

# PLAYGROUND PROMS

England & Wales · Charity number 1198476

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2022-03-31

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 1 Malden Park  
New Malden  
KT3 6AS

**Phone** 07956909981

**Email** [info@playgroundproms.uk](mailto:info@playgroundproms.uk)

**Website** <https://www.playgroundproms.net/>

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF GENERAL EDUCATION IN RELATION TO ALL ASPECTS OF THE ART OF MUSIC EDUCATION FOR ALL IN VARIOUS COMMUNITIES AROUND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

**Activities:** To promote the advancement and improvement of general education in relation to all aspects of the art of music education for all in various communities around the United Kingdom.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People

## Geography

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- Throughout England

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£199,338	£177,026	-	-
2024-03-31	£74,468	£48,621	-	-
2023-03-31	£140	£74	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Nigel MacLennan</b>	Chair	2023-10-18
Estella Thomas		2024-04-25
Holly Spencer-Biggs		2024-04-25
KEITH SANSUM		2022-03-31
Sujesh Sundarraj		2022-12-05
Terence Alban Sharrott		2022-03-31
Yvonne Hulme		2022-12-05

**PLAYGROUND PROMS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1198476

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# Accounts

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Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025  
for  
Playground Proms

Ark Accountancy Limited  
Chartered Certified Accountant  
56-58 High Street  
Ewell  
Epsom  
Surrey  
KT17 1RW

Playground Proms

Contents of the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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Playground Proms

Reference and Administrative Details  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

**TRUSTEES**

T A Sharrott  
Ms H Spencer-Biggs (appointed 25.4.24)  
Ms E Thomas (appointed 25.4.24)  
N MacLennan  
Ms Y Hulme  
S Sundarraj  
K Sansum  
Ms S Stapely Chair

**PRINCIPAL ADDRESS**

1 Malden Park  
New Malden  
Surrey  
KT3 6AS

**REGISTERED CHARITY  
NUMBER**

1198476

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Ark Accountancy Limited  
Chartered Certified Accountant  
56-58 High Street  
Ewell  
Epsom  
Surrey  
KT17 1RW

**BANKERS**

National Westminster Bank  
Chatham Customer Service Centre  
Western Avenue  
Watersde Court  
Chatham Maritime  
Chatham  
ME3 4RT

## Playground Proms

### Chairman's Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

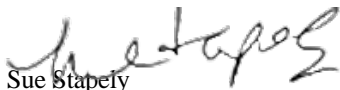
This has been the second fully operational period of Playground Proms and the third since the charity's registration.

Playground Proms was formed in 2021 by Cathal Ó Duíll, concerned that many children in the maintained educational sector had little or no access to classical music and that this particularly applies in schools in areas of deprivation. This problem was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the vision of taking high-quality professional music workshops into schools became a reality.

A pilot project by Graffiti Classics in Barrow-in-Furness in May 2021 working collaboratively with Cumbria Music Hub soon led to an expansion of the project to other areas of Cumbria. The workshops were very enthusiastically received and it was then decided to acquire charitable status for Playground Proms in order to emphasise the charitable nature of its work and to broaden the appeal of its fund-raising activities with trusts, foundations and high-net-worth individuals. A countrywide project was then undertaken in the spring and summer of 2024. A subsequent project in 14 regions, some of which falls outside the scope of this reporting period, was ongoing during the period covered in this report, details of which laid out under Achievements and Performance below. These projects have all been supported by Arts Council England.

Playground Proms workshops include classical (and other) music being played by professional musicians, the instruments being explained and participation in an anthem specially composed for the project by composer Emily Leather, with the children invited to compose their own second verse. Cathal O'Duill, founder of Playground Proms and its artistic director, invited the manager of Graffiti Classics, Derek Warby, a manager of several decades experience in the music profession who has managed Graffiti Classics for many years, as well as several classical ensembles, to continue his administrative work for Playground Proms, while continuing to manage and represent Graffiti Classics. Now in semi-retirement since October 2023, Derek Warby is been able to commit to represent Playground Proms and Graffiti Classics, enabling him to dedicate much of his working time to the development of Playground Proms in the future. A third member of staff, Caroline Gormally, a former teacher and administrator of some experience joined Playground Proms in the New Year 2025 to share the workload of an increasingly busy charity. Although there is some overlap in the two organisations and their administration, Graffiti Classics and Playground Proms are kept separate, with the latter regulated by the Charity Commission and its related legislation.

