

Soirées at Breinton

Classical Music Recitals in Woking, Surrey

Breinton Recital Society – Registered Charity No 1151972

Trustee's Report and Accounts for the year ending 30 June 2021

Officers and Committee Members:

President: Kumi Smith-Gordon
Secretary & Treasurer: Lionel Smith-Gordon
Independent Trustees: Steve Barnett
Mark Lewis
Paul van den Bosch

Charity registered address: Breinton, Heath House Road, Woking GU22 0RD.

Report on Society Activities

The Pandemic Season

Our last reporting year concluded in June 2020 on a down note as the first phase of the global Covid pandemic forced us to cancel the last three recitals of that season. But, as our reporting year started in July 2020, the health environment began to improve and on Saturday 4 July (the day social distancing regulations were relaxed) we were one of the first organisations nationally to present live music to a real audience for over three months.

Like all other music societies and concert venues, we were forced to close our doors from the outset of the pandemic. However, while we closed one door, we opened another. Through our *Summer at Breinton* programmes, during both 2020 and 2021, we successfully managed to organise seven outdoor events by top-class performers. The new format came with some bonuses: the extra space meant that we were able to invite larger ensembles; the relaxed afternoon settings enabled a unique format of local music students as “support acts” before the main event; and the challenges of the pandemic and the enthusiasm of performers and audiences encouraged us to be bold and innovative, for example by inviting the Stephen Hough for an “inside out” recital with piano indoors and audience outside.

We were pleased to welcome back many of our regulars to these outdoor concerts as well as many new faces who we hope will continue to visit in the years ahead.

Despite these innovations, there were to be no *Soirées at Breinton* during the reporting year due to ongoing restrictions and the constraints of our small recital room. At the time of writing (February 2022), we still expect it to be some time before we will be able to programme indoor evening events. But it is our hope to resume our usual format during the latter half of 2022. We intend to continue the *Summer at Breinton* events as well and, just maybe, some further surprises may follow as we prepare to present our 100th recital at Breinton.

Our seven events during this year were:

- Fabulous Strings with Natalia Lomeiko & Yuri Zhislin on 4 July 2020
- World Tour with Lotte Betts-Dean, Bartosz Glowacki & Andrey Lebedev on 26 July
- Third Quarter with the Carducci String Quartet on 8 August
- Seemingly Unlikely with Huw Wiggin & Oliver Waas on 22 August
- Inside Out with Stephen Hough on 12 September
- Jess Gillam, Sam Becker & Zeynep Özsuca on 13 June 2021
- Consone Quartet on 19 June

The above musicians were joined by 12 younger musicians – details on our website.

Covid-19 Impact and Going Concern

Charity Commission guidance states that the Trustees must review the impact of the pandemic and report any material risks. We are pleased to be able to report that the Charity has not suffered any financial impact as a result of the pandemic. During the year of this report, our outdoor recitals were well attended and successful. The Trustees are comfortable that the Charity is resilient and will continue to thrive..

Volunteers

We would like to give a special thanks to the volunteers who contribute to the Society: our three independent trustees; our families; the cheerful but commanding parking assistance from Robert; and the excellent photographic, sound and video support by David Hogg of Horizon Imaging.

Membership

Our membership roll for the year stood at 393 (247 prior year) showing the significant widening of our guest base with the outdoor format. We sold a total of 761 tickets (versus around 550 in prior years).

The top events, by attendance, were: Jess Gillam – 134 members; Stephen Hough – 118 members; Consone Quartet – 109 members.

Finance Report and Accounts

Governance

Breinton Recital Society, trading as Soirées at Breinton, is governed by a Constitution agreed on formation on 15 July 2009. The Society is registered with the Charity Commission, recognized by HM Revenue & Customs, and participates in the Gift Aid scheme. The Society is not registered for VAT and has no liability to Income or Corporation Taxes.

The charity is overseen by the Trustees who meet at least two times a year; appointment of Trustees is defined in the Constitution. Most operating decisions, including the organisation of the soirées, are delegated to Kumi and Lionel Smith-Gordon.

Accounting Policies

The Accounts are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis as permitted by Section 42(3) of the Charities Act 1993, as amended by the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the SI 2009 No 508. This report also aligns with SORP 2005.

There are no accruals or prepayments shown in the accounts.

The Society has a small amount of equipment to support its activities which are kept in premises owned by the trustees and insured by the Society. The value of these items was written off on acquisition, so no physical assets are held on the balance sheet. The Society's financial year ends on 30 June.

No audit or independent examination of the Society's accounts is required.

Financial Review

The Society's finances remain robust, despite the ill winds in the music industry this year.

Reserves Policy

The trustees' existing policy is to retain bank deposits equal to approximately one year's expense as money set aside to cover events or situations that may happen.

The reserves at the end of the year were over £17,000. The trustees have agreed to review this policy for future years in the light of evidence that has shown our resilience in the face of the most negative external event in recent history.

Public Benefit Statement

The charity trustees confirm that we have complied with our duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charities Commission in exercising our powers and duties, under Section 17(5) of the Charities Act and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. All recitals are open to the public and are priced to represent the value delivered.

Receipts and Payments Account

	Year to 31 July 2019	Year to 30 June 2020	Year to 30 June 2021
Receipts			
Donations Received	£2,157	£5,201	£2,123
Ticket Sales	£12,034	£8,444	£11,933
Other Income	£21	£255	£22
Sponsorship & Grants	£205	£361	£5
Total Receipts	£14,417	£14,261	£14,083
Payments			
Cost of Sales	£10,490	£7,947	£10,427
Administrative Expenses	£285	£143	£246
Insurance & Subscriptions	£231	£231	£433
Marketing & Advertising	£296	£247	£291
Maintenance & Repairs	£25	£267	£1,132
Donations Made		£3,000	£1,273
Total Payments	£11,326	£11,835	£13,802
Excess of Receipts over Payments	£3,091	£2,426	£281

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	as of 1 Aug 2019	as of 1 Jul 2020	as of 1 Jul 2021
Cash Funds			
Cash		£80.80	£41.65
Bank account	£3,070.86	£5,905.96	£4,119.54
Deposit account	£11,951.87	£15,062.27	£15,069.21
Total Assets	£15,022.73	£21,046.03	£19,230.40
Liabilities	£0.00	£3,600.00	£1,500.00
Net Assets	£15,022.73	£17,449.03	£17,730.40

This report and accounts were approved by the Trustees of Breinton Recital Society on 13 February 2022.