objectives

The objective of the CIO is to promote the public knowledge and appreciation of the works of Charles Mingus and the genre of jazz more widely, in particular, but not exclusively, through educational workshops and public performances.

Summary of Activities

From August 2023 to July 2024 Blues and Roots Ensemble continued with its objectives of promoting jazz through education projects and live performances. After the success of the previous year's performances at New Wimbledon Theatre and the popularity of the videos that preceded these performances, BARE put a renewed focus into creating online resources that can be viewed globally and are free to access.

Blues and Roots Ensemble was pleased to receive funding from Merton Music Foundation, alongside Arts Council England to create a second set of online resources for primary school creative music education, based on the theme of "Music for Change" - as well as funding for two more daytime performances at New Wimbledon Theatre to primary school and SEND students and staff. Thanks to the project management of Merton Music Foundation, BARE was able to access around 1,700 students in person on the day, as well as thousands more globally.

The funding from Arts Council England also enabled Blues and Roots Ensemble to perform as part of the Merton Music Foundation Gala Concert at the Royal Albert Hall. BARE presented a new arrangement of a Charles Mingus composition to perform along with a choir of 1,300 primary school students as part of the first half of the concert. The second half of the concert saw BARE working with established composer and educator, Pete Churchill in performing a newly commissioned suite of music alongside members of Merton Music Foundation and the massed choir.

As well as continuing its ongoing partnerships with Merton Music Foundation, King's College School Wimbledon and Wimbledon High School, BARE also established new connections with Colfe's School, Leicestershire Music Service and Southwark Music Service.

In addition to its education projects, Blues and Roots Ensemble also featured two public performances - the first at the invitation of Wimbledon International Music Festival and the second as a return to Wimbledon in order to raise awareness and funding for its outreach work.

Members of Blues and Roots Ensemble were fortunate to meet with Eric Mingus, son of Charles and hear first hand about his father's legacy and the history of so many of the iconic compositions. An established musician in his own right, Eric performed a concert in London, followed by an open interview with audience members.

Projects and Performances

Junior and Senior School Workshop at Colfe's School - 13/9/25

Colfe's School, Lambeth hosted a morning workshop at its junior school, followed by an afternoon workshop with the secondary school students and a twilight concert with all groups involved.. The concert was used to kick start jazz and creative music making from the beginning of the year and introduce students across the school to concepts of improvisation as well as the history of Mingus music.





Primary School's Concert at New Wimbledon Theatre - 11/10/23

On November 14th the band performed morning and afternoon theatre shows to around 1600 primary school students, SEND students and staff. The concerts gave all students who attended the experience of watching high quality live jazz in a beautiful theatre setting as well as having the opportunity to join in performing songs with the band at different points throughout the performances.



A second set of free to access video resources were created for primary school teachers in preparation for watching and performing with the band. Teachers were able to use these resources to cover aspects of the primary music education curriculum, without requiring any prior musical training. The theme of the videos was "Music for Change", with three new arrangements written to introduce students to the blues and gospel music, as well as first introductions to rhythmic patterns in different time signatures.

The videos were recorded at Morley College and were shared with primary school teachers across the UK and English speaking countries further afield from the beginning of the academic year.

The project was coordinated by Merton Music Foundation with funding from Arts Council England.



Feedback:
"This concert was a fantastic experience from beginning to end. The films were engaging and entertaining. The quality of the music was extremely high. The children loved learning about Charles Mingus and the civil rights movement."

"The project was really well organized, thank you. The teaching videos really helped with preparing pupils for the concert and children were really excited to meet some of the professional musicians that they had seen singing and playing. Children's use of musical vocabulary has developed as a result of the project - children are using words like 'vocalist' and 'musician' independently and were able to name the instruments in the band. There was great feedback from the children after the concert; they were full of energy and enthusiasm and really enjoyed participating."

Excellent concert, really high quality for such a low price. Children all really enjoyed it and it was a great experience for them and exposure to something they don't get to access often.

