

# SEAHAM MUSIC ACADEMY

## Annual Report 2018

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 2018 the Academy met on forty Saturday mornings.

### Committee

The committee comprises:

President: Milton Britton B.E.M. (Non-executive)

Chairperson: Steve Williams

Vice-Chairperson: Helen Armstrong

Secretary: Jane Lowes

Treasurer: Jim Bagley

Members: Joan Bell Gareth Brown

### Change of Charity Name

In belated recognition of the fact that the Academy has for well over a decade been the sole active element of the Seaham Philharmonic Society it was decided this year to alter the name registered with the Charity Commission to Seaham Music Academy.

## Annual General Meeting

Last year's AGM was held on Saturday 28th April while this year's will take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

## Membership

The membership total fell marginally with 164 members at the close of the year as opposed to 170 members twelve months previously. However, this disguises a large movement of people both in and out of the Academy. Over the year we attracted 52 new members while a greater 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 seventeen tutors. We have seen a very long-standing flute teacher retire this year as well as another flute tutor, a clarinet tutor and our theory tutor. All of these tutors left on good terms and the Academy thanks them for their hard work and overall contribution. All four tutors have been replaced and we welcome their successors.

We are also grateful to four 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 and Robert Clark who teaches bass guitar.

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. This year we added a Boomwhackers tuned percussion tube set for use with our kindermusik group. We bought two second-hand flutes and two pre-loved alto saxophones. We also received as donations a flute, a clarinet and a cornet.

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 we held a fund-raising ceilidh at Seaham Town Hall on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Our own musicians provided the tunes and the caller was one of our own "lads", a young man in his twenties who has been coming to the Academy for about seventeen years.

We had almost one hundred people in attendance. The evening went very well and just over £360 was raised for our funds.

Our traditional end-of-term concert took place at Seaview School on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March. 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 27 young people performed on cello, violin, clarinet, flute, cornet, saxophone, recorder and penny whistle.

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 by our choir, Seaham Academy Singers. The concert raised a further £250 for our funds.

Our summer term began with our Wind band entertaining the guests at the Mayor's Ball. This was our seventeenth 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 Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June we held our inaugural Academy Ball at Seaham Town Hall. This initiative was the brainchild of our fundraising group and its announcement was met with a very healthy dose of cynicism. Why, some wondered, would a group dedicated to making music accessible and affordable, indulge in something as pretentious as a Ball?

Probably the best answer is because it raised £620 for our funds! About 80 people attended. Our Wind band performed before a three-course meal was enjoyed and then there was a disco to conclude the evening. With regard to the detractors - well, you can't please all of the people all of the time, but perhaps we knew that already!

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July our musicians played at a ceilidh to raise funds for the Friends group of a local primary school. Attendance was encouraging but not so strong as to make the accommodation uncomfortable. The hall used can become very cramped during a ceilidh. The group were able to make £235 profit and were very satisfied with that sum.

We held our end-of-term concert on Saturday 21st July. In an effort to gain ourselves some publicity and a wider audience this event took place

at Eastlea Community Centre. Our Wind band and brass section were given a day off so that the concert would be of a manageable duration.

We nevertheless had fourteen young people performing either solo or in very small groups on violin, clarinet and penny whistle before the concert was supplemented with contributions by our string orchestra, a violin quartet, a saxophone ensemble, a ceilidh band and finally our choir.

There were almost one hundred people in the audience and the concert produced a profit of £350.

Our first engagement of the autumn came on 10<sup>th</sup> November when we were invited to play at our local Anglican parish church. This concert saw eleven of our young people perform solo. Their contributions were supplemented by the input of our choir, Seaham Academy Singers, as well as our cello group, our wind band and our saxophone group.

The highlight of the evening was the performance of a seven-year-old violinist who stole the collective heart of the audience with her solo performance of "Dizzy Lizzy Lightweight". She was utterly nerveless and entirely enchanting.

Perhaps the greatest disappointment of the evening was the attendance level. As always the Academy's supporters, mainly friends and family, turned out in good numbers but the number of parishioners to come along was very, very paltry. Perhaps this was because of the dark nights. We just don't know.

The first of this year's Christmas engagements occurred when the Seaham Academy Singers entertained some elderly citizens who had just enjoyed a Christmas lunch in a local church hall. The choir was very well received. Indeed some of the older people joined the singing themselves and one old gentleman, the possessor of a still very powerful voice, proclaimed that the only thing stopping him from joining our ranks is his immobility.