Since the time of the previous report, Playground Proms' board of trustees has been expanded to eight with the election of Nigel MacLennan on 23 October 2023 and Holly Spencer-Biggs and Estella Thomas on 24 April 2024. The search for more board members with complementary skills and contacts remains ongoing.



Sue Stapely  
Chair, Playground Proms

## Playground Proms

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives and aims**

To promote the advancement and improvement of general education in relation to all aspects of the art of music education for all in various communities around the United Kingdom.

##### **Public benefit**

In setting the charity's objectives and activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit

## Playground Proms

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **Charitable activities**

Based on the success of three Playground Proms projects by Graffiti Classics in 2021, 2022 and 2024, it was decided to plan an extended nationwide project collaborating with several more music hubs around the country.

The first tour of Playground Proms' main project for 2023-24 in Norfolk, in collaboration with Norfolk Music Hub, fell within the previous reporting period. Subsequent tours falling into this period then followed in April, May and June 2024 as follows:

- April/May 2024 - Lancashire (10 schools in Arkholme, Bacup, Carnforth, Chorley, Lancaster and Rochdale), with a pop-up in Burnley Market
- June 2024 - York (10 schools in deprived areas of the city), with a pop-up at the Museum Park at the Explore Library
- June 2024 - Cumbria (10 schools in Appleby-in-Westmorland, Kendal and Penrith), with a pop-up in Penrith
- June 2024 - East Riding (10 schools in Beverley, Bridlington, Goole and Hull), with pop-ups in Bridlington Market and the Central Library
- July 2024 - Portsmouth (10 schools in deprived areas of the city), with a pop-up at Gunwharf Quays Shopping Centre

These projects began with online CPD (Continuing Professional Development) sessions for teachers in the participating schools, led jointly by Dalcroze Eurythmics specialist Monica Wilkinson and Playground Proms director Cathal Ó Dúill. There were then visits to 10 schools in each region by Monica or another Dalcroze specialist. The following week, the same 10 schools received Playground Proms performances led by Graffiti Classics, again to much acclaim. Various community pop-up performances were also offered.

In addition to those listed above, a pilot project in schools in Dover and Folkestone/Hythe in Kent was also delivered 15-18 April 2024 (workshops only). Playground Proms received advice and administrative 'in-kind' support from Kent Music, but the project needed to be self-funding. To this end, grants were received by Kent County Council, Dover and Folkestone & Hythe Town Councils and the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust. Eight schools were visited and feedback was universally very positive. It was frustrating, then, when Kent Music declined the invitation to enter into a more formal partnership with Playground Proms in favour of other projects they had mooted for a planned reorganisation of their activities. This will be revisited in subsequent years.

As he had done during spring/summer of 2023, Derek Warby wrote to music hubs in England during summer 2024, both to ascertain which existing partner hubs wished to continue as partners in Playground Proms' work and whether there were new ones who would like to collaborate in the project. This work yielded 14 partners for the 2024-25 project in Barnet, Cambridgeshire (Fenland-two projects), Croydon, Cumbria (2 projects), Derbyshire, Haringey, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Lancashire (2 projects), Leicestershire, North Somerset, Portsmouth, Suffolk and Tower Hamlets. Following the usual consultation with Arts Council England, several months' work and negotiations, and the consequent writing of an Expression of Interest, an application was eventually submitted to Arts Council England on 8 October 2024 for a grant of £204,955, which was granted on 24 December 2024, allowing the project to go ahead. Pledges of contributions totaling £56,000 were received from music hubs and schools, plus a grant of £5,000 from the Fenland Community Fund. Other fundraising for this project was ongoing at the time of this report, but grants have also been applied for from the Hadfield Trust, Heathrow Community Fund, Lancashire County Council and Somerset County Council.

The first three of the projects planned for Playground Proms' 2024-25 season fell within this reporting period:

" January 2025 - Westmorland, Cumbria (10 schools in Barrow-in-Furness, Carnforth, Grange-over-Sands, Flookburgh, Kirkby Lonsdale, Penrith and Ulverston)

" March 2025 - Two projects in Fenland, Cambridgeshire (20 schools in Benwick, Chatteris, Ely, Littleport, March, Whittlesey and Wisbech), with pop-ups in March and Wisbech Libraries

" March 2025 - Suffolk (10 schools in Beccles, Felixstowe, Lowestoft, Saxmundham, Stowmarket and Sutton Heath), with pop-ups at the East Pavilion, Lowestoft and Needham Lake, near Stowmarket

The remaining projects fall into the 2025-26 reporting period.

