



Newsletter

Issue 9
July 2022

Welcome to the 9th issue of Perth & Kinross Music Foundation's 6 monthly Newsletter.

The Trustees hope that you and your families are all well, and have steered clear of the dreaded Covid over the last few months as life has started to get back to something more like normal?

In this issue, we bring you up to date with what we have been up to over the last 6 months, and also give you some information on what we plan to do in the future.

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

As was set out in our last newsletter, the Scottish Government policy change with regard to free music tuition in state schools which was announced last summer, changed how the charity would have to operate given that we were set up to provide funds for music tuition fees (and associated costs) which financially challenged families had difficulty in paying.

Since the the Scottish Government announcement last year, the Trustees have continued to support the Instrumental Music Service, whilst remaining within the terms of our OSCR approved constitution.

To that end, we agreed with Allan Young (IMS Co-ordinator) to make available a grant to his service of up to £20,000 to be spent on additional instruments, equipment, and other resources on order to support the team's efforts to re-establish the level of service that they provide to pre-pandemic levels, and thus to encourage more young people to want to learn to play a musical instrument. This amount equates to the level of music tuition fees that the Foundation would have paid to Perth & Kinross Council in a normal academic year. At the time of writing this newsletter, we have been invoiced by Perth & Kinross Council for the sum of £10,003 for the purchase of musical instruments. The remaining balance was not able to be spent due to supplier difficulties, so it has been agreed with Allan that this remaining £10,000 will be available for him to spend on the agreed priorities early next term, when schools go back after the summer holidays. We were aware however, from our earlier discussions with Allan, that supply of some instruments and equipment was likely to be an issue given that the announcement was Scotland-wide and lots of other IMS teams were also buying additional instruments and equipment.

What are our plans for the future?

As noted last time, given that we still have a considerable amount of funds even after we settle the invoice for recent spend, we intend to discuss again with Allan Young whether or not there is further assistance we can give to him and his team to support the continued development and growth of the service over the coming academic year.

We still haven't heard that the change in music tuition fee charges has been incorporated into legislation, so will continue to keep an open ear on that matter to ensure that if the Scottish Government goes back on this policy change (or choose not to legislate for the change), then we can get back into a fully functioning fundraising mode very quickly!

Our Finances

As is mentioned above, we still have a reasonable amount of funds in the bank, therefore 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 more than 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 more than 25 years. We also hope that you will agree that our planned continuing support to the IMS over the next few years will mean that we will still be **“letting our children play”** as per our motto.

Below is a link to YouTube which, if you copy and paste into your google search engine, should take you to the recent “Follow the Band” concert which took place last week in Perth Concert Hall. This project involved musicians from the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and staff from the Perth & Kinross Council Instrumental Music Service. This concert was for upper primary school aged pupils from all Perth & Kinross primary schools, and was an opportunity for all these musicians to showcase what is on offer from the IMS in Perth & Kinross. The event was attended by hundreds of schoolchildren as you can see (and hear). The feedback from teachers, parents, and Instrumental Tutors, was that the atmosphere was fantastic, and the event was enjoyed by everyone who took part as much as the young school pupils. We hope that you can enjoy this wonderful concert which lasts for about 75 minutes.

<https://youtu.be/zEHEfecUswU>

