CONTENTS

3 WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN
4 MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
6 HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015
8 HELPING MUSICIANS IN CRISIS
10 HELPING MUSICIANS IN LATER LIFE & LONG-TERM
12 HELPING EMERGING MUSICIANS
14 TALENT PROGRAMME PARTNERS
16 CAMPAIGNING FOR MUSICIANS
17 CHARITY PARTNERSHIPS
18 MONEY IN & MONEY OUT
20 FUNDRAISING & LOOKING AHEAD
22 OUR PEOPLE
23 THANK YOUS

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What a year 2015 has been for Help Musicians UK! As the charity undergoes a period of ambitious change, it’s a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the progress and achievements throughout the year.

I’d like to welcome Richard Robinson, who joined us as Chief Executive in November 2015. Richard brings a wealth of experience leading a number of worthy charities in the creative arts, education and healthcare. He will guide Help Musicians UK to expand and reach more musicians than ever before, an ambition worthy of the country’s largest independent music charity as we approach our centenary in 2021.

In 2015 we also saw some changes to our Board. We said farewell to Caragh Merrick, the charity’s departing Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee. Caragh joined the Board in 2010 and has helped steer and advise the charity on key financial and strategic issues. I’d like personally and on behalf of the team to thank Caragh for her superb work and her commitment.

We also said goodbye to Ron Corp who became a Trustee in 2000 and subsequently took on the role of Chair of the Giving Committee and later Deputy-Chair. During his time, Ron worked incredibly hard for the charity, dedicating much of his time to helping us reach more musicians, chairing auditions and curating the Service of St Cecilia. On behalf of the charity I’d like to thank him and wish him all the best for the future. I am pleased to say he remains very much central to the charity’s future.

New to the Board we welcome Carolyn Ward, an experienced fundraiser and charity trustee, and David Williams, a partner at Simmons & Simmons with an expertise in advisory and asset management. We also welcome Sandeep Dwesar, who heads Finance and Operations at the Barbican Centre and Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Sandeep is now the charity’s Treasurer.

Help Musicians UK is truly entering exciting times ahead, as we enlarge our offer of services to a broader range of musicians, and reach out more effectively across the entirety of the UK. Thank you for your invaluable support without which this would not be possible.
MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

RICHARD ROBINSON

It’s been a year of transformation for Help Musicians UK. I became Chief Executive in November 2015 and feel privileged to have joined at such an important time.

We ended 2015 thinking of our strategy going forward and what impacts we want to achieve through a revised vision, mission and strategic plan. We want to ensure we keep pace with an ever-changing music industry and musicians’ evolving needs. This new era also marks a new, more proactive approach to fundraising and campaigning in the lead up to our centenary in 2021.

These are challenging times for professional musicians and we’ve stepped up our services in response to demand. In 2015, we helped more musicians in crisis than ever before: a total of 404 musicians, representing an increase of 27% on the previous year.

In all, we helped 2,628 musicians in 2015, providing vital support for musicians who are just starting out, working or in retirement. We also launched a range of new partnerships to help us reach as many as possible of the UK’s 70,000 professional musicians.

We continued to raise our voice on behalf of musicians with our lobbying and campaigning activities. Our new #HearForMusicians campaign aims to increase awareness of hearing loss, a problem that affected 47% of musicians in our 2014 Health and Wellbeing survey. This will be the focus of continued campaigning in 2016.

As we work to help more working musicians, of all ages and genres, across the whole of the UK, our fundraising activities have never been more crucial. Highlights from 2015 included Lesley Garrett’s Radio 4 Appeal that generated over £11,000, a fundraising event at the BT Tower that raised £6,000 and our regular St Cecilia celebration that raised both donations on the night and legacy pledges.

I’d like to thank the wonderful ambassadors who support our work: Bryan Adams, Susan Bullock CBE, Lesley Garrett CBE, Bob Harris OBE, Soweto Kinch and Sir Simon Rattle OM CBE.

