

MELROSE MUSIC FESTIVAL (MMF)
(SC049870)

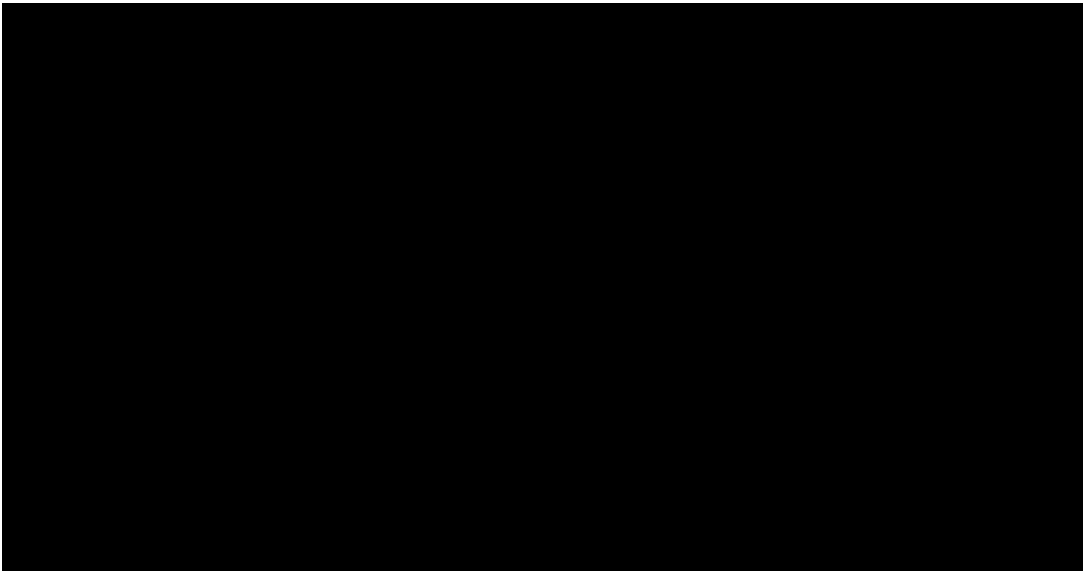
Trustees' Annual Report for year ending 31st January 2025

Introduction

The first Melrose Music Festival took place in 2017. It existed then, and exists still, to share the joy of music, promoting high-quality music by established and emerging musicians of all genres and encouraging involvement, especially by young people, in musical appreciation, participation, and composition. Subsequent Festivals have built on these themes by increasing the number, quality, range and variety of the events which deliver its objectives. The Festival takes place over one week but the work that underpins it is year round, supervised and often directly delivered by a Board of Trustees.

Trustees

The Trustees for the period 1st February 2024 to 31st January 2025 are listed below:



The year under review saw the retirement as Trustee, Member, and Convener of [REDACTED] whose involvement with the Festival began in January 2020 and - allowing for Covid lockdown - encompassed 3 Festivals. The Festival owes a debt of gratitude to him for his commitment, and likewise to [REDACTED] who resigned at the 2024 AGM, for her work developing and delivering the Festival marketing. The AGM in October saw the appointment as Chair of [REDACTED] and as Vice-Chair, a new post, of [REDACTED]

The Festival's Trustees among them represent a wide range of skills and experience,

including not only marketing but also music, financial management and accounting, organisational development, governance, fundraising et al. In addition to the range and level of their individual expertise, Trustees have been prepared to undertake the day to day hands-on work of delivering a festival, including leaflet and poster construction and distribution, selling tickets, performing, and more. Recognising in addition the need to develop and consolidate new shared skills and experience, during the year under review the Board undertook personal and corporate development through training and workshops on Planning for the Future, Priority Setting, and Team Types, delivered again by one of their own, David Nisbet.

We continue to seek imaginative and committed Trustees with relevant experience. We are conscious of the need for more women on the Board and have continued that specific search throughout 2024-25 with some success.