New Wimbledon Theatre 2024 Online Resources:
Building Bridges Part 1
Building Bridges Part 2

Wimbledon International Music Festival Performance - 24/11/23

Blues and Roots Ensemble were invited to perform at the renowned Wimbledon International Music Festival as their featured jazz concert. The concert sold out and the band was able to feature new arrangements of music by Abdullah Ibrahim, further raising awareness of protest jazz from another country.



Holiday Workshop at Maccabi House SEND Centre - 4/1/24

Blues and Roots Ensemble maintained its relationship with Maccabi House SEND centre through a holiday workshop with around 20 participants aged between 8-21. BARE provided a range of percussion instruments as well as leading singing and movement exercises, giving all who took part the opportunity to improvise vocally and on tuned percussion.



Feedback:
"The session itself was fantastic – one of the highlights of our holiday programme. You, and your facilitators, are particularly excellent at engaging with the cohort (speaking to them beforehand and socialising with them in your breaks for example makes a huge difference). In terms of the activities – they are excellent, and I think strike a great balance between being accessible and challenging, as music I have found is very easy to oversimplify. It really makes a difference when it feels like they aren't being underestimated."

Royal Albert Hall, Turning Points with Merton Music Foundation - 4/1/24

Blues and Roots Ensemble was invited to take part in the Merton Music Foundation Gala Concert at the Royal Albert Hall. The band accompanied a massed choir of primary school singers in the first half, using resources created for the New Wimbledon Theatre Project. The second half saw musicians from BARE performing alongside students from the Merton Music Foundation ensembles in a new suite of music composed by Pete Churchill.





Perseid Cluster Schools Workshop - 15/3/24

Four members of Blues and Roots Ensemble took part in the annual cluster workshop hosted by Perseid SEND school. The day included around 20 students from Perseid as well as from each of its neighbouring primary schools. The aim of the workshop day was to integrate students from the different settings through creative music making, with a performance to parents at the end of the day.



Feedback:
"On behalf of everyone here at Perseid thank you for all your hard work and for such a wonderful day today across all school groups who attended. I know you will all agree the pupils' performance was a delight. We are very much looking forward to next year's workshop and event already!"

Wednesday 24th April - Leics Create, with Leicestershire Music and Sinfonia Viva

Members of Blues and Roots Ensemble took part in "Leicester Leaps Out" a new commission written by BARE pianist Pete Letanka for BARE, members of Sinfonia Viva and various school ensembles and groups from Leicester Music Service. The suite offered a wide variety of students the opportunity to improvise in a group setting alongside musicians from Blues and Roots Ensemble, at the stunning De Montfort Hall in Leicester.



<u>Feedback:</u>
"I just want to send you all a big thank you for everything you did to make Leics Create possible. Please do pass on my thanks to all involved.
Partnership projects like this are always one of my favourite things to do and the passion and positive energy you all brought to this work made it an incredible experience for our young people. Something they will remember forever."
Sharon at Leicestershire Music.

<u>Friday 26th April - School's Project at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club</u>

Members of Blues and Roots Ensemble took part in a jazz and creative music workshop day, for two inner London primary schools,hosted at the iconic Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in Soho. Both schools had received workshops from pianist Pete Letanka, during which they had written their own class songs, as well as learning some jazz pieces to perform with the band.



Feedback:
"Huge thanks to Pete for his wonderful teaching and musical talents which have so inspired and enthused our budding jazz musicians at St Clement Danes!"
St Clement Danes School Website

Friday 3rd May - KCS Community Jazz Afternoon.

Members from BARE joined students and staff from King's College School to perform a mixture of Mingus arrangements from BARE and other jazz repertoire to pupils from local primary schools. The project was coordinated by Tommy Andrews who is a regular sax player with BARE and leads the community jazz at Kings. Students from Kings are encouraged to learn about presenting jazz to young students as well as how to perform the music. A member from BARE was booked for a rehearsal preceding the concert to teach the BARE arrangements and also help with sharing the BARE education process.





Feedback:

"Thank you for an amazing jazz concert! The children and staff love it."
Class Teacher, St Mark's Primary School.

