



Inspiring music in the heart of West Somerset

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

02.09.22 – 01.09.23

The Board of Trustees has pleasure in presenting their annual report and financial statements for the period ended 1 September 2023.

Reference & Administration Details

Charity name	Dunster Festival
Registered charity number	1193491
Date of registration	February 11 2021
Principal address	Dunster Festival 25 Sherrards Way London EN5 2BW
Trustees	Brigadier David Hugh Godsall MBE DL (Chair) Jessica Margaret Griffith Prendergrast Stephen Charles Rayner Clayton Alastair Bruce McIntosh Sarah Gordon
Artistic Directors	Rachel Wick Rory McCleery
Bankers	NatWest Bank 9 The Parade Minehead TA24 5NL

Structure, Governance & Management

Type of governing document	Constitution
How the charity is constituted	CIO

New trustees are appointed by the existing charity trustees by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the board.

Objectives & Activities

The objects as stated in its governing document, and for which the charity was established, are:

The advancement of the arts and culture, and the education of the public in the art of music, in particular but not limited to chamber music, for the public benefit by:

- a) The presentation of concerts and other musical activities, chiefly as part of an annual festival in West Somerset; and
- b) Training and coaching for those from all demographics and age groups (particularly but not exclusively for young people)

The Trustees are aware of the Public Benefit provisions of the Charities Act 2011 and of the guidance on them published by the Charity Commission. They are satisfied that the objects and the activities of the Charity are within the definitions of Charitable Purposes as set down in the Act, and in making decisions pertaining to this activity and when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant they have had due regard to both.

Dunster Festival carries out its purpose to advance the arts and education for the public benefit by:

- a) organising an annual festival of high quality concerts and performances, including repertoire which otherwise would not be performed widely, which this year took place between May 27 and 28 2023.
- b) working with young people in schools, the elderly in care homes and those with special educational needs in day centres, and amateur musicians from a variety of walks of life, introducing them to new repertoire and enabling them to enjoy music and develop and improve their musical skills.

Achievements & Performance

Across the three strands of our 2023 work we were able to provide interactive concerts at five local First Schools, engaging more than 500 students (and associated staff); 2 days of vocal/choral workshops at Minehead and Danesfield Middle schools (9 sessions in total), 4 days of stop motion animation sessions with artist Katie Single and final performances in both schools involving more than 320 students singing alongside professional musicians (as well as several hundred more as audience); and concerts in four local care homes to a combined audience of over 110 residents, relatives and staff.

Feedback from our First Schools concerts was extremely positive:

"Quite often we get people coming in to work with the children who have worthwhile things to show but don't pitch it age-appropriately, but you really knew how to engage them. Your workshop was a great mixture of interactive elements and listening and really kept them engaged for the whole hour." Headmaster, Knights Templar

"Thank you so much for your time this morning. It was such an excellent session with our KS2 children. As I said earlier, you both pitched the workshop so well for the children to keep them engaged, fascinated and inspired all session. I hope we can invite you back in again next year." Class Teacher

"What a pleasure to have you - the children and staff LOVED it! What a treat to have a harpist on site!" Headmistress, St Dubricius, Porlock

We engaged with more than 300 students at Danesfield and Minehead Middle Schools in a singing and visual arts project where a professional vocal ensemble and experienced visual artist and animator Katie Single visited the schools to work with Years 5 & 6. Workshops introduced students to the sound world and expressive possibilities of a cappella vocal music by women composers from throughout history (1300-present day) and encouraged them to think about how they can express themselves musically using their own voices. Students then worked in their class groups with Katie over the course of multiple sessions to create stop motion animations to accompany a particular piece of music. We delivered 2 days of singing workshops (9 sessions in total), and 4 days of stop motion animation sessions.

The professional singers joined the students for an exhibition of their completed animations with live musical performance, where they sang together to and with an audience of their parents, community and peers (with approximately 100 in each audience in addition to the performers).

The animations with accompanying recorded music were then exhibited in a space at our partner East Quay for several weeks, allowing the public to engage with them, and for the students to see their work in a gallery context.