Summary of the year

In 2024 the Festival took place from Saturday 7th to Sunday 15th September, a move from its previous slot in May. The Festival was launched at a preview concert in May by [REDACTED] who emphasised the Festival's crucial role in enriching the cultural fabric of the Scottish Borders. His endorsement highlighted the Festival's growing significance in the broader music landscape. [REDACTED] remarked 'A festival like Melrose brings focus to what the community needs from music. It's an indispensable part of our culture, and a festival draws attention by bringing some of the best musicians in the area, and from elsewhere, to work with local musical groups. This helps build a sense of belonging, identity, and commitment to what local culture means. If people know that music of a very high quality is being presented here, they'll come in their droves. I just know it.'

The preview concert, *A Serenade to Music*, was significant also because it was the first concert conceived and conducted by the Festival's new Artistic Director, [REDACTED] and performed by his inspiration, the new Borders Chamber Choir, as well as by the Borders Chamber Orchestra and the established and flourishing Melrose Vocal Ensemble. A significant event was rounded off by the launch of the Festival Friends scheme, entitling Friends to advanced booking of Festival tickets, a newsletter to keep them and subscribers - of whom there are over 500 - up to date with Festival activities, and invitations to Friends events.

The launch of the Friends scheme was accompanied by development of the Festival's Facebook page, the updating of the website, and the introduction of an Instagram channel, to reach a younger audience. Current figures show that the majority of our audience is in the 45+ age bracket.

The varied programme for September 2024 included a performance of Mozart's Requiem, a piano and cello concert, a jazz event, an evening unveiling long hidden

masterpieces by Bizet, Haydn and Fanny Mendelssohn, the return of the popular Melrose Vocal Ensemble, and to conclude the week, a Festival Evensong.

Our focus on young people has been assisted by under-18s going free to all concerts. The Festival was invited to take a stand at the Bang Goes the Borders event held in St Mary's School, Melrose some ten days after the September Festival. While this annual Borders event has a focus on science and learning, it enjoys a footfall of 1000 predominantly young people and can be used to publicise any events in the Music Festival's future.

The promotion of the Festival In September was given further impetus by the appointment of a marketing professional, [REDACTED], on a freelance basis.

The Festival was successful in gaining positive coverage both from the national press – the Herald and the Scotsman – and local Borders newspapers.

Accounts

Accounts in the format set out by OSCR for the period 1st February 2023 to 31st January 2024 have been prepared by our Treasurer, [REDACTED] for submission to our Independent Examiner [REDACTED] to whom thanks are due, and for final approval by the Board.

In the year under review, income rose by over 6%, with receipts from events increasing by 37%, due both to improved marketing and more events. While expenditure remained at a similar level to the 2023 Festival a planned increase in expenditure on marketing had the desired effect of increased attendance at events - up from 526 in 2023 to 736 in 2024. Donations fell by 16%, possibly due to our change of holding the Festival in September rather than June and submitting our applications later.

Statement of Donated Facilities and Services

For the period covered by this Report the Trustees and other volunteers conservatively estimate their time involved ie 'Hours Worked' for the charity was some 3,000 hours. Although a significantly larger sum would be appropriate were Trustees' time donated at commercial rates, for the purposes of this statement hourly rate been assessed at £10 (being roughly the average minimum wage). The notional amount of donated services declared for this year is therefore £30,000.

Prepared by [REDACTED] Honorary Secretary, signed by her for and on behalf of the Trustees, dated 30 October 2025.

