



Annual Report 2019

Seaham Music Academy is a not-for-profit organisation operating within Seaham but drawing membership from neighbouring towns, too.

Mission Statement: "To promote participation in and enjoyment of music in the local community without barriers to access".

During the course of 2019 the Academy met on thirty-seven Saturday mornings.

Committee

The committee comprises:

President: James Bagley

Chairman: Gareth Brown

Musical Director: Frances Abbott

Fundraising Head: Susan Topping

Joint Public Relations Managers: Rosie Curtis & Jamie Lowes

AGM & Meeting Secretary: Touran Parsee

Annual General Meeting

Last year's AGM was held on Saturday 25th May. Four new Trustees were appointed. The full list of Trustees is as follows:

James Bagley
Joanne Curtis
Sue Faulkner
Janie Lowes
Susan Topping
Steve Williams
Julie Wilson

There was keen discussion regarding many aspects of the Academy's organisation and performance.

Membership

The membership total rose marginally with 170 members at the close of the year as opposed to 164 members twelve months previously. However, this disguises a large movement of people both in and out of the Academy. Over the year we attracted 79 new members while an almost equal number left our organisation. This is a good sign as it dispels any suggestion of stagnation. We are delighted to attract so many new members but not too downhearted about people leaving as the main reason for our existence is to give young people the opportunity to learn how to play a musical instrument. It is inevitable that people will leave us both as they discover that playing music is not as easy as it looks and also as their circumstances change and they progress from school to college, work or university.

Staff

The Academy currently enjoys the benefit of nineteen tutors. This year we welcomed three new tutors. The spring term saw the recruitment of a new brass tutor. This man is training to become a music teacher. He is quite new to our area and contacted us out of curiosity. After he paid us a visit we were happy to offer him the opportunity to work with us to our mutual benefit. He duly began work in January and so far both parties are more than happy with the arrangement.

Our other two new teachers are young. One, a young lady, is our third violin teacher while the other, a young man who has just begun a law degree course at Durham University, is our second piano tutor. Both were appointed in response to unwavering demand for lessons on these particular instruments. Both tutors have made very impressive starts to their work with us. They are enthusiastic and hard-working and their students are very fond of them.

We are also grateful to five volunteers: Peter Lodge, who teaches our guitarists, Milton "Battler" Britton who supports our saxophone tutors week by week, but is also happy to teach clarinet and brass as well as conducting our woodwind ensemble, Lynne Dakers, who supplements the work of the paid flute tutors and helps greatly to co-ordinate and organise their work, Robert Clark who teaches bass guitar and David Robinson who helps out with violin tuition.

This is also an appropriate time to thank the adult volunteers and youngsters who stock and run our "tuck shop" each Saturday morning for their cheerful hard work. Profits from the tuck shop make a significant contribution to our annual income.

Instruments

It is Academy policy to loan instruments to members who do not possess them. So far it is our experience that we can never have too many instruments. Over the course of this year we have increased our holding of instruments. We were donated a very expensive bassoon by a family from Ashington. Other donations were a drum kit, loudspeaker stands, an amplifier and a piano stand. We also bought two second-hand instruments, a flute and a full-size cello.

We are also pleased to report a steady increase in the Academy's library of sheet music and tutor books.

Concerts and Performances

In terms of performances our ceilidh band played at a wedding celebration in North Tyneside in March.

Our traditional end-of-term concert took place at Seaview School on Saturday 6th April. This time, despite previous discussions about the format of these concerts, we reverted to devoting the first half of the concert to beginner and inexperienced musicians. No less than 22 young people performed on cello, violin, clarinet, flute, cornet, saxophone, recorder, piano and flugel horn.

After the interval our wind band, string orchestra and separate violin and saxophone groups played for us before the concert was brought to a close. The concert raised a further £220 for our funds.

In terms of performances the term began with our Wind band entertaining the guests at the Mayor's Ball. This was our eighteenth consecutive appearance at this event. Many of the guests are from our twin town of Gerlingen, which lies near to Stuttgart in southern Germany. The band acquitted themselves admirably.