Special thanks, also, to David Sulkin OBE, who steered the charity as we made the move to become Help Musicians UK. David stepped down as Executive Director in June 2015. We are grateful to Martin Ensom for acting as Chief Executive in the interim period.

We have a talented team of staff who work extremely hard to help musicians and we are incredibly grateful to all of you who support us in any way. Our work simply wouldn’t be possible without you. Thank you.

I’m proud to lead this charity as it moves into a new, ambitious phase. We look forward to expanding our horizons, helping even more musicians in the future and ensuring our role as an independent voice in the music industry is more prominent than ever.
In 2015, we spent a total of £3.6m assisting 2,628 musicians. This includes:

- 556 emerging musicians accessed opportunities through our partners
- 510 musicians were helped to maintain a good quality of life in later years.
- 217 emerging musicians developed their careers through our postgraduate and career development schemes
- 404 were helped through a crisis
- 52 received continuing care through long-term issues
We celebrate our first birthday as Help Musicians UK.

Live Q&A on tinnitus reveals it’s a serious issue for musicians.

BBC Radio 4 appeal airs, featuring Ambassador Lesley Garrett CBE, and increasing support.

Soraya Mafi and Bozidar Smiljanic, rising operatic stars supported through our Talent Programme, perform alongside Southbank Sinfonia.

Our charity partnership with the AIM Independent Music Awards.

Richard Robinson is announced as the charity’s new Chief Executive.
Musicians helped by us enjoy a performance at Park House, a specialist hotel for those with disabilities. The concert features a guitar duo supported through our Talent Programme.

The annual St Cecilia celebration attracts just over 1,000 supporters at St Paul’s Cathedral in London.

Health & Wellbeing Week, in association with the Musicians’ Union and BAPAM, reaches more musicians and spreads awareness.

Launch of our Christmas card campaign. The charity’s choir sings carols in Trafalgar Square and at St Pancras station.

Launch of our Emerging Artists Fund in partnership with PledgeMusic.
“When I found out I had a polyp on my vocal chord I was very low and thought my career was coming to an end. Then a friend of mine said get in touch with Help Musicians UK. They literally saved my life. They gave me vocal support and financial help. I will always be grateful for the help they gave me.”

MARK KEELEY, GUITARIST
“It’s so nice to be back doing what I love, singing and performing”.

MARK KEELEY, GUITARIST

Our help meant that whilst it took a while to gain Mark’s confidence back, the operation had been a success and he began to believe in himself again. At present Mark is performing again both as a solo artist and with his band, Good Rockin’ Tonight.

HELPING WORKING MUSICIANS IN CRISIS

A career in music involves highs and lows. For all the rewards, there can also be challenges.

Anti-social working hours, a freelance lifestyle and consistently performing at the highest level can take their toll emotionally, physically and financially. An accident, injury or illness can have a devastating effect.

We step in and help before things spiral out of control, aiming to support musicians throughout their illness and to ensure a smooth and sustainable transition back to work.

In 2015 we saw a further rise in the number of musicians in crisis requiring health and welfare support. The music business is becoming more stressful and decreasing work opportunities leave many musicians without any financial safety net when things go wrong.

Last year we supported 404 musicians facing a crisis, an increase of 27% compared to the previous year.

WE HELPED 404 MUSICIANS IN CRISIS IN 2015. 27% MORE THAN IN 2014.

SUPPORT TAILORED TO EACH MUSICIAN’S NEEDS

We always customise our support to suit the needs of the individual. Following assessment, we can help with financial grants to pay for medical treatment, specialist therapies and living costs. We also offer advice and guidance on welfare rights, housing and other issues which may form part of an individual’s support needs.

Musicians tell us how much they appreciate our support in a crisis. In a recent survey, 92% said our help was very responsive to their needs, and 93% rated our service overall as ‘excellent’ while 6% said it was ‘good’.

All of our work is carried out in confidence, and we’re very grateful to musicians like Mark who are willing to share their stories. The more musicians who know about us, the more people we can help.

