



ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

Registered Scottish Charity
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Music in Peebles enjoyed another highly successful season in 2016/17 with record attendances at concerts (in spite of a small drop in membership numbers), our highest-ever audience ratings and a healthy financial position at the year end.

The eight concerts presented in the year (including our contribution to the newly-renamed Creative Peebles Festival) featured famous international artists (Quartetto di Cremona and Angela Hewitt, who drew a capacity audience) and outstanding Scottish and Scottish-based artists (Edward Cohen, Gina McCormack and Philip Higham). The repertoire ranged from Early Music and Scottish traditional melodies to contemporary pieces by David Bennett Thomas and Edward McGuire. The introduction of some Sunday afternoon concerts proved popular and will continue in future seasons.

Our highly-acclaimed outreach programme continued, with workshops in all the local schools and concerts for residents of Peebles Nursing Home. Music in Peebles is very grateful to all the local businesses whose purchase of advertising space in our concert programmes helps to finance this work; they represent an outstanding example of community action helping to improve the lives of our young and older people. We also wish to thank Enterprise Music Scotland (EMS) and the Peeblesshire Charitable Trust for their financial support.

Income from fundraising activities was even higher than last year, being boosted by a special Fundraising Concert in June 2016. Music in Peebles is immensely grateful to the distinguished violin and piano duo of Gina McCormack and Nigel Clayton who proposed this event and who gave their services free of charge in order that all proceeds could go to the Piano Fund. Congratulations are also due to the Fundraising Group of Alison Cruickshanks, Alison Dodds, Rosemary Hamilton and Sheena McKnight who increased both advertising revenue and raffle takings, whilst the strawberry tea and tombola again raised a substantial sum. Individual members also provided generous support in the form of donations and provision of hospitality for musicians, which saves Music in Peebles a substantial sum in accommodation costs. Finally, as ever, we are grateful to EMS, whose backing gives us the financial security to go on planning and presenting concerts of such high quality.

As a result of a substantial growth in ticket sales, added to increased income from fundraising, Music in Peebles has shown a healthy surplus this year. This has enabled us to make a further transfer from general reserves to the Piano Fund, which now stands at over £15,000.

On a personal note, I wish to record my gratitude to the members of the Music in Peebles Committee who have worked hard all year to ensure the success of this season. In addition to the fundraising efforts referred to already, I particularly wish to thank Sheena McKnight for organising accommodation and transport for musicians, Philip Hutton for his much-admired programme notes, Tony Bell for keeping membership records and producing the concert posters, Lyndal Bale for her excellent concert previews in the local press and Finlay Macdonald who has been planning our 2017/18 and 2018/19 seasons. On behalf of the Committee, I also wish to thank Linda Nguyen for reviewing the accounts as our Independent Examiner, and the staff and volunteers of the Eastgate Theatre for providing our superb venue and for making our audiences so welcome.

Finally, it is worth repeating that Music in Peebles is run entirely by volunteers. Its continuing success, indeed its future existence, depends on members of our community offering their time, skills and energies, be it to serve on the Committee, offer accommodation or transport for musicians, or help with fundraising. This season, we have welcomed Lyndal Bale, Finlay Macdonald and Iain Munro onto the Committee. However, we still have three Committee posts vacant, and the more offers of help we receive, the more widely the workload can be spread and the more secure will be the future of top-quality chamber music in our local community.

John Fox
President, Music in Peebles
25 April 2017