[REDACTED]

Receipts and payments accounts						
For the period from	to			to		
	Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
	01	FEBRUARY	2024	31	JANUARY	2025

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	7,970				7,970	9,269
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities	8,532				8,532	6,230
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
A1 Sub total	16,502	-	-	-	16,502	15,499
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	16,502	-	-	-	16,502	15,499
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	17,143				17,143	14,652
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	
Grants and donations	500				500	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
A3 Sub total	17,643	-	-	-	17,643	14,652
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	17,643	-	-	-	17,643	14,652
Net receipts / (payments)	(1,141)	-	-	-	(1,141)	847
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds						
Surplus / (deficit) for year	(1,141)	-	-	-	(1,141)	847

Treasurer 20/10/25

Categories

B2 Investments

B3 Other assets

B4 Liabilities

B5 Contingent liabilities

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature*

Print Name _____

Date of approval

Treasurer
2/10/2025

C1 Nature and purpose of funds
(may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)

Funds were the product of donations received and income from fund raising events. The main purposes of Melrose Music Festival are to advance high quality music of a variety of genres in the Borders for the benefit of the community, including the performance of ecclesiastical and devotional music in the context of religious services or otherwise, and to encourage musical education and composition whilst developing musical opportunities for young persons and others.

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
		Total	

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)	X
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Authority under which paid	£

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	X
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	Number of trustees	£

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25. 10. 2025

Additional analysis (1)

Analysis of receipts and payments

1 Donations

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Donations	7,970				7,970	9,269
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	7,970	-	-	-	7,970	9,269

2 Grants

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Total	-	-	-	-

3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Receipts from fund raising events	8,532				8,532	6,230
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	8,532	-	-	-	8,532	6,230

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4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Rent	1,604				1,604	1,606
Marketing	7,496				7,496	4,853
Insurance	297				297	192
Music costs for fund raising events	7,572				7,572	7,312
Catering costs at fund raising events	173				173	486
Miscellaneous admin costs	1				1	203
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	17,143	-	-	-	17,143	14,652

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20.10.25

Treasurer

SC049870

Additional analysis (2)

5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds

	Unrestricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
Receipts						
Donations					7,970	9,269
Legacies					-	-
Grants					-	-
Receipts from fundraising activities					8,532	6,230
Gross trading receipts					-	-
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	-
Rents from land & buildings					-	-
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	16,502	15,499
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	-	16,502	15,499
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	-
Gross trading payments					-	-
Investment management costs					-	-
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					17,143	14,652
Grants and donations					500	-
Governance costs:					-	-
Audit / independent examination					-	-
Preparation of annual accounts					-	-
Legal costs					-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	17,643	14,652
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	-
Purchase of investments					-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	-	17,643	14,652
Net receipts / (payments)	-	-	-	-	(1,141)	847
Transfers to / (from) funds					-	-
Surplus / (deficit) for year	-	-	-	-	(1,141)	847

Nature and purpose of funds

Funds were the product of donations received and income from fund raising events. The main purposes of Melrose Music Festival are to advance high quality music of a variety of genres in the Borders for the benefit of the community, including the performance of ecclesiastical and devotional music in the context of religious services or otherwise, and to encourage musical education and composition whilst developing musical opportunities for young persons and others.



1/reaaww
20/10/2025

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Additional analysis (3)

6 Breakdown of restricted funds

	Restricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Restricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last period
Receipts						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net receipts / (payments)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nature and purpose of funds						

TREASURER
20/10/2025

Independent Examiner's report on the accounts to the members of Melrose Musical Festival SCIO

I report on the accounts of Melrose Musical Festival SCIO for the year ended 31st January 2025, which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

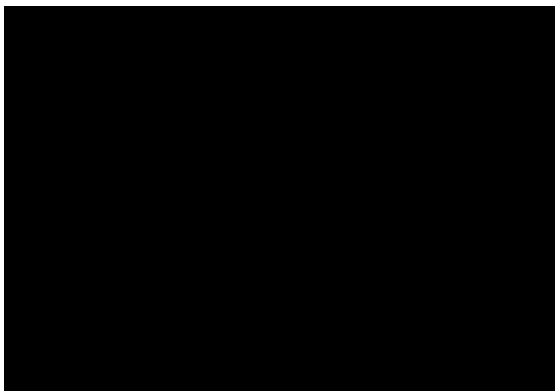
Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44 (1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations (as amended) have not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



30th October 2025