

# SQUARE ROOTS PRODUCTIONS

## NEW & OLD ROUTES TO FOLK MUSIC

Registered charity 1163954

### Trustees report for the year ended 30 April 2019

Square Roots Productions CIO was co-founded by Liz Thomson and Anthony Keates, its purpose to curate projects that celebrate the shared music heritage of the British Isles and North America.

2018-19 was a year of concentrated planning based around a core idea which encapsulates SRP's aims and objectives and which has enabled us to map out ideas and events for the coming year or so:

*The Electric Muse: The Story of Folk into Rock* was published in Britain in the mid-1970s. Written by Karl Dallas, Robin Denselow, Dave Laing and Robert Shelton, it swiftly came to be regarded as a seminal text and remains much sought-after as a second-hand text – it is long out of print. All but one of the co-authors is now sadly dead – Dave Laing, a trustee of SRP died suddenly in January 2019, a loss not only to his family but to the world of music journalism and scholarship and to SRP. The idea to republish an updated version of *The Electric Muse* had already been discussed and he had donated £1,000 towards a project of which he would have been an integral part.

Over the last twelve months, SRP founding trustee Anthony Keates has been shepherding the project forward, securing a contract with Music Sales/Omnibus Press, and the book will be published in summer 2020. Robin Denselow, who has written what is now a very substantial new section, bringing the story up to the present date, will be actively involved in promoting the book at music and literary festivals across Britain.

SRP also began the planning for a series of concerts and workshops to celebrate *The Electric Muse* and its thesis. These will begin in summer – autumn 2020 at venues in London and elsewhere.

Discussions concerning the re-release of the book's accompanying four-record set are at an early stage, the aim being to add a fifth disc to the set, thus updating it in parallel with the book.

**Bringing It All Back Home to Washington Square**, part of The Village Trip, again featured two concerts – one in Washington Square Park, the other at the Bitter End in New York's Greenwich Village. As in 2018, this was achieved at no cost to the

SRP/...2

charity, funds raised from sponsors and private donors in the US by SRP co-founder Liz Thomson. The project will continue to be built upon from both sides of the Atlantic, as set out in the charity's original mission statement.

Other ideas remain in train and will be more viable once *The Electric Muse* becomes available. These include:

**Scottish Routes:** A number of ideas have been mapped out, potential venues explored, and we hope to bring this project to fruition in due course. With the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pilgrim Fathers arriving in America, this is ever more timely.

**Square Roots Productions** dedicated **YouTube** channel on [www.folktracks.org](http://www.folktracks.org) The aim is to create an online resource to include features on songs, instruments, tunings etc.

**Topical song-writing competition:** The NUJ has been receptive to the idea, as was the Musicians Union, and conversations continue with potential partners and stakeholders.

Liz Thomson and Anthony Keates

Co-founders and Trustees

28 February 2020

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## SQUARE ROOTS PRODUCTIONS CIO 1163954

1 May 2018 - 30 April 2019

	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Opening balance			2,177.60
HMRC	263.83		
Donation from Bill Samuel	500		
Go Cardless		238.8	
Website update		185	
<b>Total</b>	<b>763.83</b>	<b>423.8</b>	<b>2,517.63</b>