

## **Rockhampton Folk Festival**

**Charity Number 1201317**

### **Annual Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31 December 2024**

#### **Our Aims**

Our charity was established in December 2022 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. As defined in our governing document our Charitable Objects are :

FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN, AND TO PROMOTE THEIR APPRECIATION OF MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS, BY MEANS OF, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY:

- THE PROVISION OF AN ANNUAL MUSIC FESTIVAL AND OTHER ASSOCIATED EVENTS;
- THE PROVISION OF GRANTS TO INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS FURTHERING THE SAME PURPOSE.

#### **Our Activities and Impact**

This year we successfully delivered activities that furthered all of our charitable aims.

Our main activity was the Rockhampton Folk and World Music Festival held in June. 600 people enjoyed a wide range of music and dance acts and participation workshops. Highlights were the Ganda Boys who brought the music of their Ugandan homeland to our festival, Tango Calor with traditional tango music and the Pigsty Morris side.

We made our festival inclusive and promoted participation by the widest possible range of people. We encouraged refugees, low-income families and carers to the festival with reduced price or free entry.

We believe participation in creative activity is good for the soul. It lifts the spirit and helps communities bond. The festival site was a safe, accessible, family-friendly environment that allows people to mix with each other. Visitors had the chance to join participation workshops, which helped to promote their education and appreciation of the performing arts. They had the opportunity to try new things and meet and get to know the performers.

Through our outreach programme we funded concerts through the year reaching over 1000 people. We targeted groups who might otherwise not have the opportunity to engage in creative participation - special needs schools, care homes, dementia support groups, groups for adults with learning difficulties etc. We also supported the Ganda Boys to return to our community to give outreach concerts for Black History Month. All these events were hugely popular, we received excellent feedback and very successful in delivering our charitable aims.

By choosing young and emerging artists we help reduce the barriers to a cultural career that face musicians and artists starting in their career. We worked in partnership with Live Music Now to identify emerging artists and provided performance opportunities and coaching from our own professional experience to help their development

Our collaboration with the local BBC and Thornbury Radio stations outlets ensured that our charitable work gained good publicity in the local area which also helped to further our charity objectives of promoting the appreciation of the performing arts.

Our activities are built on an ethos of sustainability and 'treading lightly' on our environment. We insisted that our food suppliers at the festival did not use single-use plastics, and over 90% of our waste was recycled. We use local businesses as suppliers, to reduce travel and carbon footprint.

## **Our Governance**

At the conclusion of this year there were three trustees. These are the original trustees with whom the CIO was formed in December 2022.

Christopher White-Horne

Nicola Barnes

Elizabeth Curtis

All Trustees give of their time freely and no remuneration or expenses were paid for their activities as Trustees in the year.

With the approval of the trustees Nicola Barnes was in receipt of payments totalling £430 from the charity for her work to deliver outreach performances, perform at the festival and expenses associated with accommodating performers. Trustees are satisfied that this did not represent a conflict of interest and the payment rates were equivalent to those paid to all of our performers.

## **Our Finances**

At the start of the year Trustees set an annual budget for the charity which aimed to ensure that our main activities – the music festival and associated outreach programme can be delivered successfully and on at least a cost neutral basis. When sufficient cash reserves exist our policy is to disburse any excess through grants, which we plan to do in 2025 with our new Music Tuition Grant scheme.

The budget for the year was set based on actual costs from previous festivals and prudent estimates based on our experience of managing the budgets for other public artistic events.

Income is mainly receipts from the festival, with additional contribution from donations. Expenditure is primarily associated with delivering the festival and associated outreach events –

for example fees for performers, costs for the site and the provision of catering. Our investment in marketing paid off with an increase in ticket sales in the areas we targeted.

Trustees recognise the need to maintain a cash reserve to ensure the future financial sustainability of the charity. With a cash reserve at the end of year of £17,629 the Trustees are confident the charity remains a going concern.

Risks were identified, managed and mitigated by trustees during the year, in a prudent way. The major risks are mitigated by comprehensive event and liability insurance.

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### Statement of Financial Activities and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024

The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

It is not required to conduct an independent examination of the accounts due to the level of our turnover. However, we confirm that the accounts give a true and fair view and that there are no other matters to which attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

All funds are Unrestricted.

Income	Year ending 31 Dec 24	Year ending 31 Dec 23
Grants and Donations	2,187.70	716.00
Other Trading Activities		
Tickets	7,686.20	5,618.72
Catering	3,658.13	2,623.92
Investment Income		
Interest	82.06	61.54
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,614.09</b>	<b>9,020.18</b>

Expenditure	Year ending 31 Dec 24	Year ending 31 Dec 23
Grants Given	80.00	371.00
Operating Costs		
Marketing	247.39	994.91
Performers	4,661.01	3,839.40
Catering Costs	2,142.87	1,374.56
Insurance	542.53	534.08
Festival Site	3,071.99	2,474.00
Services	400.00	330.00
Materials	813.42	591.07
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,959.21</b>	<b>10,509.02</b>

**Reconciliation of Funds**

Total Funds Brought Forward on 1 Jan 2024	<b>15,974.42</b>
Net Income minus Expenditure	1,654.88
Total Funds Carried Forward on 31 Dec 2024	<b>17,629.30</b>

**Balance Sheet**

As at 31 December 2024

Cash at Bank                      **£17,629.30**