The feedback from both staff and students was hugely positive, and is excerpted below:

"I learnt I can sing quite high and I also unlocked a new skill. Now I know the beauty of harmonies and old songs!"
Kyra

"My favourite thing was that we could hear them sing and then we could sing with them" Barney

"We learnt how to warm up our voices and sing better!" Nyssa

"I liked how when the people sung the songs, afterwards we got to say what we thought about – I learnt that all of the songs were written by ladies" Vivienne

"I really enjoyed the whole thing cause it was so fun! I liked the mango, kiwi and pineapple song!!" Maisy

"My class came back from every rehearsal very excited. They have really enjoyed every moment of preparation and performance. They spent all week looking forward to their concert. Thank you again" HS, Class Teacher

"The children loved every element of it. Having their films accompanied by professional choral singers was an experience they will never forget. Their favourite part of the day was singing 'Alleluiah' along with their parents. Living in a rural area, opportunities like this don't come along too often. We would relish the opportunity to welcome you back to our school" Alex, Head of Year 6

"We are so grateful, as a school, to be part of something extraordinary" Maggie, Music and Drama Teacher

Dunster Festival also visited several local care homes with professional musicians to provide live musical performances for residents who are otherwise unable to access live music. This is particularly valuable for those care home residents living with dementia, for whom music can be a trigger to long-term memory and who find live music extremely comforting. Again, feedback was hugely encouraging.

Our live festival from May 27 to 28 2023 comprised 7 events which took place both in Dunster (St George's Church and the historic Tithe Barn) and in Watchet, the latter hosted by a partner organisation East Quay, a collaboration which has proven successful in building audiences and reaching more of our local community with high-quality live music.

Artists featured included Qanun player Maya Youssef, the Carducci string quartet, vocal ensemble The Marian Consort and soprano and harp duo Emma Brain-Gabbott and Rachel Wick, performing diverse repertoire spanning nearly a millenium. One highlight was the choral workshop event, which has proven to be a popular format – this allowed local singers (and some who had travelled significant distances, speaking to Dunster Festival's growing reputation) to work with our Artistic Co-Director and choral music expert Rory McCleery in a friendly and relaxed environment.

Feedback from audiences was extremely positive, and our artists were very appreciative of the opportunity to experience what it is that makes Dunster Festival so unique. With the support of the board of trustees, it is intended that the Festival continues to grow and to consolidate its position, allowing us to expand our concert giving and community-based work and develop as a robust and forward-looking organisation.

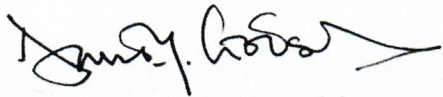
Financial Review

Dunster Festival is endeavouring, despite the difficult present financial conditions, to build up reserves, with a reserves-building strategy under regular review and an aim to build sufficient reserves to cover six months of activity. Our reserves at year end were £16,001.00

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above on

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Godsall', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Trustee

David Godsall, Chair

09.09.24

**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES****Independent examiner's
report on the accounts****Section A****Independent Examiner's Report**

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name Dunster Festival		
On accounts for the year ended	01.09.23	Charity no (if any)	1193491
Set out on pages	1-2 attached (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)		
Responsibilities and basis of report	I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 01/09/2023. As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.		
Independent examiner's statement	I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect: • accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or • the accounts do not accord with the accounting records I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. <i>* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.</i>		
Signed:			
Date:	11/9/2024		
Name:	P J N Barker		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	ICAEW (retired)		
Address:	Stable Cottage Triscombe TA4 3HG		
Section B Disclosure			
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners). n/a		

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CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Dunster Festival

1193491

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

02.09.2022

To

01.09.2023

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations, legacies and grants	26,425	10,500	-	36,925	-
Live and Digital ticket sales	4,895	-	-	4,895	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	31,320	10,500	-	41,820	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	31,320	10,500	-	41,820	-
A3 Payments					
Website, software costs	941	-	-	941	-
Printing, postage & stationery	487	-	-	487	-
Insurance	207	-	-	207	-
Artist Costs	11,459	11,500	-	22,959	-
Event Costs	1,791	-	-	1,791	-
Advertising	165	-	-	165	-
Freelance staffing costs	4,430	-	-	4,430	-
Photography	605	-	-	605	-
Other	100	-	-	100	-
Sub total	20,185	11,500	-	31,685	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	20,185	11,500	-	31,685	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	11,135	- 1,000	-	10,135	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	4,866	1,000	-	5,866	-
Cash funds this year end	16,001	-	-	16,001	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash held on 1.09.23	16,001	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	16,001	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

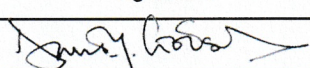
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	David Godsal	09/09/2024