



Newsletter

Issue 8
January 2022

Welcome to the 8th issue of Perth & Kinross Music Foundation's 6 monthly Newsletter.

Happy New Year to you, and best wishes for a healthy 2022.

The Trustees hope that you and your families are all well, and had a peaceful Festive break? We also hope that you, and those closest to you, have managed to stay clear of the global virus over the last few months. Hopefully, we are beginning to see what the “new normal” way of living our lives might look like over the coming weeks.

As the Foundation celebrates 25 years of supporting young musicians across Perth & Kinross, this issue brings you up to date with what we have been up to over the last 6 months, and also gives you some information on what we plan to do in the future.

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

The simple answer to that question is “not a lot” if you think about fundraising. Our planned Quiz Night, in September 2021 was again cancelled and rescheduled for May 2022. However, at the Trustees' meeting on 15 December 2021, we agreed to once again cancel the Quiz Night and the planned Central Groups concert in March 2022, and to cease, for the moment, doing any fundraising in the immediate future.

This was for 2 reasons: the first being the ongoing uncertainty over the Covid restrictions which may be necessary in the future, plus the Scottish Government announcement in July 2021 regarding the abolition of fees for instrumental music tuition in Scottish state schools with effect from August 2021. Whilst this is great news, the Trustees are reviewing what it means for our role in supporting the Instrumental Music Service (IMS) in the future.

At our December 2021 meeting we also decided to advise our very supportive grant awarding charitable bodies that we would not be submitting any grant applications for academic year 2021/22. This decision was based on the news about the abolition of fees, as the main reason for our existence is to raise funds to provide financial support for financially challenged households towards music tuition/central group fees. We also decided not to seek any further donations from groups or individuals, and to suspend the “Friends of the Foundation” scheme until such times as our future role is clarified.

Following the Scottish Government announcement, the Trustees have been, and continue to be, in dialogue with senior managers at Perth & Kinross Council Instrumental Music Service, to review how we might continue to support the IMS going forward, whilst remaining within the terms of our OSCR approved constitution.

What are our plans for the future?

As noted above, and once we conclude the ongoing discussions with Perth & Kinross Council, the Trustees will

work with the management and staff of the IMS to provide financial support to the Service to be targeted, to ensure that every child who wants to, can be given the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument.

At the moment, we understand that the Scottish Government intends to put the abolition of fees for instrumental music tuition into primary legislation. This will thus protect these services from charges/fees being reinstated by Councils in the future in an effort to balance their budgets, as such a move would then be illegal. However, getting new legislation onto the statute books takes time, therefore the Trustees will remain committed to supporting the IMS whilst funds exist to do so. This means that at some point in the future as our funds are diminished, the Trustees will probably take steps to dissolve the charity and advise all relevant bodies (including OSCR) of that fact at that time.

Our Finances

Given the above news, and the fact that due to the success of previous fundraising events, plus the support of grant making bodies, local groups and individual supporters, we are reasonably healthy in financial terms, and we are hopeful that we have sufficient funds to be able to support the IMS for around 3 years (based on the amounts that we have financially supported families with for tuition fees over the last few years). The Foundation's Trustees will continue to be very flexible and pragmatic going forward in supporting the Instrumental Music Service staff to continue to provide a first class music tuition service to all pupils in Perth & Kinross Council schools.

The Foundation finds itself at this point after being around for 25 years, and the Trustees would like to say a massive thank you to all our funders, sponsors, supporters and Friends, for your support over the last quarter century.

The Trustees hope that you have found this Newsletter informative, and will want to celebrate that the Foundation has been supporting young musicians from financially challenged households for the last 25 years. We also hope that you will agree that our planned continuing support to the IMS in the next few years will mean that we will still be **“letting our children play”** as per our motto.