

Registered charity number
280203

Paragon Music Trust

Report and Accounts

31 December 2023

**Paragon Music Trust
Report and Financial Statements
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Paragon Music Trust
Legal and Administrative Information

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name: Paragon Music Trust

Charity registration number: 280203

Correspondence address: 18 Haytor Park
Stoke Bishop
Bristol
BS9 2LR

Trustees

Ms J Krish (Chair)
Ms L Ferguson (Deputy Chair)
Mr P Anning (Treasurer)
Mr N Nash (Secretary)
Mr M Kirkbride
Ms E Shanahan
Ms H Moss

Independent examiners

Plumley & Co Ltd
26 Ilchester Crescent
Bristol
BS13 7HL

Investment Fund Managers

Evelyn Partners
4th Floor
Portwall Place
Portwall Lane
Bristol
BS1 6NA

Bank

Lloyds Bank Plc
58 Queens Road
Clifton
Bristol
BS8 1RQ

Paragon Music Trust Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report along with the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on page 8 and comply with the Charity's governing instrument (as amended from time to time), The Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Our Purposes and Activities

With the annual income it receives from the invested assets of Leo Reid-Baker's bequest, the Paragon Music Trust aims to encourage and celebrate music promoted and performed by amateurs and professionals, by offering financial support with guarantee against loss for orchestral, choral, operatic and ensemble performances of music, including new works and jazz. In addition, the Charity makes grants to fund music projects especially, but not exclusively, for and with young people. The Charity generally supports groups and performances in any of the four unitary authorities in the Bristol region: City of Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Bath & North East Somerset.

Constitution and Policies

The Charity's updated Constitution was approved at the AGM in July 2023 and subsequently submitted to the Charity Commission. In addition, the following newly written policies and governance documents were approved:

- giving policy (explained on our website www.paragonmusictrust.co.uk together with a standardised application form)
- investments policy
- expenses policy
- reserves policy
- trustee recruitment policy
- generic trustee description plus chair, treasurer and secretary job descriptions
- conflicts policy
- equal opportunities policy

Further policies are being prepared for 2024.

Trustee Terms of Service

Until now, Trustees were re-elected on an annual basis but the new Trustee policy requests Trustees to serve for a three year term, and no more than three terms altogether, so that new approaches may be brought in from time to time.

Achievement and Performance

The Charity approved funding for eighteen new grant applications during the year with a total commitment of £13,950. Nine of these grants were paid out during the year in addition to grants which were approved in the previous year. Grant commitments of £2,422 made in the year will not be drawn down and have been released against the grants payable in the Statement of Financial Activities. Note 3 details the grants payable charge to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in making their decisions about financial support offered. The Charity's aims are broad and the Trustees are confident therefore that all grants and guarantees against loss are consistent with those aims. The Charity now asks for feedback from all organisations to which grants or guarantees against loss have been paid, so Trustees may be reassured that money contributed by the Charity has been properly spent.

Paragon Music Trust Trustees' Report

Financial Review

Income for the year totalled £14,048 (2022 - £15,273) and expenditure £15,057 (2022 - £14,652). Reserves held at the year end, all of which are unrestricted, amounted to £356,355 which the Trustees consider to be satisfactory.

Investment Policy

The management of investments during the year was delegated to Evelyn Partners, Bristol, in accordance with the terms of the Charity's updated Constitution.

Risk Management

The major risks, to which the Charity is exposed, have been reviewed by the Trustees in the course of the year, to ensure that policies and systems are put in place to mitigate these risks.

Reserves Policy

The Charity seeks to maintain cash balances sufficient to meet the cost of grant commitments and all relevant running expenses for the year ahead, in line with the reserves policy.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity, and its financial activities for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies that are reasonable and prudent;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Members of the Trustee Board

Members of the Trustee Board, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 2.

We certify that so far as we are aware, the independent examiner has been made aware of all relevant information.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf on 27/06/2024

**Mr P Anning
Trustee and Treasurer**

**Paragon Music Trust
Independent Examiner's Report
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

George Plumley BFP ACA CTA

Date: 26/06/2024

Paragon Music Trust
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	
	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Income from:			
Investments	2	14,048	15,293
Total income		14,048	15,293
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds			
Investment management costs		2,607	3,010
Charitable activities			
Grants payable	3	11,528	11,304
Other costs	4	922	338
Total expenditure		15,057	14,652
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)		(1,009)	641
Net gains/(losses) on investments	7	7,756	(11,648)
Net movement in funds		6,747	(11,007)
Total funds brought forward		349,608	360,615
Total funds carried forward		356,355	349,608

**Paragon Music Trust
Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	7	340,523	337,729
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>22,307</u>	<u>16,546</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>6,475</u>	<u>4,667</u>
Net current assets		15,832	11,879
Net assets		<u>356,355</u>	<u>349,608</u>
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds		356,355	349,608
Total charity funds	9	<u>356,355</u>	<u>349,608</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 27/06/2024

**Mr P Anning
Trustee and Treasurer**

Paragon Music Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. With respect to the next reporting period, 2024, the most significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the Charity are the level of investment return and the performance of investment markets.

Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Investment income is accounted for on the accruals basis.

Expenditure recognition and irrecoverable VAT

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is included on the accruals basis.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made to the recipient.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

Fund accounting

The nature and purpose of the whole of the unrestricted funds is to have sufficient funds for the Charity to meet its objectives. The split of the unrestricted fund between assets and liabilities can be seen from the balance sheet as there are no other types of fund.

Unrestricted funds

These comprise those funds which are free to be used in accordance with the charitable objects.

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are quoted investments that are held in the United Kingdom at market value with unrealised gains or losses forming part of the Statement of Financial Activities.

Paragon Music Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2023

2 Investment income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Dividends - equities	10,448	11,766
Interest - fixed interest securities	2,130	1,190
Distributions - unit trusts	1,248	2,329
Interest	222	8
	<hr/> 14,048	<hr/> 15,293

3 Grants payable

	2023	2022
	£	£

Grants committed in the year comprise grants to the following organisations:

Bath Cantata Group	750	500
Bath Choral Society	-	750
Bath Light Opera Group	-	1,000
Bath Opera	1,000	1,000
Brandon Hill Chamber Orchestra	-	750
Bristol Beacon (was Music Trust)	1,500	1,250
Bristol Classical Players	-	500
Bristol Early Music Festival	-	750
Bristol Eisteddfod	800	-
Bristol Gilbert & Sullivan Society	1,000	1,000
Bristol Pre-Conservatoire - Bursaries	-	500
Cathedral Schools Trust	1,000	-
Chew Valley Big Sing	350	-
Chew Valley Choral Society	500	750
Chew Valley Performing Arts	250	-
City of Bristol Choir - Raise a Voice	-	1,000
Clevedon Choral Society	-	500
Heanleaze Concert Society	450	-
Midsomer Choral Society	750	500
MiniBeats	1,400	-
Music for Miniatures	1,000	-
Phoenix Choir	500	-
Portishead Choral Society	750	1,000
Sound World	600	-
Tarnhelm Opera	-	500
Voices for Life - Stardust Project	1,000	500
Weston Choral	-	1,000
Yatton Music Society	350	-
	<hr/> 13,950	<hr/> 13,750

Release of grant commitments made in the year that will not be drawn down

(2,422)	(2,446)
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<hr/> 11,528	<hr/> 11,304
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Paragon Music Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2023

4 Other costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Secretarial expenses	-	123
Accountancy & independent examination fees		
Over accrual for 2020	-	(660)
Accrual for 2022	-	675
Accrual for 2023	700	-
Administration expenses	222	200
	<u>922</u>	<u>338</u>

5 Related Party Transactions and Trustees' Expenses and Remuneration

No trustee received any remuneration from the charity during the year (2022: nil). One Trustee was reimbursed expenses during the year totalling £Nil (2022: 123). There were no related party transactions with trustees during the year.

6 Taxation

As a registered charity, Paragon Music Trust is exempt from tax on income and gains under Part 10 of the Income Tax Act 2007 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the year.

7 Investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Listed investments summary:		
Market value at 1 January 2023	313,471	334,740
Additions at cost	274,262	-
Disposals at market value	(258,820)	(9,621)
Gains/(losses) arising in the year		
realised	63,671	(13,686)
unrealised	<u>(55,915)</u>	<u>2,038</u>
	7,756	(11,648)
Market value at 31 December 2023	<u>336,669</u>	<u>313,471</u>
Cash	3,854	24,258
Total	<u>340,523</u>	<u>337,729</u>
Investments at fair value comprised:		
Equities	303,506	199,190
Fixed interest securities	33,163	24,450
Unit trusts	-	89,831
Cash held within the investment portfolio	3,854	24,258
Total investments	<u>340,523</u>	<u>337,729</u>

Paragon Music Trust
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2023

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Grants Payable	5,000	3,750
Investment management costs	775	242
Accountancy fees	700	675
	<u>6,475</u>	<u>4,667</u>

Movement in recognised provisions and funding commitments during the year

Charitable commitments accrued
£

Grant commitments b/f at 1 January 2023	3,750
New grant commitments charged to the SoFA in year	11,528
Grants paid during the year	(10,278)
Amount of grant commitments recognised as at 31 December 2023	<u>5,000</u>

9 Movement in funds

	At 1			Unrealised	Gains/	At 31
	January	Income	Expenditure	gains/	(losses)	December
	2023			(losses)	on sales	2023
Unrestricted funds	349,608	14,048	(15,057)	(55,915)	63,671	356,355
	<u>349,608</u>	<u>14,048</u>	<u>(15,057)</u>	<u>(55,915)</u>	<u>63,671</u>	<u>356,355</u>
Prior year	At 1			Unrealised	Gains/	At 31
	January	Income	Expenditure	gains/	(losses)	December
	2022			(losses)	on sales	2022
Unrestricted funds	360,615	15,293	(14,652)	2,038	(13,686)	349,608
	<u>360,615</u>	<u>15,293</u>	<u>(14,652)</u>	<u>2,038</u>	<u>(13,686)</u>	<u>349,608</u>