In line with our stated intention in Playground Proms' Arts Council England application to invest in PR to raise awareness of the tour, and after a fruitful collaboration in 2023-24, it was decided to again engage the services of the public relations company Mobius Industries. Playground Proms received the following media coverage:

## Playground Proms

### Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

#### 2023-24 project

22 January 2024 - Online feature in Arts Professional  
23 January 2024 - Online feature in Broadway World  
24 January 2024 - Feature in The Stage  
1 March 2024 - Interview with Ink Pellet (arts magazine for teachers)  
22 March 2024 - Interview on BBC Look East

#### 2024-25 project

15 April 2024 - Feature on BBC Radio Kent  
16 April 2024 - Feature in Lancashire Post  
18 April 2024 - Arts & Entertainment article in Newbury Weekly News  
4 (recording)/9 July 2024 - Feature on BBC Radio Solent

As a result of Playground Proms' subscription to Arts and Business Cymru, two new trustees, Holly Spencer-Biggs and Estella Thomas, were elected to the board on 24 April 2024. It is hoped they will be able to help Playground Proms break into schools in Wales.

With Graffiti Classics having a long and successful history of delivering workshops in the Republic of Ireland, they visited schools in and around Dublin in November 2024. Following an unsuccessful bid for funding from the Irish Arts Council in November 2023, Playground Proms applied again for funding to tour Irish schools in deprived areas where DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) schools could not afford to pay for workshops. Unfortunately, this application was also rejected.

Having continued to budget for administrative costs in the ACE bid, Playground Proms was able to pay for more management time from both Derek Warby and Kyra Williams (left September 2024) and new member of staff Caroline Gormally (commenced work New Year 2025).

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Financial position**

The reporting period falls near the beginning of the delivery of Playground Proms' 2024-25 project in 14 regions around the country. A substantial amount of grant revenue is therefore already shown, which will be balanced by expenditure during the 2025-26 report period. At the time of this report, income had totalled £199,338.02, some of which represented advance payments for Playground Proms 2024-25 activities. As at year end, only £61,725.78 had been spent, as some of the activities towards which these funds were awarded would take place in the next accounting/reporting period. This means that a balance of £137,612.24 was carried over to the financial year 2025-26.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Governing document**

Playground Proms is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Its Constitution was adopted on 7 March 2022 and registered as a charity on 31 March 2022. Playground Proms was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the charitable company's winding up, the members of the CIO have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

### **Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

The Trustees are shown on Page 3. In addition to the six trustees listed on last year's Report, new trustees Holly Spencer-Biggs and Estella Thomas were appointed by the board on 24 April 2024.

### **Organisational structure**

The Board of Trustees administer the charitable company, and meets four times per year, in addition to an Annual General Meeting. Working groups are set up when appropriate and necessary. The charitable company's day-to-day activities are run by the project manager and administrator, overseen by the artistic director, with bookkeeping done in-house. Other freelance professionals are engaged as and when necessary.

Playground Proms

Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025


**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Senior Staff**

Cathal O'Duill (artistic director)

Derek Warby (project manager)

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 15 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ms S Stapely', written in a cursive style.

Ms S Stapely - Trustee

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Playground Proms**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Playground Proms (the Trust) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

Mary Ryan FCCA, DChA

Ark Accountancy Limited  
Chartered Certified Accountant  
56-58 High Street  
Ewell  
Epsom  
Surrey  
KT17 1RW

16 December 2025

Playground Proms

Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies		23,657	-	23,657	8,257
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Art of music education		12,075	159,563	171,638	65,086
Other trading activities	3	3,668	-	3,668	-
Other income		375	-	375	1,125
<b>Total</b>		<u>39,775</u>	<u>159,563</u>	<u>199,338</u>	<u>74,468</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Art of music education		<u>6,734</u>	<u>170,292</u>	<u>177,026</u>	<u>48,620</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		33,041	(10,729)	22,312	25,848
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		15,185	10,729	25,914	66
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u><u>48,226</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>48,226</u></u>	<u><u>25,914</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Playground Proms

Balance Sheet  
31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash at bank		48,946	-	48,946	25,914
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	6	(720)	-	(720)	-
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>48,226</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,226</u>	<u>25,914</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		48,226	-	48,226	25,914
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>48,226</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,226</u>	<u>25,914</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	7				
Unrestricted funds				48,226	15,185
Restricted funds				-	10,729
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>48,226</u>	<u>25,914</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 15 December 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



S Stapely - Trustee

**1. GRANTS RECEIVABLE**

The grant income was from the Arts Council for England. As the 2023/24 accounts were being done on a cash basis only the first tranche of the grant due on 13.11.23 of £57,086 was recognised in the 2023-24 accounts. The remaining instalments of £45,668 (due 30.3.24 but paid 18.4.24) and £11,417 were recognised in the 2024/25 accounts along with the payment due on 24.12.24 of £102,478 giving a total of £159,563 for that year.

