



Newsletter

Issue 5
July 2020

Welcome to the 5th issue of Perth & Kinross Music Foundation's 6 monthly Newsletter.

The Trustees hope that you and your families are all well, and have managed to escape this horrible global virus.

This issue brings you up to date with what we have been up to over the last 6 months, and also gives you advance notice of what is currently planned over the next 6 months subject to the continued easing of lockdown restrictions.

What have we been up to over the last 6 months:

On Wednesday 4 March 2020 we held our **annual fundraising concert** featuring young musicians who attend the various Central Groups, and also including a performance from Perthshire Youth Brass. This year the evening showcased the musical talents of the Perth & Kinross Elementary String Orchestra, the Perth & Kinross Central Groups Choir, the Perth & Kinross Percussion Ensemble, and Perthshire Youth Brass plus a number of soloists from amongst these groups. The aim of this evening each year is to give young people (some of whom will be receiving financial support from the Foundation), an opportunity to perform in front of a keen listening audience of parents, relatives, family, and friends. For some of the youngest, this would have been their first experience of playing in public. The evening was almost a "full house" and the final sum raised was £1,158. We were very lucky to be able to present this concert, as within a few days, the country was in "lock-down" due to the Covid19 pandemic and events were being cancelled all across the country.

In May 2020 some members of Perthshire Brass, and also some supporters of the Music Foundation, had planned to take part in a sponsored cycle ride from Perth to Ecclefechan in memory of the late George Annan. As you know, George was a founder member of both the Music Foundation and Perthshire Brass. The participants agreed in advance that the proceeds of this fundraising event would come to both the Music Foundation and Perthshire Brass. Due to the Covid19 pandemic this fundraising venture was cancelled, and at the time of writing this newsletter, no revised date has yet been set. Once the participants agree a new date, we will post details on our website, and hopefully you will feel able to make a donation to support the team.

Following our 2019 success in securing no further fee increases until after the next Council elections in 2022, we again embarked on a joint campaign with PYO players and Committee members, to lobby Perth & Kinross Council to ensure that they honoured their previous pledge of no further increases in music tuition fees during the lifetime of the current Administration of the Council, when setting its final budget for 2020/21. The dynamics of the Council Administration had changed since last year with the departure from the Administration of the Liberal Democrat Group. At its budget setting meeting on 6 March, the Council agreed not to increase charges for 2020/21, so this was once again a successful campaign, but one which no doubt we will be embarking on again in early 2021.

At the Trustees' meeting on 25 February 2020 a revised and updated Constitution was approved. This has been approved by the Charity Regulator OSCR, and is now available on our website.

What are our plans for the next 6 months and beyond?

In Autumn 2018, we held a very successful **Sunday afternoon concert** in St John's Episcopal Church which showcased the talents of the **IMS staff tutor group**. This event will be repeated on **Sunday 13 September 2020 starting at 2pm** subject to lockdown restrictions that may still be in place at this time. This will be a great afternoon of music from some of the most talented local musicians, and it will also be a rare opportunity for members of the public to show their support not only for the Music Foundation, but more importantly, for the staff who teach and train our young musicians throughout the school year. Young students will also get the chance to hear their tutors play in public which does not happen very often so we are hoping for a great turnout at this event. As with our planned Quiz Night, an update on whether or not this event goes ahead will be issued nearer the time.

Our 2020 **Quiz Night** is booked for **Thursday 17 September 2020 starting at 7pm**, in the Civil Service Club in Perth. At this time we are not sure whether or not it will be possible for this event to go ahead. However, please put this date in your diary, and get thinking about whether you and a group of your friends can make up a team. It promises to once again be a great fun evening. An update will be issued nearer the time as we move through the easing of lockdown restrictions.

We have also been accepted by **ASDA** to participate in their **green token charity giving scheme**. However, due to the Covid19 situation, we have not yet been given a date. Once this has been announced we will let you know so that you and your friends might support us when they go about your/their shopping.

All charities are always looking at new ways to raise funds to support their objectives, and supplement their funds. If you have any fundraising ideas for us to try, do let us know, and we will consider such an event in the future.

Our Finances

In the financial year to 30 June 2020 we have been successful in securing £21,000 grant funding awards from a number of local Charitable Trusts and Perth & Kinross Council. We have also had confirmation of future years' grant funding from a couple of Charitable Trusts. This makes our forward planning for the coming academic years much easier in the knowledge that we have already secured some funds (subject to us meeting the various conditions of the grant awards given to us in the current year). We have paid almost £17,000 to PKC for fees for 2019/20 academic year. Surplus grants received in 2019/20 will be carried forward to support applications received during 2020/21 academic year subject to the approval of the Grant awarding bodies. None of us can predict what impact the Covid19 pandemic situation will have on the number of applications we receive once youngsters go back to school after the summer holidays. A number of factors will arise, including the financial circumstances of families who were not able to work normally during the lockdown, and the number of youngsters who choose to continue with their music tuition, as virtual lessons may not have been successful for some young people despite the valiant efforts of the team of IMS tutors to maintain the learning process over the last few months.

In December 2019, many of the the young people of Perth & Kinross IMS Service, supported by their IMS tutors, took part in the annual Childline Christmas Concert in Perth Concert Hall. There was a packed house for this evening of happy and joyous music in the run up to Christmas. The result was a donation of £455 from NSPCC Childline to PKMF as a result of our partnership agreement with NSPCC. This agreement recognises that the IMS staff provide their services and support to this concert free of any payment, on the basis that the Music Foundation will get a donation to reflect the staff's input to both preparing for, and performing on, this evening at such a busy time in the school calendar year.

As you can see from the above information, the grant awards, our fundraising efforts, and other personal donations received from our sponsors, friends, and supporters, are very much welcomed, and indeed necessary, to support our work. We now have 23 individual "Friends of the Foundation". These are people who have invested in the work of the Foundation by signing up to an annual/monthly subscription.

The Trustees would like to say a huge thank you to all our funders, sponsors, and supporters. If you know of anyone else who might be interested in becoming a "Friend", or simply make a one-off donation, please ask them to get in touch with either the Secretary or Treasurer via our website.