



Newsletter

Issue 14
January 2025

Welcome to the 14th issue of Perth & Kinross Music Foundation's 6 monthly Newsletter. The Trustees hope that you and your families are all well and had a very enjoyable Festive Season?

In this issue, we bring you up to date with what we have been up to over the last 6 months and give you some information on our plans for the future.

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

The Trustees have been very busy over the last 6 months campaigning to Perth & Kinross Councillors, as well as local MPs and MSPs about the Council's decision to make staff cuts and reintroduce charges for some instrumental music service activities from August 2024. We have been part of a group of local organisations which have been lobbying the people who took that decision seeking their reversal, or at least deferral, when the Council meets in February 2025 to confirm its budget for 2025/26. A deferral would at least give the new Co-Ordinator, Lynsey Patterson the chance to carry out a review of all activities to make the service more efficient but still deliver efficiency savings without having to cut staff posts.

The charge for young musicians attending Central Groups has been set at £100 per academic year from August 2024 through to April 2025. The Trustees have already seen applications from families who simply cannot afford these charges and without the Foundation's support, these young musicians would have to withdraw from the Central Groups that they attend.

Attendance at Central Groups has dropped by approximately a third since the charges were reintroduced in August 2024, and the main reason cited by young musicians for non-attendance is the new charges. Despite the lower numbers attending Central Groups, the Percussion ensemble was crowned Scottish Champions (for the second successive year) at the Scottish Brass Band Youth Festival of Brass in Perth Concert Hall last November. In addition, the Central Groups Brass Band was awarded a silver award at the same event. These successes put the P&K Instrumental Music Service at the forefront of youth music making across Scotland and was a massive acknowledgement of the hard work put in by the young musicians as well as their dedicated tutors.

Last time around, we mentioned the sponsored ultra marathon being undertaken by the father of

one of the young musicians. This involved running 70 miles from Carlisle to Newcastle. This was achieved in a time of just under 18 hours which was an amazing achievement. The amount eventually raised for the Music Foundation was £750 and a cheque presentation photoshoot took place in early December 2024 and was passed to the local press so hopefully you saw that. If not, then the photo appears on our website and can be seen from there. The Trustees would like to say a huge thank you to Bryan Johnston for his tremendous efforts. His contribution alone will pay the Central Group fees for more than 7 young musicians.

Also, from November 2024 we reopened our “Friends of the Foundation” scheme, and we would like to thank all those former Friends who have renewed their subscriptions.

What are our future plans?

At a recent meeting the Trustees agreed that we would once again become active in raising funds so that we could revert to our prime reason for existing (i.e. to financially support young musicians from financially challenged households to pay fees due to PKC) in order that no youngster would be prevented from enjoying such activities simply because their families could not afford the fees set by the Council. On the fundraising front we have decided to present a concert featuring some of the Central Groups in a concert in North Inch Campus on Friday 7 March 2025. As yet we haven't agreed which groups will participate but we will be working with the IMS staff to ensure that we put on a balanced and enjoyable programme of music making by our very talented young musicians.

The Trustees once again say a massive thank you to all our funders, sponsors, supporters and Friends, for your support over the years.

