

**TONBRIDGE MUSIC CLUB**  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24**

The Trustees of Tonbridge Music Club submit the **Annual Report** and **Financial Statement** for the year ending 31 May 2024.

**Artistic Programme: see Appendix 1**

**Administration and Governance: see Appendix 2**

**Finance: see Appendix 3**

**Trustees July 2023 – July 2024**

Officers: Patricia Gane (Chair); Secretary (position vacant); Roger Golland (Treasurer)  
Trustees: Dilys Benson (Artistic Director), Rachel Davies, Kathryn Elwick, Madeline Gammie, Peter Gane, Ken Morgan, Jan Trayner. All have put themselves forward for re-election.

**A Note from the Chair**

In changing times artistically and financially, it is with enormous respect that I thank the TMC Team for their sterling voluntary work over the course of the 2023–24 season. They have enabled the Club not only to maintain its fantastic reputation for the quality of its programming, but enabled it to branch out and develop its profile in line with its charitable mission. Of course, without our Members, the Community, our Artists and Colleagues in our venues nothing would be possible – a huge thank you to all!

**Artistic Programme and Review 2023 – 2024**  
**(see Appendix 1 for details of the Artistic Programme)**

The TMC programme continues to reflect a view of music that is the opposite of elitist, narrow in focus and designed for an isolated group only. We have provided events that reach all demographics in the Tonbridge Community and beyond, from toddlers, through to young players as well as mature audiences. Inevitable juggling has been necessary to balance 'footfall', ticket price and all the inevitable rising costs of putting on high quality musical events. This is a continuing issue, which has been handled with consummate professionalism by the team. All our artists and audiences have remarked on the welcoming, social atmosphere of the Club, a very important aspect of TMC.

## **Awards Scheme**

TMC is proud of its **Awards Scheme** for aspiring young musicians in the Tonbridge area. It was heartening to see violinist Tristan Gurney hand out the awards to the young winners at the Ensemble 360 concert in October 2023. We are delighted to continue this initiative into its third year, and wish to thank the **Rotary Club of Tonbridge** for financial sponsorship for the current scheme.

## **Coffee Concert Series**

TMC's Coffee Concert series continues to thrive; feedback shows appreciation for its welcoming and friendly atmosphere, and the chance it gives for audience members to talk in an informal way with performers. Also to be valued is the prevalence of outstanding local professional musicians. A special moment was a concert by a selection of our young Award Winners. Bravo to those performers! Clearly, those who attend like the timing of these events and their informal, intimate character. These are an aspect of our cultural mission that we would wish to develop.

## **Venues**

All evening concerts were given at Tonbridge Parish Church, except the piano recital given by Jeneba Kanneh-Mason which was presented at Tonbridge School. All Coffee Concerts were at the Music Suite at Somerhill, the 'Totally Toddler!' concert was at Tonbridge Baptist Church and 'Sir Scalliwag....' was at the EM Forster Theatre.

We thank all colleagues at these venues for their support; however, our use of Tonbridge School as a venue may be restricted in the future because of the cost of hire – which in addition to the Hall includes extra high costs for the use of the piano.

## **Finance**

1. Bank: see Appendix 3
2. Independent Examiner: see Appendix 3

## Financial Report

Thanks to healthy reserves at the beginning of the financial year we were able to absorb an overall loss in excess of £6k this year. With prices held steady for another year, revenue, mainly from ticket sales, was fractionally down on the previous year. Of the five evening concerts, three made a loss (notably the Nash at the end of last year's season), partly offset by the success of the Jeneba Kanneh-Mason recital in May, which generated a welcome surplus of £1.3k. The three Coffee Concerts between them contributed a little over £1k to the kitty. Collaboration with EM Forster Theatre for the 'Sallywag' family concert produced record numbers of ticket sales, but we learned that our pricing was aimed a little too low.

Our charitable spend on the Award Scheme was just over £2k and we regarded the roughly £900 subvention of the two 'Totally Toddler!' concerts as consistent with our mission of spreading musical appreciation to new audiences. We welcome Tonbridge Rotary Club's decision to contribute to next year's Awards Scheme.

The bedrock of TMC remains our stalwart cadre of season ticket holders. Our membership scheme has proved effective in ensuring some financial stability. Currently we have **59 Members**. Our reserves remain adequate to underpin bookings for a full next season, but we face growing challenges of reaching a wider regular audience if we are to continue to be able to afford bringing prestige performers to Tonbridge.

