

Charity Registration Number: NIC102129

**ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF
THE SOUTH ULSTER YOUTH ORCHESTRA AND BAND**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH ULSTER YOUTH ORCHESTRA AND BAND
Unaudited Financial Statements
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ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF THE SOUTH ULSTER YOUTH ORCHESTRA AND BAND

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Association of Friends of the South Ulster Youth Orchestra and Band

Music Service, EA Southern Region, Bann House, Bridge Street, Portadown, BT63 5AE

Charity Registration Number: NIC 102129

Date Registered: 24th July 2015.

Annual Report October 2022 to September 2023

Trustees and Office Bearers of the Association during the Reporting Year:

Chairperson:	Patrica O'Farrell (Appointed 27 September 2022)
Vice Chairperson:	Andrew Fogarty (Appointed 29 November 2022)
Secretary:	Niamh McCluskey (Appointed 29 November 2022)
Treasurer:	Caroline Doherty (Appointed 29 November 2022)

Previous Trustees and Office Bearers:

Tonia Fields (Resigned as Secretary 29 November 2022)

Pat Masterson (Resigned as Treasurer 29 November 2022)

Constitution

The Association of Friends of the SUYO & SUYB is governed in accordance with its Constitution which was last updated and approved at the AGM of the Association on the 15th November 2016.

Trustees/ Officer Bearers are selected by persons in attendance at Annual General Meetings in accordance with rules as set out in the Constitution

Objectives and Activities

Purpose

To advance education and promote the appreciation and understanding of music for the benefit of the public with particular reference to orchestral and band music, by providing financial and practical support. In particular supporting the presentation of public performances and concert tours by the South Ulster Youth Orchestra and Band.

The direct benefits which flow from the purposes include:

- Encouragement of young musicians to participate in and experience the life of an orchestra player.
- Bringing classical music to the public through the provision of public performances in the host city venues.
- An opportunity to experience life as a touring musician.
- Forging cross community lifelong friendships.
- Personal development opportunity with focus on team building skills.
- Opportunities for students with musical ability to progress to advanced teaching with Music Service tutors, without regard to financial background.
- Improved numbers of students feeding through to the Senior Orchestra,
- The benefits can be demonstrated through feedback arising from Orchestra and Band tours received from authorities within the host towns and cities and members of the public attending open air events.

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- Enhanced personal development as demonstrated through students' applications to study and contribute to Senior Orchestra in follow up years, student progression to other orchestras, careers as professional musicians and success at ABRSM Examinations, Music GCSE and A Level etc.
- There are no detriments following from the purposes.
- The charity's beneficiaries are the members of the Orchestras and Bands (in particular students) and more widely members of the general public who have the opportunity to attend public performances of the music ensembles.
- There are no private benefits flowing from the purposes.

Main Activities:

1. To provide financial and practical support to the Music Service of the EA Southern Region, in the provision of opportunities for the South Ulster Youth Orchestra and the South Ulster Youth band to undertake tours at home or abroad at which orchestra members will undertake public performances
2. To provide financial support in form of bursaries for advanced tuition for students pursuing advanced instrumental study beyond grade 5 under the pupilage of Music Service Tutors.
3. To provide financial assistance to the Music Summer to run additional workshops over and above that provided as part of standard provision, the purpose of which is to enhance appreciation of music and performance by students.

Main Achievements during the year to September 2023.

Chairperson Report:

Following our last AGM in November 2022, our long standing members Pat Masterson and Tonia Fields had decided to step down following many years of dedication as our Treasurer and secretary respectively. I had only recently, and may I say reluctantly stepped into the position of Chairperson from Vice Chair, following the departure of another long standing member Paul McKee. We were then faced with having to fill the positions of Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. This came at a time when the work we do was so important given the cost-of-living crisis that we all faced and the suspension of fund raising due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Thankfully we have since filled these positions and I would personally like to thank Caroline Doherty for taking on the role as treasurer, Niamh McCluskey as secretary and Andy Fogarty as Vice Chair.

The Friends association over the years has provided financial support to students in the form of bursaries. Thankfully we were able to provide this support again in May of this year following its temporary postponement again due to the pandemic. Niamh and I felt extremely privileged to sit in as members of the committee and experience the amazing talent of our young musicians.

I would now like to thank all members of the committee for their support and advice throughout the year. I would particularly like to thank Caroline. Since taking on her role as treasurer, Caroline has insured that our books and all finances meet any new requirements of the charity commission.

I would also like to thank our secretary Niamh who has been a great support taking the minutes at our

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meetings and thank you also to Andy who has taken on the role of Vice Chair. Without their commitment and time we would have been unable to function as a committee and provide the much needed support our young musicians deserve.

Patrica O'Farrell

Chairperson

Adherence to Charities Commission NI Statutory Guidance

In the conduct of activities, the Association have regard for the public benefit requirements as set out in the Charities Commission Statutory guidance.

Annual Accounts and Financial Review

The Association has chosen to present annual accounts in Receipts and Payment Format as permitted by Charities Commission regulations.

A set of accounts were presented to Annual General meeting on 13th November 2023 after being submitted to professional accounts for review.

All activities have been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

The Charity Commission has been updated with new appointments, and the Financial Accounts for Year end 30 September 2022 were submitted within the required time limit.

The Friends Association has sufficient funds to sustain the Association's activities without disruption.

Over the past two years, the ability of the Association to raise funds was severely constrained by the absence of Orchestra Concert fundraising events- raffles- and other fundraising events that students would have undertaken pre-pandemic. However, fundraising is underway again and hopefully will remain on course.

Income for 2022/23 has shown improvement with an increase of £1,822 compared to last year, as fundraising events began to get back on track following the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Association's income during the Financial Year End September 2023 was £2,063, derived from fundraising activities, membership contributions, and a small amount of interest on bank deposits. Expenditure in the Financial Year was £2466, attributed to Advanced Bursary payments, accountancy charges, trustee insurance, and bank charges.

With income streams considerably reduced over the past few years, no new Advanced Teaching Bursaries were awarded in YE 2021/22. Ongoing bursaries were paid, concluding the ongoing payments. In YE 2022/23, it was agreed by the committee to recommence the Bursaries.

At Year End 30 Sep 2023, the Association's bank deposits stood at £27,417, showing a reduction of £403 from the previous year.

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Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial position at the end of that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has an appropriate system of internal controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2008. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

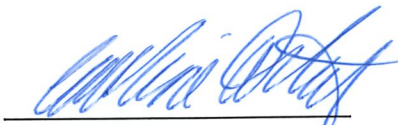
Disclosure of Information to Independent Examiners

The Trustees who held office at the date of approval of this trustees' report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's independent examiners are unaware; and each Trustee has taken all the steps they ought to have taken as a trustee to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the Charity's independent examiners are aware of that information.

Signed


Patricia O'Farrell Chairperson

Date: 11/12/2023


Caroline Doherty Treasurer

Date: 11 Dec 2023