£5,000 CAN HELP US SUPPORT TWO MUSICIANS THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES AND MAKE A LIFE-CHANGING DIFFERENCE TO THEM, THEIR FAMILIES AND THE MUSICIANS THEY WORK WITH.

PLEASE HELP US HELP WORKING MUSICIANS IN CRISIS.
HELPING MUSICIANS WITH LONG-TERM CARE

A serious long-term illness or disability can place an enormous strain on musicians and their families. In 2015 we provided ongoing support to 52 musicians who are living with long-term health issues.

As well as giving ongoing support, we help towards the cost of one-off items of expenditure that can significantly improve an individual’s quality of life, examples of this are assistance towards Motability vehicles or home adaptations to support an individual’s independence.

IN 2015, WE HELPED 52 MUSICIANS WITH LONG-TERM ISSUES.

We also pay for respite breaks for musicians, their families and carers. These give people the chance to take time out, meet other musicians and reconnect with music through live concerts.

In 2015, 16 musicians and their carers enjoyed breaks at hotels that provide specialist support for people with disabilities: Vitalise Hotel in Southport and Park House in Sandringham. In July, guests at Park House enjoyed a performance by classical guitarists the Vickers Bovey Duo. We supported Julian Vickers and Daniel Bovey of the duo in their final year of studies at the Birmingham Conservatoire, and are very grateful to them for playing to the guests.

HELPING RETIRED MUSICIANS

Some musicians never retire, and carry on performing, writing, teaching or conducting into their 80s, while others find that their technical or vocal skills diminish much earlier and that work becomes difficult to find.

Either way, for many professional musicians, the financial rewards are not as great as the artistic rewards. All too often musicians are unable to save for their retirement and have little or no pension provision.

Our support for older and retired musicians offers both essential financial support in a crisis and regular assistance to support musicians who find themselves in regular financial difficulties as a result of limited state assistance.

IN 2015 WE HELPED 510 MUSICIANS TO MAINTAIN A GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE IN LATER YEARS.

In 2015 we improved the quality of life for 510 older musicians. Of these, 274 received a regular payment, with all other musicians receiving regular visits and assistance as and when required. All our musicians receive annual Birthday and Christmas gifts.

CAN YOU HELP US SUPPORT A MUSICIAN WHO NEEDS LONG-TERM CARE?

€3,000 - £5,000 CAN COVER THE COST OF MAKING ESSENTIAL CHANGES TO ALLOW SOMEONE TO CONTINUE TO LIVE AT HOME.
HELPING RETIRED MUSICIANS

VISITING OLDER MUSICIANS AT HOME

Home visits and social contact are an important part of the role that we play. We have a wonderful network of volunteers who visit older musicians in their homes, providing companionship and a listening ear.

For musicians who are lonely or socially isolated, these visits provide reassurance that Help Musicians UK is there to offer support when it’s needed.

Our volunteers have the opportunity to meet a fascinating group of people and find out about their lives and careers (plus the odd scandalous anecdote).

In 2015, our team of 23 volunteers carried out 102 visits to 46 musicians.

“Help Musicians UK has helped me financially with my piano tuning, domestic help and friendly visits, little kindnesses that make such a difference to my wellbeing.”

LAURETTA, 93, SINGER AND PIANIST

PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND PRACTICAL HELP

Singer and pianist Lauretta began her music career in 1929 and she continues to perform to this day. Lauretta initially became known to us after suffering a vocal issue that made it difficult for her to perform. Her musical output was very successful, however on deciding to move in to semi-retirement Lauretta found it difficult to make ends meet. We understand how hard it is to save for retirement during a freelance music career, so we help Lauretta with her living costs. We also understand what an important part music plays in her life, so we make sure that her piano is tuned regularly.

£1,300 HELPS AN OLDER MUSICIAN WITH ESSENTIAL LIVING COSTS FOR A WHOLE YEAR.