Friday 24th May - Fundraising and Awareness Concert, Wimbledon

Blues and Roots Ensemble returned to Wimbledon, hosting a concert to raise money for its community work and to raise awareness for the education projects that it runs. The concert was an opportunity to showcase some new arrangements as well as meeting significant community figures from across London and highlight BARE's outreach work.



Tuesday 25th June - Wimbledon High School & Rutlish School Joint Concert

Wimbledon High School hosted a workshop afternoon and evening concert with Blues and Roots Ensemble, with students from the Rutlish School - a local boys' state school, invited to join. The partnership, now in its fourth year, gives students from the two schools the opportunity to integrate with each other, and work alongside BARE to present a concert that features guest soloists from Wimbledon High School and a combined choir.





Feedback:
"I just wanted to send a massive thank you for you inspiration and encouragement with our students"
Dawn Steele, Director of Music at Rutlish School

Tuesday 9th July 2024 - Southwark Splash

BARE musicians accompanied singers and dancers from a range of schools in Southwark for the annual "Southwark Splash" event at the Southbank Centre. Music for the event was written by BARE pianist, Pete Letanka and featured a set of massed rehearsals followed by two joyous performances at the Purcell Room, well-attended by parents and supporters. .



Looking Ahead

New Wimbledon Theatre 2024, with new online resources

Blues and Roots Ensemble is thrilled to have received funding from Wimbledon International Music Festival to run its third primary schools' concert at New Wimbledon Theatre in October 2024. Planning is already underway for a set of online videos based on the theme of "Building Bridges", using music by Charles Mingus and compositions by Dorothy Ashby and Abdullah Ibrahim. Members of BARE will be working in consultation with primary school music teachers across London to ensure the videos have maximum accessibility and benefit to all schools.

Colfe's School Partnership

After the success of the first workshop day at Colfe's School the project will be expanding to include students from two local state schools - Harris Academy Greenwich and Eltham Hill School. The format will run as an afternoon massed workshop with up to eighty students from all three schools, followed by a more detailed session with the more senior students, and a twilight concert featuring all musicians involved. The workshop day hopes to build stronger links across the music departments with all three schools taking part, as well as re-establishing the partnership between Blues and Roots Ensemble and Colfe's School.

YESPA Drama Workshop

Based on connections made through the Fundraising/Awareness Concert, musicians from Blues and Roots Ensemble are excited to be hosting a workshop day with students from Youth East Surrey Performing Arts Group. Delving into drama concepts for the first time, BARE is looking forward to exploring different approaches to improvisation and jazz history with a new set of students.

New Ambassador Role

Having been fortunate enough to spend some time with Eric Mingus and hearing first hand how so much of the music that Blues and Roots Ensemble performs was created, BARE is looking forward to establishing an ambassador role for the charity. The role will enable prominent jazz musicians with influence to share the message of BARE's objectives and promote creative music making on a larger scale through the opportunities provided by the ensemble.

Structure, Governance and Management

Structure

The charity is a CIO and was registered on 26th November 2020.

Governance

The charity is governed by a board of trustees which encompasses a range of experience and skill sets. The current membership provides expertise in finance, governance, risk management, monitoring and evaluation and music education. The Board is committed to strengthening its governance by recruiting additional trustees with a broad range of skills, expertise and lived experience. This is an ongoing process.

The trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law, including United Kingdom generally accepted accounting practice (UK GAAP)and the methods and principles in the Charities SORP. The trustees are also responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They take responsibility for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.
Trustees are actively engaged in the charity!s activities in addition to meeting regularly during the year.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The risks and uncertainties faced by Blues and Roots Ensemble are reviewed on an ongoing basis by the trustees. The principal risk has been identified as income generation to support the stability and growth of the charity in the medium and longer term. The recruitment of additional trustees to enhance the skills and expertise of the Board is also a priority.

Management

The charity has no employees, and payments for administrative services are made on the basis of a percentage of fees received.
The charity has put in place a safeguarding policy and a code of conduct, which are enforced via a contract with every musician that works for the charity.