On Thursday 20th June our choir, Seaham Academy Singers, entertained members of the area Women's Institute in the village hall at Dalton-le-Dale. The choir concluded the evening after a meeting of the W.I. and their performance was greeted with great joy. There were many very favourable comments about the quality of the singing.

On Friday 28th June a saxophone quartet played at a fundraising Chinese meal which was prepared by the parents of one of the Academy's young musicians. Fifty people attended. All were very well fed and entertained. Most importantly £595 was raised for Academy funds.

On Saturday 29th June our Wind band was asked to play during the town's Armed Forces Day celebration and then we held our end-of-term concert on Saturday 6th July.

We had no less than twenty-three young people performing either solo or in very small groups on violin, guitar, clarinet, drums, flute, flugel horn and recorder. The concert was supplemented with contributions by our string orchestra, a saxophone ensemble, wind band and finally our choir. This was the first time that we have had a guitar group perform at one of our concerts. Two boys and a girl played and sang the song "Believer" by Imagine Dragons. The applause was rapturous. We hope that such success will encourage other young guitarists to share their talent.

Our first engagement of the autumn term was on 28th September when we held a fundraising ceilidh in Seaham Town Hall. There was an attendance of approaching one hundred people who had great fun learning the various dances and appreciating the music. Over £400 was raised for Academy funds. A small presentation was made during this event to a young lady who started to play music at the Academy at the age of 9 and who was about to depart for Cambridge University to read music.

Last autumn we had been invited to perform a concert in our local Anglican parish church but, although our musicians performed very well, the evening had been quite disappointing because of the low attendance.

Dark nights were blamed for people, particularly the elderly, being reluctant to leave their firesides.

This autumn we were again asked to give a concert in the same church, so we suggested that perhaps a lunchtime event might be worth consideration. This proved to be a good idea. Approximately 150 people attended the concert which featured performances from twenty individuals who played solo or in duets as well as strong contributions from our wind band, string group and cello section. The concert was very well received as were the refreshments afterwards. The parish was also delighted to raise £360 towards the organ restoration fund.

One week later, on the morning of Saturday 7th December, we held our traditional end-of-term concert. This represents an opportunity for our young and beginner pupils to show their parents and wider families the progress they have made over the course of the term. Thirty-three individuals made very good use of this opportunity to send the audience home full of admiration for their efforts and with all the old favourite Christmas tunes and carols ringing in their ears. Instruments featured in the concert ranged from clarinets, flutes, recorders and saxophones to violins, cellos, the baritone and the piano.

On the same afternoon our choir, Seaham Academy Singers, sang for an hour to entertain older people who had just enjoyed a Christmas lunch in one of our local church halls. The choir sang well. Their effort was greatly appreciated and a contribution of £35 was made towards our funds.

Christmas music was very much to the fore in our next engagement on Wednesday 11th December at the Seaham Ecumenical Civic Carol Service. Our brass section accompanied the congregation at St. John's church throughout the service while our choir gave a rendition of "Away in a manger".

On Saturday 14th December we held our third Jinglemania fundraising concert at the Glebe Centre in Murton. This Christmas party included

performances from our wind band and choir before a meal which was followed by dancing to the music of our ceilidh band. An enjoyable evening produced a profit of £862.50 for the Academy. However, it should be noted that this profit resulted from an awful lot of hard work and dedication from Academy trustees, committee members and helpers.

On Tuesday 17th December Seaham Academy Singers were once again busy. This time their destination was Parklands Care Home. Our choir entertained the residents for an hour by singing carols and other festive songs. Again their efforts were met with much appreciation. This is the fifteenth consecutive annual visit to Parklands by either our brass group or our singers.

The final action before Christmas was a visit to our local Asda store on Saturday 21st December. Windband musicians and choir members entertained shoppers for two hours from 10 a.m. while violinists played for a similar time from 2 p.m. Altogether £601.81 was raised for Academy funds.

Examinations

As stated in previous reports the spring term is disrupted every year because we invite an examiner from Trinity Guildhall to visit our Academy during the February half-term. We do this both to avoid the time and expense of travelling to regional examination centres and also to allow our young people to take their exams in familiar surroundings. Also we choose this time of year as it is removed from the period when academic examinations are held and so we hope to alleviate the pressure on our young people.