**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', 'Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Fundraising events	3,668	-
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**4. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**5. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	8,257	-	8,257
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Art of music education	8,000	57,086	65,086
Other income	1,125	-	1,125
<b>Total</b>	<u>17,382</u>	<u>57,086</u>	<u>74,468</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Art of music education	2,263	46,357	48,620
<b>NET INCOME</b>	15,119	10,729	25,848
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	66	-	66
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u><u>15,185</u></u>	<u><u>10,729</u></u>	<u><u>25,914</u></u>

**6. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Other creditors	720	-
	<u><u>720</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

**7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.25 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	15,185	33,041	48,226
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Arts Council England	10,729	(10,729)	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>25,914</u>	<u>22,312</u>	<u>48,226</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	39,775	(6,734)	33,041
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Arts Council England	159,563	(170,292)	(10,729)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>199,338</u>	<u>(177,026)</u>	<u>22,312</u>

**Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.24 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	66	15,119	15,185
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Arts Council England	-	10,729	10,729
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>66</u>	<u>25,848</u>	<u>25,914</u>

**7. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	17,382	(2,263)	15,119
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Arts Council England	57,086	(46,357)	10,729
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>74,468</u>	<u>(48,620)</u>	<u>25,848</u>

**8. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Playground Proms

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS</b>		
<b>Donations and legacies</b>		
Donations	23,657	8,257
<b>Other trading activities</b>		
Fundraising events	3,668	-
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Local Authority funding	12,075	8,000
Grants	159,563	57,086
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	171,638	65,086
<b>Other income</b>		
Earned income	375	1,125
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	199,338	74,468
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Marketing & developing audiences	6,007	6,490
Subcontractors	4,965	2,200
Travel & accommodation	19,536	5,878
Artistic spending	114,532	24,434
Developing the organisation	14,624	7,355
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	159,664	46,357
<b>Support costs</b>		
<b>Management</b>		
Insurance	859	210
Postage and stationery	143	-
Office/general costs	14,971	750
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	15,973	960
<b>Information technology</b>		
Computer costs	24	3
<b>Governance costs</b>		
Accountancy fees	720	-
Legal & professional fees	645	1,300
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,365	1,300
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total resources expended	177,026	48,620
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net income</b>	22,312	25,848
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

**PLAYGROUND PROMS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1198476

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# Accounts

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<https://www.playgroundproms.net/>

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales No. 1198476  
Bringing classical music to local schools

Playground Proms  
(a Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

**Annual Report and Financial Statements  
for the period ended 31 March 2023**

# **Playground Proms (a Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

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# Playground Proms (a Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

## Reference and Administrative Details for the period ended 31 March 2023

**Charity Registration Number:** 1198476 (England & Wales)

**Trustees:**

Sue Stapely (Chair – elected 18 October 2023)

Yvonne Hulme

Keith Sansum

Terence Alban Sharrott

Sujesh Sundarraj

**Senior Staff:**

Cathal Ó Dúill (artistic director)

Derek Warby (administrator)

**Operational Address:**

1 Malden Park

New Malden

Surrey

KT3 6AS

**Registered Office:**

1 Malden Park

New Malden

Surrey

KT3 6AS

**Bankers:**

National Westminster Bank

53 High Street

London E11 2AB

# Playground Proms (a Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

## Chair's Report

As this was the first board meeting since Sue Stapely was elected Chair of Playground Proms, administrator Derek Warby was asked to report to the trustees the background and progress of the charity since its inception. This has been the first operational period of Playground Proms. The founder of Playground Proms, Cathal Ó Dúill and members of well-regarded classical music, educational and comedy string quartet, Graffiti Classics were concerned that many children in the maintained educational sector have little or no access to classical music and that this particularly applies in schools in areas of deprivation. Throughout the COVID lockdowns children whose parents were not keyworkers were required to remain at home, missing all social contact with their peer group as well as educational classes. Self-employed classical musicians were not entitled under the government furlough scheme, nor were they allowed to perform professionally for many months because venues, including international cruise liners on which Graffiti Classics regularly perform, remained closed. As children and adults were allowed during the COVID years to enjoy the outdoor spaces for exercise, Graffiti Classics collaborated on a video workshop with NYMAZ, the youth music development charity, which reached thousands of children around the country.