## Future Plans

Our priorities are three-fold; we plan to continue the **Membership Scheme** inaugurated post-Covid. Details of the **Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze membership options** can be found on our website [www.tmc.org.uk](http://www.tmc.org.uk) Further take-up within this scheme is needed. Secondly, we wish to extend further, costs allowing, our local community 'footprint' that has been so effective, as witnessed by our **Coffee Concert programme**, our **Awards Scheme for young people**, our **two shows at EM Forster Theatre** and our **'Totally Toddler!'** events. Continual monitoring and review of their effectiveness and costs will be a vital part of our ongoing agendas.

Thirdly we need to address the **future survival of the Club**. In changing times in the world of classical music, the Club needs to place itself so that it is robust to face current and future challenges. **We need new Trustees** to join us with skills that the Club needs to continue to move forward; the Club depends on the substantial voluntary efforts of current Trustees, but there needs to be a 'rolling programme' of new Members and Trustees to enable survival.

We continue to recognise the need to broaden the demographic range of our audiences, particularly in reaching out to young people. We would hope in the new season that local schools and music teachers generally could be more pro-active in supporting our events and encouraging their students to benefit from them.

TMC is anxious to promote the enrichment and cultural well-being that shared live music can bring, in partnership with our community. We intend to continue to offer a flexible, high-quality programme of events that maintains TMC's quality without sacrificing vital financial safeguarding.

And finally –

We invite all those who share our wish to keep our musical heritage alive to support us fully in the months to come. In particular, we ask all those who have our interests at heart to encourage participation in our Membership scheme, attendance at our events and involvement in our work via putting themselves forward for our Committee.

Patricia Gane (Chair)

Roger Golland (Treasurer)

Report date: 11 June 2024

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Artistic Programme 2023-24

#### EVENING EVENTS

Saturday 24 June 2023	Nash Ensemble
Saturday 14 October 2023	Ensemble 360
Saturday 9 December 2023	Papagena - <i>'A Winter's Dawn'</i>
Saturday 16 March 2024	Ensemble Molière - <i>'The King's Playlist'</i>
Saturday 4 May 2024	Jeneba Kanneh-Mason ( <i>piano</i> )

#### COFFEE CONCERTS

Sunday 5 November 2023	A Showcase of TMC's Music Award Winners
Sunday 21 January 2024	Juliette Bausor ( <i>flute</i> ) & Daniel Grimwood ( <i>piano</i> )
Sunday 21 April 2024	<i>'Cherchez la femme'</i> (Musical Detective series) Pat Gane ( <i>piano</i> )

#### DAYTIME FAMILY EVENTS

Saturday 10 February 2024	<i>'Sir Scallywag and the Golden Underpants'</i> Music in the Round and Ensemble 360
Friday 10 May 2024	<i>'Totally Toddler!'</i> <i>'Instrument Explorers'</i> Rosanna Ter-Berg ( <i>flute</i> ) & Lily May ( <i>percussion</i> )

## **Appendix 2: Administration and Governance**

Tonbridge Music Club is a registered charity (No. 264447). The Club's registered address is 17 Haydens Mews, Tonbridge, TN9 1PZ. The Committee and appropriate planning sub-groups have met regularly to plan and implement our programme and monitor TMC's financial position.

Tonbridge Music Club's Constitution is embedded in its Governing Document, approved at the Annual General Meeting held on 16 June 1972, modified on 1 July 1998. The Charity's Trustees are members of the Committee which is re-elected at each Annual General Meeting. The Committee manages the Club's affairs on behalf of its members. During the financial year ending 31 May 2024 it consisted of two Officers, Chair and Treasurer (Secretary post vacant), and seven other members of the Club elected at the Annual General Meeting held in July 2023.

'The objectives of the Club' (Governing Document) are 'to educate the public in the arts and sciences, in particular the art and science of music by the presentation of concerts and other activities'.

## **Appendix 3: Finance**

**Bank:** CAF: Charities Aid Foundation, CAF Bank Ltd. 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

**Independent Examiner:** Ms. Elizabeth Whimperley-Dixon (ACA Chartered Accountant, Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales, Financial Administrator: Neville Holt Opera, former Audit Principal at the National Audit Office, 1 Lind Street, St. Johns, London SE8 4JE.