Financial Review 23/24 (1/8/23 to 31/7/24)

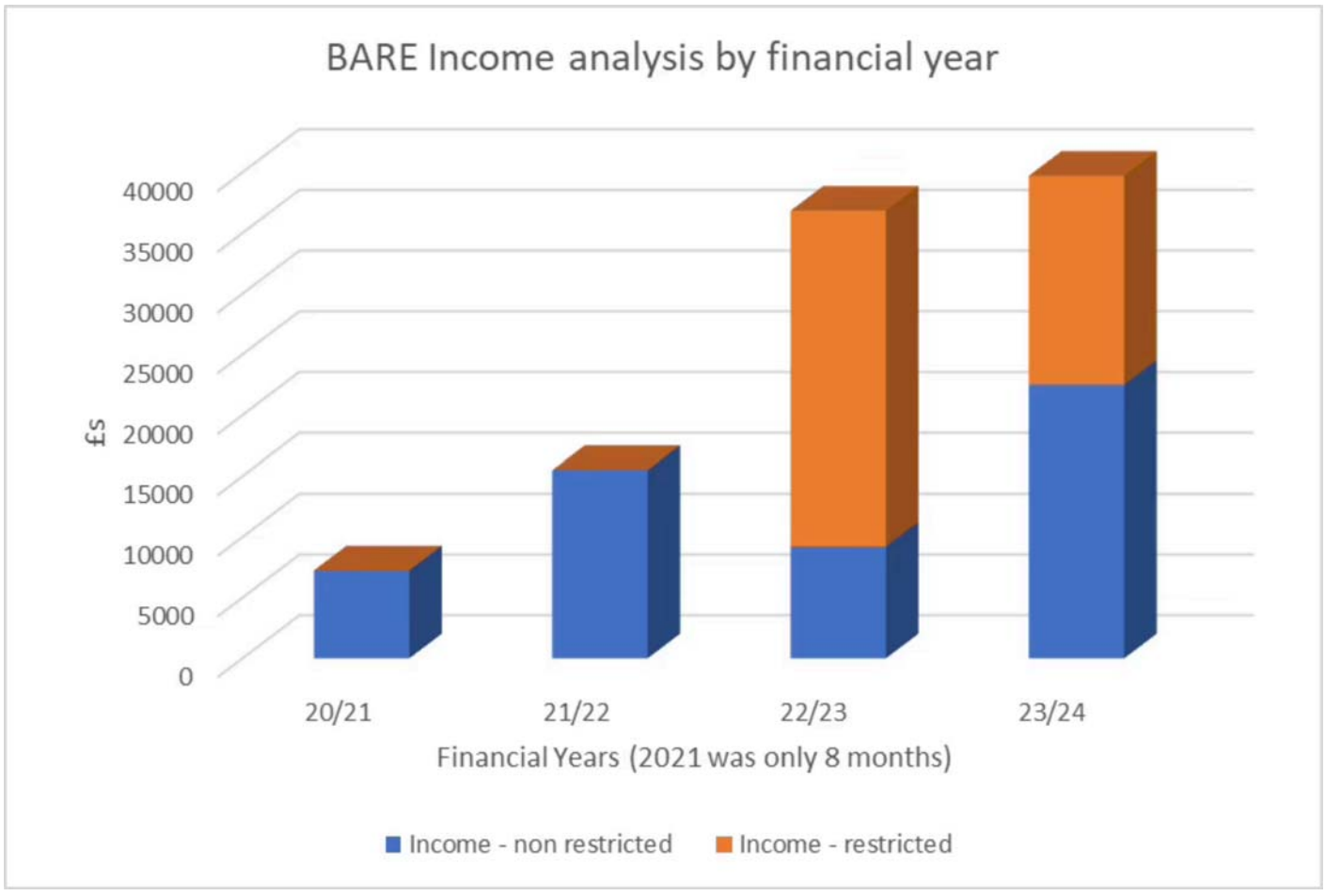
The accounts have been prepared on an accruals and prepayments basis and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP FRS 102), governing accounting practices for charities.