This event took place on December 8<sup>th</sup> and that very evening saw the Academy's second Jinglemania, our combined adult Christmas concert-cum-party. Although last year's effort had been very successful there was a body of opinion that perhaps we could use more space.

In response to this suggestion we hired the Glebe Centre in nearby Murton. This venue offers a concert hall with a stage as well as an adjoining bar and catering accommodation. The evening featured performances by our wind band before supper and a ceilidh performed by our own musicians to conclude the entertainment. Altogether the organisers were pleased with the outcome particularly the profit which exceeded £850. Plans are already being formulated for next year's event!

The next date in our diary saw the Seaham Ecumenical Christmas Carol Service which was held on 12<sup>th</sup> December. For this event the Academy again provided a brass section and our choir. St. Cuthbert's R.C. church was very well attended for this service which also featured singers from local primary schools.

On the following Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, the focus was very much on our own young musicians when we held our customary end-of-term Christmas concert. Altogether we enjoyed seven solo performances as well as five duets, a trio and a quartet. Instruments featured were clarinets, recorders, saxophones, violins and a euphonium. Our young people's efforts were supported by tunes from our string and saxophone groups.

The atmosphere at this concert, apart from being festive, was remarkable for the almost tangible feeling of support and encouragement for all the performers, regardless of their ability level. Such concerts are an excellent example of the fruit of a lot of hard work at the Academy and as such are greatly heartwarming.

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December we paid our fourteenth annual visit to Parklands Nursing Home. This year we again sent along our choir, Seaham

Academy Singers. Nine ladies and young women sang carols and other festive songs for ninety minutes and provided great joy and entertainment for the residents and staff.

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December our singers and wind band entertained the shoppers in our local ASDA store for two hours before lunch. Then in the afternoon a group of violin and flute players played carols to lend a festive ambience to the store. The store was delighted with the atmosphere generated while we were equally pleased to raise just over £655. We also spoke about the Academy to quite a few interested young people and their parents.

### 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 18 musicians wanting to take grade exams from beginner Grade 1 through to Grade 6. We are delighted to report that all of them bar one passed with five gaining distinctions and nine earning merits.

After Easter we had four more exam successes. A boy and a girl both passed their Grade 3 trumpet exam with the boy gaining a distinction with a result in excess of 90%. Not to be outdone this boy's sister then took her Grade 5 ABRSM theory exam and scored a magnificent 98%. She then followed this up by passing her Grade 7 clarinet exam. earlier this month. This girl has been at the Academy for eight years and her progress is all the more remarkable since she was only 14 in November.

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 2018 we were fortunate to receive grants of £5,000 from The Shears Foundation and £3,000 from The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. This year marked the final year of three-year pledges by both of these organisations. We thank them profusely for their kindness.

We were also granted £2,000 by two of our local County councillors to pay towards one drum and one saxophone tutor for a year while for the third year in succession the Joseph Strong Frazer Trust granted us £1,000 towards tuition and rent costs.

£1,000 was also received from the Hadrian Trust and £4,000 from The 1989 Willan Charitable Trust. We were also fortunate to receive £4,800



from the Wellesley Trust Fund and a donation of £1,000 from Murton Brass Band upon the sad occasion of its demise.

Our gratitude to our benefactors cannot be overstated.

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inally, to everyone who helped to make 2018 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 2018

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Subscriptions	14301.00	Stationery/Postage	341.07
Tuck	2806.31	Books/Sheet Music	583.88
Exam. Fees	967.50	Instrument Accessories	142.43
Grants	22486.74	Tuck	597.95
Concerts	5952.97	Instrument Repairs	270.00
Sundry Sales	82.50	Insurance	551.95
Donations	1875.13	Tutors' Fees	33815.00
(Restricted Income) Grant from the Wellesley Trust Fund at the Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland	4,800	Premises Hire	6240.00
		Hospitality	174.10
		Exam Fees	1007.81
		Instruments	713.00
		Subscriptions	174.00
		Licensing	25.00
		Catering	2745.52
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>53272.15</b>	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>47381.71</b>
Cash-in-hand@ 1/1/18	4548.35	Cash-in-hand @ 31/12/18	3960.62
Bank @ 1/1/18	6440.54	Bank @ 31/12/18	12918.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>£64261.04</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£64261.04</b>



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25<sup>TH</sup> May 2019

I hereby declare that I have examined the 2018 accounts of Seaham Music Academy (Reg. charity number 1023382) and that I have found no irregularities.

Dr. Richard Lilley