Developing the ideas developed in the NYMAZ project, Cathal Ó Dúill devised Playground Proms – initially as a trial project involving Graffiti Classics, who would mount a classical music educational workshop with comedy and dance, initially in the playgrounds of schools in deprived areas, compliant with COVID safety protocol. Its first work was done in Barrow-in-Furness in Cumbria in May 2021 working collaboratively with Cumbria Music Hub. A typical workshop includes classical (and other) music being played by professional musicians, the instruments being explained and an anthem specially composed for the project by composer Emily Leather. This is sent to the school before the workshop to be learnt. The children are invited to compose their own second verse and the whole anthem is then performed by the children themselves on the day of the workshop. The workshops were very enthusiastically received and it was then decided to acquire charitable status for Playground Proms in order to emphasise the charitable nature of its work and to broaden the appeal of its fund-raising activities with trusts, foundations and high-net-worth individuals.

Cathal O'Duill, founder of Playground Proms and its artistic director, invited the manager of Graffiti Classics, Derek Warby, a manager of several decades in the music profession who has managed Graffiti Classics for many years, as well as several classical ensembles, to continue his administrative work for Playground Proms, while continuing to manage and represent Graffiti Classics. Having indicated to his other clients wind down his agency/consultancy business Derek Warby was able to commit to represent only Graffiti Classics, Playground Proms and one other client in the future. This work for Playground Proms included necessary liaison with local authorities, schools, the trustees, the Charity Commission and to undertake some fund-raising activities. Additional administrative, research and fund-raising work has been carried out by Kyra Williams, a freelance arts administrator who has been undertaking work for Graffiti Classics for several years. Although there is some overlap in the two organisations and their administration, the entities are kept separate for all areas where Playground Proms is regulated by the Charity Commission and must comply with related legislation.

Cathal Ó Dúill then approached three individuals from his extended network of professional colleagues with relevant and complementary skill sets who were prepared to be founding trustees of the Charity: Keith Samson, Terence Alban Sharrott and Sue Stapely. All had either sat on other charity boards or were familiar with the necessary requirements of a board trustee.

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An inaugural meeting was held on 22 December 2021, comprising the three prospective trustees, as well as Cathal Ó Dúill and Derek Warby, when it was agreed, inter alia, that a constitution should be drawn up and steps taken to identify and appoint further suitable trustees to ensure that the charity was managed as efficiently and effectively as possible. The new Constitution was adopted by the trustees on 7 March 2022, with charitable status being granted on 31 March 2022. The search for a few more board members with complementary skills and contacts is ongoing.

A meeting of the trustees on 5 December invited and appointed Yvonne Hulme as a fourth board member whose former working experience with the Cumbria Music Hub will be of invaluable assistance. At the same time, Sujesh Sundarraj, commissioning manager for Learning Disabilities and Autism for Haringey Council, also joined the board as a fifth trustee.

Much of this first year of Playground Proms' activity was dedicated to raising funds and planning for future activities as laid out under **Achievements and Performance** below.



**Sue Stapely**  
**Chair, Playground Proms**

# **Playground Proms (a Charitable Incorporated Organisation)**

## **Report of the Trustees and Directors for the Period Ended 31 March 2023**

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of the company for the purposes of the Companies Act) are pleased to present their first report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the period ending 31 March 2023. The legal and administrative information shown on page 3 forms part of this report.

The trustees confirm that the report and financial statements of the charity comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document, and the provisions of "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2015) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

### **Structure governance and management**

#### *Governing Document*

Playground Proms is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Its Constitution was adopted on 7 March 2022 and registered as a charity on 31 March 2022. Playground Proms was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the charitable company's winding up, the members of the CIO have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

#### *Appointment of the Board and Induction of new Trustees*

The Trustees are listed on Page 3. In addition to the three original trustees, new trustees Yvonne Hulme and Sujesh Sundarraj were appointed by the board on 5 December 2022.

#### *Organisation*

The Board of Trustees administer the charitable company, and meet four times per year, in addition to an Annual General Meeting. Working groups are set up when appropriate and necessary. The charitable company's day-to-day activities are run by the administrator, overseen by the artistic director, with bookkeeping done in-house. Other freelance professionals are engaged as and when necessary.

