



TONBRIDGE MUSIC CLUB [Reg No 264447] 2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Objectives

Tonbridge Music Club (TMC) is a volunteer-run charity dedicated to promoting high-quality live classical music in Tonbridge. We present an annual series of chamber concerts featuring both established artists and outstanding emerging talent, and we support young musicians through workshops and financial awards.

Summary of Achievements

During the year, TMC delivered eight concerts across five venues, hosted a workshop for low-brass players, and awarded £2,800 to nine young local musicians.

Our concert programme was diverse, ranging from string quartet and organ recitals to folk ensemble, trombone quartet, and harpsichord/violin sonatas. Several events featured Kent-based professional performers. We are grateful to Tonbridge Parish Church, Somerhill School, Tonbridge Grammar School, Tonbridge Rugby Club and Tudeley Church for hosting our events.



Our Music Awards Scheme, supported in part by Tonbridge Rotary, attracted dozens of applications from talented school-age musicians from the local area, many aspiring to professional careers as performers. Winners from the 2024 cohort performed at a Coffee Concert at Somerhill in November



In February, the trombone quartet Bones Apart led a successful workshop at Tonbridge Grammar School for over 40 low brass players of all ages and abilities. We continue to offer £5 tickets for under-18s, helping to keep live music accessible to young listeners.



Financial Review

TMC's income for the year was approximately £16,000, derived almost entirely from ticket sales. Gift Aid contributions amounted to just over £1,000. Audience numbers and revenue were slightly lower than in previous years, continuing a recent trend, but careful cost control has ensured that our reserves remain healthy and sufficient to underwrite next season's commitments.

We thank our regular supporters and annual members, whose season-ticket subscriptions provide an essential financial cushion. A summary of our financial position, as reviewed by our Accounts Examiner, will be available to view at the AGM on Friday 3 July.

Governance

Following the retirement of long-serving Music Director Dilys Benson, principal responsibility for programming and marketing has been shouldered by Kathryn Elwick. We thank our six established trustees and our dedicated volunteers for their support throughout the year, including their invaluable help with refreshments and catering — particularly with the buffet at the Christmas folk evening.

We welcome enquiries from potential new trustees who share our mission and would like to contribute to the Club's future.

Future plans

In the coming season, we plan to present a further eight concerts, including evening and morning events, with an eclectic mix of performers designed to appeal to a wide community.

Due to financial constraints, we will pause the Music Awards Scheme for a year. However, in its place we hope to connect with local young musicians and attract young families with our ambitious project to present a screening of Wallace and Gromit's *The Wrong Trousers* with live orchestra, supported by local sponsorship.

In recognition of ongoing cost-of-living pressures, we are holding ticket prices at current levels and introducing a new incentive ticket scheme for families.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the report above.

Signed 

Date 30/05/26