Our number of candidates again increased this year when we had 23 musicians wanting to take grade exams from beginner Grade 1 through to

Grade 8. We are delighted to report that all of them bar one passed with ten gaining distinctions and eight earning merits.

Since Easter we have had four more exam successes. A boy passed his Grade 4 trumpet exam with distinction, another passed his Grade 3 clarinet exam and a girl passed Grade 6 flute. Another young lady passed her Grade 6 theory exam with merit.

Well done to all concerned! A special word of thanks must go to Derek Shute for his patient accompaniment, encouragement and support.

Partnerships

We still meet in Seaview Primary (Deneside) school where for £120 per week we enjoy the use of fifteen separate classrooms, a hall for our main ensemble group to use for rehearsals, a hall for use by our kindermusik group and two cupboards to store our instruments and music. We are both very happy with the accommodation and very proud of our relationship with the school.

Grants

Since one of the Academy's main aims is to ensure that music-making is accessible to all, we deliberately suppress the membership fees. A consequence of this policy is that we must seek some financial help to guarantee the proper payment of our tutors.

During 2019 we were fortunate to receive grants of £4,800 from both the St. James's Place Foundation and the Wellesley Trust Fund.

We were also granted £1,000 by Seaham Town Council to purchase stand banners while for the fourth year in succession the Joseph Strong Frazer Trust granted us £1,000 towards tuition and rent costs.

£500 was granted by the Woodward Charitable Trust while the Hays Travel Foundation gave us a terrific boost with a grant of £5,000 just before our summer break.

Our gratitude to our benefactors cannot be overstated.

Finally, to everyone who helped to make 2019 such a worthwhile and productive year - from tutors to parents, from students to helpers and especially our benefactors - thank you very much.

Seaham Music Academy
Summary of Accounts January to
December 2019

Income		Expenditure	
Subscriptions	15156.50	Stationery/Postage	237.34
Tuck	2577.60	Books/Sheet Music	471.87
Exam. Fees	1056.00	Instrument Accessories	592.05
Grants	15800.00	Tuck	477.07
Concerts	3022.50	Instrument Repairs	277.92
Sundry Sales	27.60	Insurance	551.95
Donations	697.99	Tutors' Fees	34695.00
(Restricted Income) Grant from the Wellesley Trust Fund at the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland	4,800.00	Premises Hire	4475.00
Raffles	1405.48	Hospitality	108.00
Credit note	27.90	Exam Fees	1101.62
		Instruments	1280.00
		Transport	42.00
		Licensing	21.00
		Catering	1585.00
		Prize	50.00
Sub-total	44571.57	Sub-total	45965.82
Cash-in-hand@ 1/1/19	3960.62	Cash-in-hand @ 31/12/19	7636.44
Bank @ 1/1/19	12918.71	Bank @ 31/12/19	7848.64
Total	£61450.90	Total	£61450.90



Dr. Richard Lilley
Auditor



James Bagley
Treasurer

Seaham Music Academy – Financial Accounts Audit report for 2019.

This is my first year in which I have audited the financial accounts for Seaham Music Academy. I have been provided with the accounts in paper format by James Bagley (Treasurer). My career has been in the NHS as a medical practitioner and was a partner in a General Practice. Through the Practice I have gained some experience in the accounts of a small business but have no formal financial training. Throughout my 38 years as a qualified doctor I have not been investigated or sanctioned by the General Medical Council for medical or probity matters.

The Accounts are well organised on a 'term' and monthly basis with documentation of cash flows, receipted outgoings, documented income and bank statements. The largest expense is for music tutors who have to sign a declaration at the end of each term to confirm the fees which they have drawn. The Accounts are accurate with no unexplained income or outgoings.

I have discussed with James Bagley the addition of further safeguards to tighten up the documentation of 'on the day' cash income. The variation in tuition fees (Adult/Child/Waived) and exam fees charged should be itemised and summated on a weekly basis to enable easy cross checking with 'on the day' cash. The tuck shop monies should be entered in a schedule and signed for by a counter.

For the Year 2019 on the basis of my examination I can state that the Accounts are a balanced and true reflection of the finances of Seaham Music Academy.

Richard Lilley

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23/10/2020