### **Objectives and Activities**

In setting the charitable company's objectives and activities, the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The charity's objectives are:

*To promote the advancement and improvement of general education in relation to all aspects of the art of music education for all in various communities around the United Kingdom.*

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## Achievements and Performance

Among the first activities of the new charity were consolidating the structure of the organisation and setting up a dedicated bank account for the charity as well as immediate action in planning for the future, including fundraising. Based on the success of the first two *Playground Proms* projects by Graffiti Classics in 2021 and 2022, it was decided to plan a nationwide project for the new charity collaborating with several music hubs around the country. Derek Warby wrote to every music hub in England and followed up any expressions of interest shown. Eventually, after several months' work and negotiations, seven hubs were identified (Cumbria, East Riding, Lancashire, Norfolk, North Yorkshire, Portsmouth, and York) and an Expression of Interest was submitted to Arts Council England on 30 January 2023. Following acceptance of this EOI, a full application for £99,663 was submitted on 6 March 2023. The result of this application will fall within the next reporting period. Derek Warby also submitted a Part 1 application to the Transpetrol Foundation in October. This was successful and Playground Proms was invited to submit a Part 2 application once the funding situation from ACE is clear. This will also fall within the next reporting period.

In addition to this, a separate application was made to the Copeland Community Fund for their *Well Whitehaven* initiative. The regions of Copeland and Mirehouse in particular, had been identified by Arts Council England as an area of low participation within creative arts and culture. The coastal Cumbrian town of Whitehaven is included in this area and funding was being offered to encourage cultural events that will add the quality of life and wellbeing of its residents. In close consultation with Copeland Council, we prepared an application for a *Proms and Picnic on the Green* community project involving two schools within the target area (St Begh's and Valley Primary Schools) and a large-scale free community event at the weekend around the community and in an open space nearby. An application was submitted on 8 December 2022. Unfortunately, we were informed on 6 January 2023 that our application had been unsuccessful owing to it being very similar to a project offered by the local Creative People & Places Programme – something we had not been warned about prior to our application. We were encouraged to submit another application at a later date that will fall within the next reporting period.

With input from the trustees, both Derek Warby and Kyra Williams undertook further research into other areas of fundraising, including large trusts like the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. It is intended that Playground Proms formulate a three-year plan of activities across the country, along with the core costs involved in planning, organising and executing such a plan. Progress on this will also fall within the next reporting period. Research into other possible partners and collaborators is ongoing.

One recurring issue identified by both trustees and staff alike was that Playground Proms was being run by two part-time administrators, both with several other duties and responsibilities. This has resulted in progress being far slower than the trustees would like due to the lack of hours available from both administrators and the fact that Cathal Ó Dúill is pursuing a busy performing schedule with Graffiti Classics. At the trustees meeting on 8 March 2023 Derek Warby announced that, come October 2023, he would be winding down his consultancy to concentrate on far fewer projects that interested him the most, including Playground Proms. It is anticipated that during the second half of the reporting period 2023-24 more time will be spent on the administrative duties of the charity, thereby accelerating advancement and making far more headway during this period.

# Playground Proms (a Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

## Financial Review

Given that there was very little financial activity during this first accounting period, the income was £140.00 with expenditure of £73.67. Therefore a surplus of £66.33 was carried over to the financial year 2023-24.

## Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees (who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).


Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period, which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees should follow best practice:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP FRS 102;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company therefore taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the board of trustees on 17 January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



**Sue Stapely**  
Chair

# Playground Proms

## (a Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

### Playground Proms

(A charitable incorporated organisation)

### Statement of Financial Activities

(incorporating income and expenditure account)

1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

	£
<b>Income from:</b>	
Donations & legacies	140
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>	
Bank charges and commission	4
Other Professional Services	70
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>66</b>

### Playground Proms

(A charitable incorporated organisation)

### Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2023

	£
<b>Current assets:</b>	
Cash at bank in hand	66
	<b>66</b>
<b>Nett current assets</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Nett assets</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>	
Unrestricted funds	66

# Playground Proms (a Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

For the financial period ended 31 March 2023, the charity was entitled to exemption from audit or independent examination under the Charities Act 2011 relating to small charities with an annual turnover of less than £25,000.

Trustees' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit or independent examination for the period in question.
- The trustees acknowledge the responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charities subject to the small charities' regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 17 January 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



**Sue Stapely**  
Chair

**Charity Registration Number 1198476**