The Charities Act 2011 ii) defining incoming resources are recognised as follows:

• Performance fees, ticket income and programme income: in the period in which the performance takes place.

• Donations: in the period in which the donation is received.

• Gift Aid: in the period in which the associated donation is received, provided the charity is sufficiently certain that the donation fulfils all the necessary requirements for a gift aid claim to be submitted in due course.



Overview

In 2023/24 the charity's total income was £39,717 (2022/23: £36,853).

There were two restricted fund projects in 23/24:

1. Restricted funds of £10,009 – the New Wimbledon Theatre. Spend against this project was £10,267 so a small loss.
2. Restricted funds of £7,200 were received for a Project at The Royal Albert Hall. Spend was £7,200 so on budget.

The charity has no assets other than cash in an account with CAFBank. As of 31st July 2023 (year end 22/23) the charity's unrestricted funds stood at £5,735 and unrestricted funds at £485, total £6,220. On 31st July 2024, the year end 23/24, unrestricted funds were £5,254 and £227, total £5,481 (A).

The charity has a bank account with CAFbank opened in March 2021 and the balance on the 31st July 2024 was £3,381 and on 31st July 2023 was £7,220. To reconcile the £5,481 i.e., A to the bank balance of £3,381 on 31st July 2024, there was an accrual for 2 x £500, two overpayments in 23/24 which decreased expenditure, funds back in 24/25 and a debtor for £1,100 (KCS project) which increased income, funds again in 24/25. The total effect on an accruals and prepayments basis of £2,100, 3,381 + 2100 = total funds of £5,481 to be carried forward.

The charity had no assets other than cash in the bank for all reported years and no employees.

The charity has a reserve policy that the bank balance does not fall below £2,000, after any liabilities at any time.

23/24 Projects

Row Labels	Sum of Expense	Sum of Income	Sum of Profit or Loss	
Brady House Workshop	**400.00**	**400.00**	**0.00**	
Colfe's Workshop	**2,957.94**	**3,117.94**	**160.00**	
Fundraiser Event	**4,619.03**	**3,505.02**	**-1,114.01**	
Heath St Baptist Church	**1,026.43**	**597.00**	**-429.43**	
KCS2024	**1,050.00**	**1,100.00**	**50.00**	
NWT2023	**10,266.50**	**10,009.00**	**-257.50**	Restricted
Perseid 2024	**1,150.00**	**1,200.00**	**50.00**	
RAH2024	**7,200.00**	**7,200.00**	**0.00**	Restricted
Ronnie Scott's 2024	**4,500.00**	**4,500.00**	**0.00**	
Sinfonia Viva 2024	**1,800.00**	**1,850.00**	**50.00**	
WHS2024	**2,437.66**	**2,345.00**	**-92.66**	
WIMF	**2,365.59**	**3,850.00**	**1,484.41**	
X _General Donation		**31.52**	**31.52**	
Donation		31.52	31.52	
X_Interest		**11.10**	**11.10**	
Interest		11.10	11.10	
X_Monthly Account Fee	**60.00**		**-60.00**	
Monthly Account Fee	60.00		-60.00	
X_Planning and Administration	**500.00**		**-500.00**	
Planning and Administration	500.00		-500.00	
X_Website Hosting	**122.70**		**-122.70**	
Website Hosting Bandzoogle	122.70		-122.70	
Grand Total	**40,455.85**	**39,716.58**	**-739.27**	

David Greening - 23rd May 2025

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Blues and Roots Ensemble			Charity No (if any)	1192545
Annual accounts for the period				
Period start date	01/08/2023	To	Period end date	31/07/2024

