



Friends and Volunteers of the Sheffield Music Hub
Registered Charity Number 1003611

Chairs report for the year March 2019 – February 2020

Welcome to our Annual General Meeting – welcome to all the existing committee members on whom we depend to support and organise the various friends and volunteer activities and events and welcome to any new members attending for the first time to see what we do and perhaps join in.

I am delighted to present my first report as Chair of the Friends and Volunteers of the Sheffield Music Hub.

Introduction

The last 12 months have seen some changes in the Friends and Volunteers, whereas the volunteers that help out at rehearsals and events has stayed the same, the old committee stepped down in March 2019 and a new Chair, Treasurer and Secretary took over from March 2019. Many thanks to the previous office holders for their ongoing support and encouragement as the new team have found their feet.

The new Committee have had a steep learning curve, getting to know not only each other and members of the Sheffield Music Hub staff, but learning a lot about fund raising and volunteering.

We remain committed to the core purpose of the group which aims to support Sheffield Music Hub both practically and financially, in their endeavours to provide ever more of Sheffield's children and Young people with the very best musical education possible.

What has happened this year?

Listed below are the activities that we have supported this year:

- **Supporting concerts scanning tickets, collecting donations, supplying and serving refreshments**
 - Jazz and Big Band – Forge Valley – Jun 2019
 - Intermediate Flutes, Alley Cats, Guitars and Intermediate Bassoons - Mercia - Jun 2019
 - Leavers Concert - Cathedral - July 2019
 - Peace in the Park - Weston Park - Jul 2019
 - Specialist Groups' Winter Concert - St Mark's - Dec 2019
 - Christmas Concert - Cathedral - Dec 2019
 - Sheffield Youth Big Band Christmas Gig - The Library - Dec 2019
 - Christmas Jazz & SYBB Concert - Forge Valley - Dec 2019
 - Orchestral Showcase - Victoria Hall - Jan 2020
 - Session Orchestra Gig - Theatre Deli - Feb



2020

- **Sheffield 10k** we convened and trained a running samba band that raised money as it ran. The Youth Samba Band played on the route to encourage the runners and entertain the crowds.



- **Our Music Crowd - Samba for Sheffield** – an Arts Council supported crowdfunding campaign that raised £6,000 to buy new equipment for the Youth Samba Band, run Samba workshops in schools and to develop and grow the Band. We attended training on how to manage ‘crowd funding’; set up the financial system to facilitate the ‘crowd’; created an advertising campaign using Twitter, Facebook; posters and worked with local groups / companies to raise funds. ie 267th Dore Scout group, Tesco at Abbeydale superstore.



- **Logo competition** through which the charity’s new logo was produced by a professional designer using the prize-winning original drawing by a member of the Festival Choir

- **Grant applications:**

- Application to Church Burgesses Educational Foundation. Grant of £500 awarded November 2019
- Application to Sheffield Grammar School Exhibition Foundation. Grant of £2,000 awarded November 2019.
- We have applied to the National Lottery Community Fund for a grant of £1,000 (unsuccessful)
- Application to Sheffield Town Trust February 2019. Grant of £4,000 awarded February
- Application to Sheffield Bluecoat and Mount Pleasant Educational Foundation. (response awaited)

How the money we have raised has been used

- **Xylophones**



- **Samba for Sheffield (funds raised but not yet spent) will deliver:**

- Professional quality Samba equipment - 30 instruments including beaters and straps
- 4 full days of workshops in schools and with Music Hub ensembles
- 30 Sheffield Youth Samba Band T shirts
- 30 Industry leading Ear defenders
- Support for 20 students to achieve Arts Awards
- Promotional materials including flags and banners
- A celebratory performance at Hubfest in July 2020

- **Hubfest**

The Friends and Volunteers have nearly raised £10,000 towards the cost of Hubfest. This includes £6,500 in grants.

Hubfest provides a platform for outstanding young Sheffield musicians to come together to learn and develop their musical skills. This includes mentoring from professionals and performing at a world-class platform at Yellow Arch Studios in Neepsend, Sheffield.

The young musicians receive a bespoke mentoring programme from industry experts that provides guidance and coaching as they prepare for public performance, enabling them to exceed their own expectations of what they are able to achieve both musically and personally. A key aspect of the project is to bring young people together from every corner of city and continue the work of Sheffield Music Hub by smashing down barriers through music.

- **Musical Stars Programme**

The Musical Stars Fund aims to overcome barriers that prevent children and young people from spreading their musical wings. The funds raised from the scheme will ensure that: children are offered a 30 minute, weekly, specialist one to one lesson; free instrument hire (if needed); an appropriate ensemble place; dedicated time outside of the lessons for a tutor to offer guidance and support children pastorally with their musical journey. From the money we have raised we have supported this programme by £8,000 this year.

Thank You

I would personally like to thank to all those who have helped me in my first year in this challenging and demanding but extremely rewarding role as Chair. It's been amazing and I have really enjoyed it.

The team started out as novices, taking all the challenges that have been put our way with enthusiasm and passion to become a successful, finely tuned 'fund raising' group.

I would like to thank Niven – the treasurer who has had a challenging role of dealing with the bank to change the signatories, to setting up everything to deal with the Crowd fund money and Sophie – the secretary who organises all the meetings and ensures we have covered everything. She has been fantastic with the crowd funding, organising the 10K samba run and working with Tesco's, a relationship that will continue and grow. Unfortunately Sophie is stepping down from the role of secretary at this meeting, so I would like to thank her for all the support, hard work

and energy she has given. She is not leaving; she still will be very much involved with the 'Friends', which is fantastic.

I would also like to thank the rest of the committee - Sarah; Kate; Audrey; Amena and Sue. They attended regular meetings and come up with ideas on how to raise more funds, which a lot has come to fruition. They have stepped up to ensure we have representation at each event and just got on and done the job. A new area to the Friends is Grant Applications and Sarah and Sophie expertise has been invaluable.

A big thank you to the volunteer team who help at rehearsals and when called upon at concerts, without fail they are there when you need them.

I would like to thank Gillian – the Music Hub's representative; she has been brilliant and her knowledge and experience has made our 'job' a lot easier.

The Sheffield Music Hub staff have been very patient and supportive this year, so thank you to Ian and all his staff for working with us, so we can raise lots of money.

Trevor and Gina – what can I say? Their commitment over the years and the funds that they have raised has been remarkable. A big thank you to them and hope they enjoy their retirement from the friends.

Last but not least the biggest thank you is for the Parents; their families and supporters who attend the wonderful concerts and are ready to dig deep and spend their pennies. You are awesome, thank you.

Julie Justice

Chair (Friends and Volunteers of the Sheffield Music Hub)