PLEASE HELP US TO HELP MUSICIANS WHO ARE STRUGGLING IN RETIREMENT.
We know that it’s tough to get started as a musician. Training is time-consuming and expensive, and there’s intensive competition for those all-important opportunities that open up a career.

Our Talent Programme helps to launch musicians’ careers by funding individuals or groups directly and by funding development opportunities offered by partner organisations.

**IN 2015, WE HELPED 773 MUSICIANS TO LAUNCH THEIR CAREERS.**

In 2015, we spent just over £1m on supporting 773 emerging musicians. We helped 556 musicians who accessed opportunities through our partners and 217 musicians with our postgraduate awards and career development programmes. Of the 217 people who we helped directly, we supported 129 musicians through our postgraduate performance awards and 88 musicians through our other opportunities including Career Development Bursaries, Emerging Artists Fund with PledgeMusic, Brownswood Future Bubbblers and the Peter Whittingham Jazz Award.

**HELPING EMERGING MUSICIANS**

Crowdfunding is making big waves in the music industry, enabling fans to fund new music by the artists they love.

In April 2015, we formed a partnership with PledgeMusic UK, a direct-to-fan crowdfunding music platform. The goal was to identify and support a diverse range of emerging artists who have the talent, growing fan base and ‘DIY drive’ to build a long-term career.

Together, we set up the Emerging Artists Fund which allows selected musicians to access ‘top-up’ funding from Help Musicians UK to supplement the funds generated via their PledgeMusic campaign.

“Labels are signing fewer acts at the embryonic stages of their career, which is why it was so important for us to work with Help Musicians UK to support musicians and uncover new talent.”

PAUL BARTON, HEAD OF PLEDGEMUSIC UK

During 2015, our panels selected 19 artists to support from the 400 applications we received. We committed to just over £50,000 of funding, providing grants of up to £5,000 to musicians once they had completed their PledgeMusic campaign.

So far, the Emerging Artists Fund has supported new recordings and tours, including:

- ‘For Every Silence’, an album by Irish composer and musician Ryan Vail, rated as a “daring and emotionally affecting work” by The Independent
- A UK winter tour for Cornish folk band The Changing Room
- The mixing and PR around FiFi Rong’s new EP.

**BUILDING CAREERS WITH PLEDGEMUSIC**
We’re determined to support talented upcoming musicians to ensure a thriving musical culture in the UK. That’s why we helped over 100 musicians in 2015 by providing bursaries and postgraduate awards at crucial stages in their development.

Our Career Development Bursaries help young professional musicians to access exceptional career development opportunities in the UK and internationally. Grants in 2015 ranged in value from £500 to £2,000.

We also offered grants towards the cost of postgraduate study at conservatoires and performing colleges. Intensive post-graduate study is vital if the next generation of musicians are to achieve their potential, but the costs are astronomical. With living expenses and tuition fees, the cost of a two-year postgraduate degree can easily reach £40,000.

“The Emerging Artist Fund pretty much changed everything for me. The fund allowed me to release at a level I was never able to achieve by myself. The difference was night & day to previous releases I had done. As a result I ended up with amazing coverage, Album of the Week with BBC Radio 1’s Huw Stephens, Irish Times Album of the Week, four months of national Radio play on BBC radio 1 & BBC 6 music. These things have changed my life, I am now a full time artist because of all this.”

RYAN VAIL, EMERGING ARTISTS FUND RECIPIENT

IN 2015 WE GAVE POSTGRADUATE AWARDS TO 129 MUSICIANS WORTH A TOTAL OF £235,000.

THE AVERAGE AWARD WAS £2,398.
OUR GRANT-GIVING PARTNERS

In 2015 we developed a range of new partnerships to widen the reach of our grant giving across the UK.

In addition to our new partnership with PledgeMusic, we also got behind the Future Bubblers scheme, a new talent discovery programme led by DJ Gilles Peterson and the Brownswood Recordings label.

They join our existing portfolio of partners who comprise some of the UK’s leading artistic institutions, such as the Aldeburgh Music, Serious, National Opera Studio, Sound and Music, Young Classical Artists Trust and more.