Section A Statement of financial activities

Recommended categories by activity	Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total funds £ F04	Prior year funds £ F05	
Incoming resources (Note 3)							
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	S01	32	-	-	32	535	<<general donation
Charitable activities	S02	18,960	17,209	-	36,169	36,302	<<Restricted: £10,009 New Wimbledon Theatre, £7,200 Royal Albert Hall
Other trading activities	S03	3,505	-	-	3,505	-	<<Fundraiser includes £223 donation
Investments	S04	-	-		-	-	
Separate material item of income	S05	-	-	-	-	-	
Other	S06	11	-	-	11	16	<< bank interest
Total	S07	22,508	17,209	-	39,717	36,853	
Resources expended (Note 6)							
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	S08	4,619	-	-	4,619	-	<<Fundraiser Costs
Charitable activities	S09	16,224	14,967	-	31,191	23,821	<<mainly musician costs
Separate material item of expense	S10	1,963	2,500	-	4,463	6,998	<<Planning and Admin
Other	S11	183		-	183	2,935	<<website and bank charges
Total	S12	22,989	17,467	-	40,456	33,754	
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)	S13	- 481	- 258	-	- 739	3,099	
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S14	-	-	-	-	-	
Net income/(expenditure)	S15	- 481	- 258	-	- 739	3,099	
Extraordinary items	S16	-	-	-	-	-	
Transfers between funds	S17	-	-	-	-	-	
Other recognised gains/(losses):							
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	-	-	-	-	-	
Other gains/(losses)	S19	-	-	-	-	-	
Net movement in funds	S20	- 481	- 258	-	- 739	3,099	
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward	S21	5,735	485		6,220	3,121	
Total funds carried forward	S22	5,254	227	-	5,481	6,220	

Section B Balance sheet

		Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £	
			F01	F02	F03	F04	F05	
Fixed assets								
Intangible assets	**(Note 15)**	B01	-	-	-	-	-	
Tangible assets	**(Note 14)**	B02	-	-	-	-	-	
Heritage assets	**(Note 16)**	B03	-	-	-	-	-	
Investments	**(Note 17)**	B04	-	-	-	-	-	
	Total fixed assets	B05	-	-	-	-	-	
Current assets								
Stocks	**(Note 18)**	B06	-	-	-	-	-	
Debtors	**(Note 19)**	B07	2,100	-	-	2,100	-	debtor for KCS £1,100 and 2 x £500 overpayment
Investments	**(Note 17.4)**	B08	-	-	-	-	-	
Cash at bank and in hand	**(Note 24)**	B09	3,154	227	-	3,381	7,220	bank balance on 31/7/24 was £3,381, bank balance on 31/7/23 was £7,220
	Total current assets	B10	5,254	227	-	5,481	7,220	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**(Note 20)**	B11		-	-	-	1,000	
	Net current assets/(liabilities)	B12	5,254	227	-	5,481	6,220	
	Total assets less current liabilities	B13	5,254	227	-	5,481	6,220	
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	**(Note 20)**	B14	-	-	-	-	-	
Provisions for liabilities		B15	-		-	-	-	
Total net assets or liabilities		B16	5,254	227	-	5,481	6,220	
Funds of the Charity								
Endowment funds	**(Note 27)**	B17	-			-	-	
Restricted income funds	**(Note 27)**	B18		227		227	485	
Unrestricted funds		B19	5,254		-	5,254	5,735	
Revaluation reserve		B20				-		
	Total funds	B21	5,254	227	-	5,481	6,220	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval dd/mm/yyyy
		David Greening - Trustee	23/05/2025
	Soo Bishop	Soo Bishop - Chairman of Trustees	

Section C **Notes to the accounts** **(cont)**

Note 24 **Cash at bank and in hand**

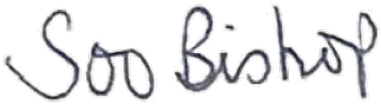
	This year £	Last year £
Short term cash investments (less than 3 months maturity date)	-	-
Short term deposits	-	-
Cash at bank and on hand	3,381	7,220
Other	-	-
Total	3,381	7,220

Declarations

On behalf of the trustees Blues and Roots Ensemble would like to thank all those who supported projects over the year, in particular Arts Council England, The Ronnie Scott's Charitable Foundation and Wimbledon International Music Festival.

The trustees declare that they have approved the report above.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES



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Soo Bishop - Chair of Trustees

Date: 31st May 2025