

SQUARE ROOTS PRODUCTIONS

NEW & OLD ROUTES TO FOLK MUSIC

Registered charity 1163954

Trustees report for the year ended 30 April 2020

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.

2019-20 was to have been a breakthrough year, as we moved toward the publication in spring 2020 of an updated edition of a classic 1970s book, *The Electric Muse: The Story of Folk into Rock* written by Karl Dallas, Robin Denselow, Dave Laing and Robert Shelton. Inevitably, as the March 2020 lockdown got under way we were informed by Omnibus Press, that they – like most other publishers – were reconfiguring their list and putting titles on hold. The plan had been for a series of events around publication – obviously, these too were cancelled.

The book has been updated by Robin Denselow, the only surviving member of the original quartet. That has now proceeded to its conclusion, and everything is now in place for publication of [*The Electric Muse Revisited: The Story of Folk into Rock and Beyond*](#) in spring 2021 and with it a series of events which we hope will include discussions and live performances by new talent.

The book will carry the SRP logo and information about the charity.

An accompanying 3-CD box-set and download of rare music associated with *TEM* artists is in preparation for simultaneous release. It seems certain to attract attention for the whole project, and the charity itself.

Given the disastrous consequences of the past twelve months, SRP sees the support of folk musicians, particularly emergent talent, as being central to its current remit. Clearly, it is not yet clear what will be possible but we remain optimistic about outdoor festival-type events and we are also planning livestreams, which also have the benefit of giving artists a permanent presence online. At least one will be in partnership with Green Note, the North London club with which SRP has been associated since the outset and whose mission is similar to our own.

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Further afield, Bringing It All Back Home to Washington Square, part of The Village Trip, a festival based in Greenwich Village, New York, again featured two concerts – one in Washington Square Park, the other at the Bitter End club, both in September 2019. Each celebrated aspects of the folk revival, featuring new and established folk and folk-rock artists. This was achieved at no cost to the charity, funds raised from sponsors and private donors in the US by SRP co-founder Liz Thomson. (The 2020 festival was cancelled but plans are now in motion for 2021.)

Liz Thomson and Anthony Keates

Co-founders and Trustees

26 February 2020

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1 May 2019 - 30 April 2020

	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Opening balance			2,517.63
Go Cardless		238.8	
Website update		185	
TOTAL		423.8	2,148.45