Our new partnerships complement our ongoing work with our Artistic Development Partners, which aims to diversify grant giving beyond the traditional areas of support (classical, opera, jazz and musical theatre). These partners include Merseyside Arts Foundation (Liverpool), Cornwall Music Foundation (Cornwall), Higher Rhythm (Doncaster, Yorkshire), Generator (Newcastle) and the Oh Yeah Centre (Belfast).

In 2016, we’ll be refreshing our offer by creating new, more focused funding and support opportunities in collaboration with organisations. We’re committed to widening the range and diversity of artists we support and will be developing an open application fund to help us reach talented rising stars across the UK.

“Without financial support I wouldn’t be able to embark on such a useful but expensive endeavour.”

DANIEL KIDANE, 29, COMPOSER

EXPERT MENTORING IN COMPOSITION

Daniel Kidane is a composer whose music has been performed extensively across the UK and abroad, and broadcast on BBC Radio 3. In 2015 we gave him a £2,000 Career Development Bursary to receive mentoring from the renowned Swiss composer Michael Jarrell. This is helping Daniel to develop his compositional techniques, specifically by investigating how the voice can be integrated into works.

“Thank you so much. I’m totally ecstatic and delighted. This will make a huge difference going into next year.”

RYAN HEENAN, TENOR AND MUSICAL THEATRE AWARD RECIPIENT

£2,000 CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE TO SOMEONE AT THE START OF THEIR CAREER.

PLEASE HELP US SUPPORT EMERGING ARTISTS AND INVEST IN THE MUSICAL FUTURE OF THE UK.
SUPPORTING MUSIC IN MERSEYSIDE

In 2015 our funding helped our partner, Merseyside Arts Foundation, to deliver a six-month touring and artist development project that saw three Merseyside-based artists perform around the UK.

The programme achieved important breakthroughs for the musicians involved:

- **The Sundowners** played an 11 date debut UK headline tour, and secured live booking representation by X-ray Touring and a debut LP release via Skeleton Key Records.
- **She Drew The Gun** performed a 30 date UK and EU tour supporting Fink, and secured representation by Earth Agency Touring, a forthcoming debut UK headline tour and an LP release via Skeleton Key Records. Subsequently, the band also won the Glastonbury Emerging Talent Competition.
- **Marvin Powell** supported She Drew The Gun and The Coral.

“Having this opportunity is just amazing. In Oslo I went to a workshop with one of the best old hardingfele fiddle players, attended an all-day music and dance competition and met a Scottish fiddler who lives here. I’m so excited to be here. It’s all pretty inspiring.”

FIONA BLACK, ACCORDION PLAYER, who received a Career Development Bursary to travel to Oslo and Sweden and explore the crossover of Scottish and Scandinavian folk music album.

DID YOU KNOW?

Our website has a huge searchable database of funding opportunities for musicians. In 2015 more than 21,000 people used it.
As the charity responds to an ever-changing musical landscape, it is clear that there are more and more issues affecting musicians. We are keen to support key campaigns relating to these issues and to have a lobbying voice within the industry. Our campaigning activity aims to raise awareness of the challenges facing musicians and to influence the national policies that affect them.

RAISING AWARENESS OF HEARING PROBLEMS

In 2014, our Health and Wellbeing survey revealed that 47% of respondents had experienced hearing problems in their career. In 2015 we followed this up with a survey into musicians’ hearing, which brought to light some alarming statistics.

• 78% of people who suffer from hearing problems think that being a musician is the cause.
• 68% of musicians haven’t had a hearing test in the last three years.
• Although 81% believed they should use hearing protection, only 67% had ever used any.

As a result, in November 2015 we launched our new #HearForMusicians campaign in association with musicians, healthcare professionals and experts, including the British Tinnitus Association, Musicians’ Hearing Services, and the Musicians’ Union.

In 2016 we will offer a countrywide suite of health and wellbeing events to raise awareness of hearing loss and how to prevent it.

