

Charity Registration Number: NIC102129

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

30 SEPTEMBER 2024

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 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

Introduction

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and "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).

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: 24 July 2015.

Annual Report October 2023 to September 2024

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

Chairperson:	Andrew Fogarty Patrica O'Farrell (Resigned 24 September 2024)
Vice Chairperson:	Currently vacant
Secretary:	Niamh McCluskey
Treasurer:	Caroline Doherty

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 15 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.

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- 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.
 - 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 2024

Chairperson's Report:

This year has been a busy year for the EA Music Service but things are slowly starting to get back to how things were before Covid-19 hit us.

Unfortunately, our Chairperson Patricia O'Farrell had to withdraw from the board recently so we are at present without a chairperson. I think I speak for all of The Association of Friends members, as well as Jan and Nuala, that Patricia went above and beyond in her role and will be sorely missed. As Vice Chairperson, I agreed to act as chairperson until another is appointed.

In relation to financial support for our students in the form of bursaries, there were 8 recipients this year. The Association of Friends would particularly like to thank Diane Robinson who accompanied all the students on the day of the auditions, no mean feat!

All persons involved on the panel expressed how happy they were to hear the students from across the different centres play a range of instruments to such a high standard. Bursary recipients ranged from year 9 to year 13, with the top scores going this year to one year 12

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student and one year 13 student. I think I speak for all of us in The Association of Friends, that It's nice to see that the hard work of the students, and the support of the parents has paid off and will encourage others to practice harder and aim for a bursary next year

The generation of funds has been met with increasing success with raffles at events throughout the year, it is anticipated that this will continue in the upcoming concerts, Christmas, Academy groups, April show case and Music makers.

For logistical reasons, the Academy groups have moved from Tannaghmore Primary school in Lurgan to Clounagh Junior High School in Portadown. The EA music service is very thankful to Tannaghmore Primary school for all their support in the past. In addition, we are very happy for the support of the principal of Clounagh JHS, Mr Elliot for allowing us to use the facilities at his school.

Numbers in the groups have remained similar to the previous year and communications to raise awareness of the Friends association once all groups are up and running.

I am sure I speak for all The Association of Friends members, that we are all looking forward to the following year helping as best we can to support the wonderful work that the EA music service do to help the children in South Ulster. With their hard work I am sure that our children will continue to bloom under their expert tuition.

I would also like to thank everyone on the The Association of Friends committee, who give their free time to do this valuable work and help as best as we can Jan and Nuala. These past 2 years really have flown by and I enjoyed every minute of working together with you all.

Andrew Fogarty
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 Payments format as permitted by Charities Commission Regulations.

A set of accounts will be presented to Annual General Meeting on 28 November 2024 after being submitted to Professional accountants for review.

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

The Charity Commission profile remained up to date with appointments, and the Financial Accounts

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for the year ended 30 September 2023 were submitted within the required time limit.

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

Income for 2023/24 has shown improvement with an increase of £760 compared to last year, as fundraising events return to normal levels following the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Association's income during the Financial Year ending 30 September 2024 was £2,823, derived from fundraising activities, membership contributions, and a small amount of interest on bank deposits. Expenditure in the Financial Year was £877, attributed to accountancy charges, trustee insurance and bank charges.

Following receipt of applications, shortlisting, and auditions held in January 2024, bursaries were awarded to 8 students. A delay in receipt of the Bursary invoice means the payment will be outgoing in the next financial year.

Work continues in the background to generate a Just giving page and associated QR code to receive donations, after a delay in processing of the application. It is anticipated that the code could be added to event programs, making the donation process more efficient and encouraging more parents to donate.

At Year End 30 September 2024 the Association's bank deposits stood at £29,363, showing an increase of £1,946 from the previous year.

Caroline Doherty
Treasurer

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

Going Concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

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:

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- 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.

Andrew Fogarty
Chairperson

25 February 2025

25/2/25

Caroline Doherty
Treasurer

25/2/25