

# COLERAINE, MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2024

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS:

Registered Charity Name: Coleraine Music Festival Association

Charity Registration Number: NIC 106472

Principal Office:

23 Lisnagat Road, Armoy, Ballymoney, Co Antrim BT53 8UN

Trustees:

Mrs Margaret Sloane

Mr Joe Dwyer

Independent Examiner:

Robert J Stevenson, Second Floor, 14 Mill Street, Ballymena, Co Antrim BT43 5AE

### Governance and Purpose

Coleraine Music Festival Association is a charitable association governed by a constitution. The articles of the association are to hold and provide competitive music Festivals; to present and promote public performances, concerts and recitals, and to affiliate with and promote the charitable objects of The British Association of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech. The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission of Northern Ireland statutory guidance regarding public benefit.

### Activities and Main Achievements.

The Coleraine Music Festival was held once again in 2024 over a period of two and a half weeks with over 2,700 children and young people taking part. The number of entrants continues to rise year on year.

**The Music Section of the Festival** ran from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024, inclusive, in St Patrick's Church, Coleraine. 48 choirs entered - an increase on the previous year. In total 23 Primary Schools and 19 Secondary Schools took part including 57 entries for piano and 40 for Musical Theatre. 43 instrumentalists and 3 orchestras also entered in 2024. Many children and young people entered multiple classes meaning that approximately 1,500 children and young people participated in the Music Section of the Festival in 2024.

A very busy schedule over the 5 days saw morning, afternoon and evening musical performances. The entrants were well supported by family, friends and school staff filling the venue to capacity especially during school choir performances. The atmosphere was warm and supportive of all who took part.

**The Speech & Drama Section** took place over 7 days between 24<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 in Coleraine Town Hall. 27 schools entered this year comprising 1,030 individual entries and 2 group entries.

Once again, there was particular focus on the participation of children and young adults with special educational needs with specific Classes for Special Schools in the Music Section and Classes for individuals with additional needs in both sections of the Festival.

Each entrant in both the Music and the Speech & Drama sections of the Festival received a certificate with written feedback on the individual or choir/group performances from the qualified and experienced adjudicators. Adjudicators often gave general tips on how to improve when giving oral feedback to the Class entrants. This included group instruction and, in the case of the Music Section, included a demonstration of singing or instrument playing by the adjudicator. This practical feedback was well received by individuals especially the teenage entrants and by music teachers and choir conductors.

Highly Commended Certificates along with badges for first, second and third placed entrants were awarded by the adjudicators in both sections of the Festival. Winners in each class were presented with either a cup or a plaque, many of which have been presented by businesses and individuals over the years since 1909 when the Festival first came into existence. A number of Bursaries were awarded by the adjudicator to entrants who excelled in their performance or who showed particular promise.

In the region of 2,100 spectators attended the Festival.

Voluntary donations were gratefully received by Committee Members or volunteers at the door over the period the Festival was taking place. These donations were lodged in the Coleraine Music Festival Association bank account and were used to pay for the printing of the programmes and certificates, the hire of premises, general running costs including replacement of some plaques and cups with the remainder going towards the cost of engaging adjudicators. The cost of engaging adjudicators including adjudicator fees, accommodation, travel, meals etc along with the hire of premises and programme printing is by and large the biggest cost of running the Festival each year.

Overall, the Festival provided a platform for competition, experience and adjudication for over 2,600 children and young people from a wide area. Entrants came mainly from the local environs of Coleraine, Ballymoney, Portstewart and Bushmills but also extended to include Swatragh, Moneymore, Tobermore, Limavady and Dungiven.

The entire Festival was well supported by the members of the Committee who worked voluntarily and tirelessly to ensure all who entered had a positive experience.

Sponsorship for the event encompassed members of local businesses and regular donors. Such generous donors include The Honourable The Irish Society.

### Financial Review.

The results for the year are set out in the accounts. We have sufficient reserves to continue to run the Festival and will seek funding from local businesses as well as The Honourable The Irish Society in the forthcoming years. In particular we will endeavour to seek sponsorship from local businesses etc who have a particular interest in Speech, Drama, Public Speaking and Musical performances. We endeavour to look at ways of reducing running costs by exploring the use of different venues for the Speech Section and printing programmes on a smaller scale.

Approved by the Trustees on 29 May 2025 and signed on their

behalf by Margaret Sloane

Mrs Margaret Sloane

Chairperson and Trustee

Coleraine Music Festival Association