CAMPAIGNING FOR MUSICIANS

MUSICIANS’ MENTAL HEALTH

In 2014 we conducted a survey of musicians’ health and wellbeing which demonstrated that 67% of those working within the music industry had on occasion suffered depression or other psychological problems. This is an alarming statistic and something that we have been looking at closely throughout 2015.

Throughout this period we have also seen a rise in the number of calls and applications from musicians with mental health problems. In 2016 we hope to launch a nationwide campaign to tackle the pervading stigma of mental health in the music industry as well as propose new solutions for those who are suffering.
In 2015, Help Musicians UK was represented at a fantastic range of events, including industry awards, trade bodies and conferences. Partnerships are important for us, allowing us to widen our network and stay close to industry changes that affect musicians.

**AIM AWARDS**

Help Musicians UK was the official charity partner for the AIM Independent Music Awards in September 2015. Hosted by Radio 1’s Alice Levine and XFM’s John Kennedy, the ceremony saw FKA twigs, Wolf Alice, Skepta, Flying Lotus and many other independent artists pick up awards.

We’re incredibly proud to be the first official charity partner of the AIM Independent Music Awards. This partnership will enable us to continue raising awareness so that, ultimately, all working musicians in the UK know we are here for them in times of need.

**LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Help Musicians UK was chosen as the charity partner for the Liverpool International Music Festival (LIMF). The festival welcomes artists from around the world and also runs the LIMF Academy, which helps musicians to build their careers.

We’re delighted to be involved in the festival, supporting emerging artists and helping musicians to take that next big step.

Yaw Owuse, Music Curator at LIMF said, “We are very happy to be partnering with Help Musicians UK. It makes total sense for us to align with an organisation that supports artists and musicians so tirelessly.”

**OUR CHARITY PARTNERSHIPS**

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Yaw Owuse, Music Curator at LIMF said, “We are very happy to be partnering with Help Musicians UK. It makes total sense for us to align with an organisation that supports artists and musicians so tirelessly.”
We depend on donations and gifts in wills to fund everything we do. We receive no funding from Government, the Lottery or the music industry and plan ahead through the careful stewardship of our investments.

In 2015 our income was £4.8 million. We were fortunate and grateful to receive almost £2.3 million from people who remembered us in their wills, which accounted for 49% of our income. While this was a wonderful and unexpected boost in 2015, legacies are an unpredictable income source and professional advice suggests that we might expect them to decrease in the years ahead. To prepare for this, we are working hard to grow other fundraising income streams.

Our significant source of income in 2015 came from investments, which yielded £1.9 million (40% of total income). Our aim is to keep these investments at a level to provide about a third of our annual income.

Our total spend in 2015 was £4.6 million, with £3.6 million spent on improving the lives of musicians and £1 million spent on making that possible.

While our financial picture in 2015 was healthy, the numbers of musicians who need our help are growing year on year. We also want to develop our services so we can help even more musicians in the coming years. We therefore have a responsibility to ensure that we have the financial resources to meet future needs.

### Money In and Money Out

**2015**

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<th>RESOURCES EXPENDED</th>
<th>£000</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crisis and Continuing Care</td>
<td>£2,396</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emerging Musicians</td>
<td>£715</td>
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<td>Partnerships</td>
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<td>Grant to BAPAM</td>
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<td>Raising Awareness</td>
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<td>Fundraising &amp; Trading Costs</td>
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<td>Investment &amp; Property Costs</td>
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<td>Investment Management Fees</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Restated 2014**

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<th>RESOURCES EXPENDED</th>
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<td>Crisis and Continuing Care</td>
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<td>Fundraising &amp; Trading Costs</td>
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<th>INCOMING RESOURCES</th>
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<td>Gifts in Wills</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
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<td>Fundraising &amp; Trading Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Restated 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOMING RESOURCES</th>
<th>£000</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gifts in Wills</td>
<td>£2,782</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>£1,662</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising &amp; Trading Income</td>
<td>£567</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>£45</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£5,056</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FUNDRAISING IN 2015

2015 was an exciting year for Help Musicians UK. In the second year of our new name, we continued to reach the estimated 70,000 professional musicians who work in the UK and to engage with a wider audience of potential supporters, donors and fundraisers.

