



# ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

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It gives me great pleasure to report on another successful season in which artistic standards continued at the very highest level and new records were once again set for membership, attendances and audience satisfaction. In the face of continuing economic uncertainties, Music in Peebles also remains sound financially and can look to the future with confidence.

Membership in 2013/14 passed the 100 mark for the first time, eventually reaching 103, with 13 new members joining. Aggregate audiences also grew to 1,155, an increase of 5% over last season. Single ticket sales were slightly down, but there was a pleasing take-up of the newly-introduced discounted tickets for adults accompanying children under 12. We also continue to welcome young people from Peebles High School, many of whom became 'regulars', and we wish to thank the school's Music Department for continuing encouragement, which is much appreciated.

For the third year in succession, we were fortunate to be awarded a concert by the Tunnell Trust for Young Musicians. Not only are these concerts certain to be of the very highest quality, but as the artists' fees are met by the Trust, it enabled us once again to present eight concerts in our season between October and April. Artists ranged from the internationally famous Fitzwilliam Quartet, Jennifer Pike and Tom Poster to newly emerging artists The Busch Ensemble and Wu Quartet. It was a particular thrill to host the Scottish debut of the reigning BBC Young Musician, Laura van der Heijden, whose concert drew the season's largest audience. The programmes also continued to blend the familiar with the more challenging, and there was a pleasingly positive reaction to the contemporary and modern pieces included. Results from the audience reaction surveys maintained their encouragingly high level, with an average rating of 4.66 out of 5 – slightly up on last season and another new record.

This season we extended our partnership with local schools by, for the first time, arranging music workshops in all four Peebles schools by the saxophone quartet Sax Ecosse. Feedback from staff and pupils at all the schools, primary and secondary, was extremely favourable and we look forward to continued collaboration in future. We are grateful to Enterprise Music Scotland, whose generous financial support makes it possible to run the workshops at very little cost to Music in Peebles or the schools.

Turning to the club's finances, I would like to express my personal gratitude to those members who have so kindly made cash donations to the club or have provided hospitality to visiting musicians, representing a very generous 'in kind' donation and saving the Club substantial amounts in accommodation costs. Without these very welcome contributions, the club's financial position would be less secure, and our ability to engage high quality musicians would be impaired. My thanks also go to all the Committee members and volunteers involved in organising and running another very successful Strawberry Tea and Tombola which yielded a net contribution of around £540 to club funds.

In this special 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, it is appropriate to reflect on the wonderful asset Peebles has in the Eastgate Theatre, which has played such a vital role in the recent development of Music in Peebles. Visiting artists invariably comment favourably on the venue and its staff, and I would like to add my thanks and congratulations to all involved in making the Eastgate such an enviable home for our concerts.

Finally, I am very grateful for all the support from my fellow Committee members, all of whom are volunteers and all of whom have contributed to the success of Music in Peebles over the last year. I especially wish to thank Carole Archibald for organising hospitality for musicians, Tony Bell for the eye-catching concert posters, Alison Cruickshanks for her ever-faultless page-turning and Kate Hasson for the splendid programme notes.

**John Fox**  
**President, Music in Peebles**  
**29<sup>th</sup> April 2014**