

## Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 29 February 2024.

### Principal Objectives and activities

#### Objectives

Hollywood Music Festival seeks to

- Promote and nurture the study and performance of all music genres.
- Provide opportunities for musicians of all kinds to perform, compete for awards, and receive feedback from experienced independent adjudicators.
- Build self-confidence and self-esteem in all our performers.
- Celebrate the diversity within our local communities.
- Deliver a positive and inclusive environment for all.

#### Activities

The Trustees have taken note of the guidance relating to public benefit issued by the Charity Commission and have undertaken the following main activities in relation to these objects:

- Making preparations for, publicising and organising a music festival in Hollywood
- Inviting applications to take part in the festival from all those wishing to enter, regardless of their backgrounds or beliefs
- Offering opportunities for music makers of all kinds and standards to enter, perform and receive feedback
- Ensuring that each session of the festival is open to members of the public who are interested in attending, and seeing, hearing and enjoying the performances
- Recruiting and deploying experienced and knowledgeable adjudicators and skilled accompanists
- Ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place for safeguarding
- Deploying people who volunteer to help, especially as stewards.

The preparation, organisation and overall management of each annual festival depends entirely on the work done, and the time given, by a large number of volunteers, all of them members of the local community. Those who agree to become members of the committee and/or to serve as stewards deserve special mention.

### Achievements and performance

It is the view of the Trustees that the fundamental aims and objectives of the Festival were achieved in the year ending 29 February 2024.

- Another very successful Festival was delivered in November 2023 spread across several days and several venues in and around Hollywood. There were over 500 hundred entries with over 650 young people performing as individuals, groups, orchestras and choirs.
  - The adjudicators appointed for the Festival and the accompanists who supported a large number of entrants proved themselves to be excellent in every way, contributing immeasurably to the Festival's success
  - As part of our Festival's ongoing outreach to our local communities, this year we provided funding to St Patrick's Primary School, Hollywood for transport to the Festival, and we visited Hydebank Young Offenders Centre in Belfast to adjudicate a performance from their choir.
  - Our volunteers continue to play a critically important role in enabling the Festival to operate so smoothly.
- Thanks to careful management, the support of Ards & North Down Borough Council, and other sponsorship detailed below, and the committee's fund-raising activities, the Festival committee's financial and other resources ended the year in a sound and secure position.
- Above all, the Festival achieved its most important objective, which was to give musicians of all kinds, most of them quite young, the opportunity to perform in front of live audiences, see and hear what their peers perform and have the informed and encouraging guidance and advice of experienced independent adjudicators. Feedback from entrants was very positive, with so many delighted to have been given the chance to perform.
- The Committee is pleased to note that the wide diversity of ethnic backgrounds entering the festival continues.