Here are some of the highlights of this year’s fundraising activities and events:

On 18 March, Manchester Midday Concerts held an event with Tasmin Little OBE and Martin Roscoe, with a joint reception to engage new supporters in the Manchester area.

Our BBC Radio 4 Appeal on 10 May featured Ambassador Lesley Garrett, who related how we helped early in her career when she suffered kidney problems and could no longer sing. The appeal generated £11,679 including Gift Aid and was accompanied by a direct mail appeal to Friends, supporters and Christmas card buyers, which generated a further £6,945.

Nicky Spence and Alison Rose, both supported by our emerging artists’ schemes, entertained long-standing donors on 3 September at the top of the BT Tower, thanks to trustee Suzi Williams’ kind offer. Over £6,000 was raised.

Chairman Graham Sheffield appeared with Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo at the Peacock Theatre in September, raising over £800 for the charity.

We are very grateful to have once again been chosen by the Promenaders’ Musical Charities as a recipient of retiring collections after the BBC Proms. In 2015 the Promenaders donated £41,500 after reaching a new record overall collection.

FESTIVAL OF ST CECILIA: A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC

On 18 November at St Paul’s Cathedral over 1,000 attendees came together for the Festival of St Cecilia: A Celebration of Music. For the first time, a testimonial by a beneficiary and a solo by Tasmin Little OBE were added to the service, placing Help Musicians UK at the centre of the event. Sir Willard White and Richard Stilgoe also played a significant role in the service. A legacy launch took place at the post-event reception for key donors. This raised £2,000 in direct donations and resulted in a number of new legacy pledges amounting to over £15,000.

CHAMPIONING INDIE MUSIC

On 8 September, guests at the AIM Independent Music Awards raised over £600 for Help Musicians UK. We are the first ever charity partner of the awards, which recognise independent artists who do things their own way. Lara Baker, Marketing & Events Manager at AIM, said: “We’re thrilled to have partnered with Help Musicians UK this year, to raise funds for the important work they do supporting artists.”
LOOKING AHEAD

The working environment for professional musicians has changed dramatically over the last ten years. The transition into a digital age still poses challenges for the industry as a whole and the DIY nature of many artists’ careers adds further complications.

Help Musicians UK is on a path to ensure our services remain relevant to musicians’ changing needs. Following the appointment of a new Chief Executive in 2015 and a review of the organisation’s activity, we have developed a new strategic plan.

In 2016, the charity will invest on expanding its talented and motivated team, led by an expert and committed Board of Trustees, and will establish Advisory Boards. By listening to what musicians need and investing in staff and governance, we will build a more relevant and resilient platform for the charity.

WE AIM TO BECOME THE CHARITY OF CHOICE FOR THE MUSIC INDUSTRY BY OUR CENTENARY IN 2021

We will also be taking a more proactive approach towards fundraising. In the coming years, we will invest in fundraising to lessen our reliance on unpredictable legacy streams. We will increase the voluntary fundraising target year on year to develop a new creative programme and to innovate within health and welfare priorities. We will also ensure Help Musicians UK, as the independent charity of the music industry takes centre stage for campaigning and advocacy. We will be working with a coalition of like-minded strategic partners in these endeavours.

Our overarching aim is to become the charity of choice for the music industry and profession by the time we reach our centenary in 2021 and, in doing so, to extend our reach across the whole of the UK.

WHAT’S NEXT?

We’re looking forward to another busy year with the prospect of a variety of events to raise funds, increase our profile and reach more musicians.

In 2016, we’re taking part in Independent Venue Week, a celebration of small music venues around the UK. We’ll be gathering the jazz community to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Peter Whittingham Jazz Award, and partnering with a number of festivals, including The Great Escape and Liverpool Sound City.

