

TONBRIDGE MUSIC CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

The Trustees of Tonbridge Music Club submit the **Annual Report and Financial Statement** for the year ending 31 May 2025.

Artistic Programme	see Appendix 1
Administration Governance	see Appendix 2
Finance	see Appendix 3

Trustees: July 2024 – July 2025

Officers: Patricia Gane (Chair); Secretary (position vacant); Roger Golland (Treasurer)
Trustees: Dilys Benson (Artistic Director), Rachel Davies, Kathryn Elwick, Ken Morgan, Jan Trayner, Peter Gane, Madeline Gammie.

A Note from the Chair

A huge gesture of thanks needs to be flagged at the outset for all the work that Trustees have undertaken to enable TMC to thrive in changing times. In particular, we pay homage to the energy, vision and unfailing commitment of trustees Madeline Gammie and Peter Gane who both sadly passed away towards the beginning of our season. In addition, we celebrate the untiring efforts, loyalty and sheer grit shown by our Artistic Director Dilys Benson, who will not be standing as a Trustee for the new season 2025-26. Dilys has been the lifeblood of TMC for 13 years. We deeply offer her our thanks. She will still be with us, as part of the team organising our Coffee Concerts programme.

The team has enabled the Club to maintain its fantastic profile in line with its charitable mission. Without our Members, the Community, our Artists and Colleagues in our venues nothing would be possible – a huge thank you to all. However, it must be stressed at the outset of his report that without further ‘refreshment’ vis new potential Trustees coming forward the future of the Club will be in doubt.

Artistic Programme and Review 2024-25 (see Appendix 1 for details of the Artistic Programme)

TMC continues to offer an eclectic mix of music that is attractive to a range of audiences. Some disappointment remains that despite excellent publicity and programming our ‘footfall’ in the Community, for instance in schools and the wider community, is not as

strong as we would like in terms of ticket sales and we have still not returned to pre-Covid audience levels. We have made great efforts to widen our reach, for instance in the TMC Music Awards for local young musicians and the Coffee Concerts programme. We continue to balance the demands of pricing, fees for artists, venue costs and logistics. This is a continuing issue.

Awards Scheme and Coffee Concerts

TMC is proud of its awards scheme for aspiring young musicians in the Tonbridge area. We thank Tristan Gurney for his contribution and the Rotary Club of Tonbridge for financial sponsorship. We are delighted to continue this initiative. A special moment was a concert by a selection of our young Award Winners - bravo to those performers! 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, who are often from the local area.

Venues

We thank our colleagues at Tonbridge Parish Church, Somerhill School, the Tonbridge Juddians Rugby Club and Tudeley Church where we have held our events. We also celebrate the two performances of our family concert at the EM Forster Theatre. A special moment was the Gala concert given in Tudeley Church by Trio Concept, in celebration of the Chagall windows. This was a sell-out event; we thank Josephine Willoughby especially for her splendid introductory talk about the windows. Samuel Telari's accordion recital at the Parish Church was breathtaking in its virtuosity.

Once again the folk group Counter's Creek, led by the popular Ben Cox, bewitched us with their singing, playing and lovely relaxed demeanor. The young Fitzroy Quartet were an outstanding start to the season.

The lack of a high-quality piano at our venues continues to limit the range of music we can offer. We also note that the hire charges for some venues are rising. Tonbridge School has such a piano but their hire charges are high, and sadly events must take place when students are not on campus.

Finance - Treasurer's Report

For precise figures see the Examiner-approved accounts. Income and expenditure were broadly matched this year, at a little under £21,000, which means our reserves are healthy

and sufficient to underwrite the next season. Season ticket subscriptions continued their gradual decline which possibly reflects the lingering legacy of the Covid pandemic. Four of the five evening concerts in the financial year made small losses; the exception being the popular pre-Christmas folk concert at the Tonbridge Juddians Rugby Club. The three Sunday morning informal concerts were profitable. The biggest ticket sales were for the Kidenza afternoon concerts for young families at the EM Forster Theatre, which was a hit with the audience but also our biggest outlay and overall loss.

Donations were dramatically up at £3500 (most eligible for Gift Aid), largely because of a flood of generosity from the music community around the time of the tribute concert in honour of Peter Gane. As part of our charitable mission we donated £1250 to the National Youth Orchestra in Peter's memory and assigned a similar amount to our award scheme for young musicians. We also acknowledge several significant donations, including from Tonbridge Rotary and anonymous members, to support the awards. We allocated seven awards totalling £2150.

Despite increased marketing effort audiences for classical music are in slow decline, which means we are reluctant to raise ticket prices for our loyal members more than necessary. We are fortunate that performers have often agreed to moderate their fees and that Tonbridge Parish Church, Somerhill School and other venues have kept costs within reach. Above all we have benefitted from the many hours dedicated by our unpaid volunteers. Unless a new generation emerges it may prove a challenge to sustain recent successes in future years.

1: Banks **see Appendix 2**

2: Independent Examiner **see Appendix 2**

Future Plans

We plan to continue our Membership scheme model. Details of the Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze membership options can be found on our website www.tmc.org.uk; further take-up within this scheme is needed. Secondly, we wish to extend further our local community 'footprint' that has been so effective, as witnessed by our Coffee Concert programme, Awards Scheme for local young musicians, and two shows at the EM Forster Theatre.

Urgently, 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**, in particular to help us with

planning our artistic programme post-Dilys! The Club depends on the substantial voluntary efforts of current Trustees, but we need 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: June 2025

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Programme 2024/25

EVENING EVENTS

Saturday 5 October 2024	Fitzroy Quartet
Friday 6 December 2024	Counter's Creek
Saturday 15 February 2025	Samuel Telari (<i>accordion</i>)
Saturday 3 May 2025	Trio Concept (formerly Trio Chagall)
Saturday 14 June 2025	London Handel Players

COFFEE CONCERTS

Sunday 3 November 2024	A Showcase of TMC's Music Award Winners
Sunday 19 January 2025	Musical Liaisons with Sam Hayward (<i>piano</i>)
Sunday 23 April 2025	Musical Detective: 'A walk on the wild side' with Pat Gane (<i>piano</i>)

DAYTIME FAMILY EVENTS

Saturday 22 February 2025	'Peter and the Timber Wolf' with Ann Bryant and Kidenza
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Appendix 2: Administration – 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.

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.