Fundraising will be a big on the agenda for 2016, and we’ll be celebrating the 90th birthday and patronage of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II alongside some very exciting announcements. We’ll also be looking for runners for the Royal Parks Half Marathon on 9 October 2016 and more throughout the year to help raise vital funds for musicians.

At the end of September 2016, we will be launching a new National Grants Programme offering support to a wide range of organisations delivering artistic and professional development opportunities to musicians across the UK.

The Festival of St Cecilia celebration will take place on 23 November 2016 at Westminster Cathedral, London.
In order to provide the range of support that musicians need, we have a team of 23 staff based at our offices in Britannia Street, near King’s Cross in London. To ensure our reach extends to all parts of the UK, we also work with a network of freelancers across the country who visit musicians in their homes.

We couldn’t do what we do without the efforts of a fantastic group of people who give their time to us, including all our dedicated volunteers, those who work on our Advisory Committees and our Board of Trustees.

Thank you for helping musicians from everyone at Help Musicians UK.
Thank Yous

We are grateful to every supporter who helped us in 2015; we could not achieve so much without your help. We would like to particularly thank the following people and organisations.

Bryan Adams OC OBC  
Alison Balsom  
Bob Boas  
Mr and Mrs Anthony Boswood  
Edith Bowman  
Susan Bullock CBE  
Martin Campbell-White MBE  
Countess of Lichfield  
Don Draper  
Sir Vernon Ellis  
Hugh Elwes  
Gerald Finley  
Christopher Glynn  
Lady Gough  
The Hon Mrs Felicity Guinness  
Amy Harris  
Bob Harris OBE  
Ilkley Concert Club  
Institute of Contemporary Arts  
Soweto Kinch  
Kathryn Langridge  
Sir Timothy and Lady Lloyd  
The Hon Richard Lyttelton  
Henry McKenzie-Johnston  
Amy Morrow  
Oxford Bach Ensemble  
William Parker  
Vera Plumridge MBE  
Mr and Mrs Richard Price  
Promenaders’ Musical Charities  
Rathbones  
Sir Simon Rattle OM CBE  
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra  
Donald and Joy Salkeld  
Thomas Sharpe QC  
William Spurgin  
Petroc Trelawny  
Windsor & Eton Choral Society  
Westminster Cathedral

TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS

Alchemy Foundation  
Ann Jane Green’s Trust  
A R Harding Charitable Trust  
Bird Charitable Trust  
Britwell Trust  
Bryan Adams Foundation  
Dacia Tasker Memorial Fund  
Davis Rubens Charitable Trust  
D’Oyly Carte Charitable Trust  
Edgar and Mary Traylen Charitable Trust  
Edna Brown Charitable Settlement  
Eversley Charitable Trust  
G M Morrison Charitable Trust  
Harris Charitable Trust  
Honeyman Charitable Trust  
J Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust  
J R Gibb’s Charitable Trust  
Kathleen Hannay Memorial Charity  
Kathleen Smith Foundation  
Kirby Laing Foundation  
Leslie Henry Williams Charitable Trust  
Leslie Williams Trust  
Lord and Lady Lurgan Trust  
Lucy Mary Ewing Charitable Trust  
Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust  
Michael Marks Charitable Trust  
Miss A B Pollen Trust  
Modiano Charitable Trust  
Mrs Wingfield Charitable Trust  
Music Sales Charitable Trust  
Ofenheim Charitable Trust  
R O Kinnison Charitable Trust  
Richard Kirkman Trust  
S C Wattenbach Trust  
Sir Edward Lewis Foundation  
Tilehouse Trust  
TUUT Charitable Trust  
Wyseliot Charitable Trust  
Young Singers’ Welfare Foundation

Our special thanks also to all members of our Friends scheme, all those who fundraised on our behalf and to those donors who wish to remain anonymous. We also wish to thank everyone who has kindly left us a gift in their will.