

# Chamber Music Scotland Activity Report 2022/23

Scottish Charity Number SC020803



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# Introduction

## Our mission

Chamber Music Scotland (CMS) is a national body for chamber music. We work with individuals and organisations to promote, connect, and develop the chamber music community in Scotland.

We are a collaborative organisation, with strong stakeholder, partner, and funder relationships across the arts and third sector. Our ambition is to make chamber music in Scotland an inclusive, unique, and creative environment with its own sense of identity and place on the world stage.

In 2022/23, we distributed funds of over £220,000 to support programmes, projects, performances, and commissions within the Scottish chamber music sector. In this year's activity report we will be looking back on some of the highlights of our work with musicians, communities, and audiences over the past twelve months.

## Statement from our CEO

"I would like to thank our supporters, in particular Creative Scotland, as well as the musicians, promoters, and partner organisations who have collaborated with us to make exciting things happen in the Scottish chamber music community in 2022/23. We are very fortunate to have an incredibly hardworking and committed staff and board at Chamber Music Scotland, without which none of this could happen. I really hope you enjoy reading through our activities, and please get in touch if you have any thoughts, questions, or feedback on our work."

- Paul Tracey



# 1 – Our programmes

We are committed to creating opportunities for musicians to grow and maintain creatively fulfilling and financially sustainable careers within the Scottish chamber music industry.

In this section you can read about our residency programmes, our recent commissions, and our work to build a unique, inclusive, and creative chamber music environment at CMS.

## Ensemble in Residence

In Nov. 2022 we appointed Scottish tuba and euphonium duo **Dopey Monkey** as our **EiR** for 2022/24. Originally from Moray, **Danielle Price** and **Martin Lee Thomson** are known for their diverse and innovative new music, which draws on jazz, folk, classical, and experimental music. As EiR they are enjoying collaborative projects where they can share their passion for the versatility of their instruments with other artists and communities. In Apr. – May 2023 **Dopey Monkey** hosted our Falkirk Pathways Project – a community,

mixed-arts project exploring wellbeing, memory and place with sound recordings – and toured their new music across the UK and Sweden. We look forward to building our relationship with the duo during their residency.

"We believe that there is a space within the chamber music sector for the playful and experimental. As an ensemble, we feel that we align well with CMS' exploration of what chamber music is, who it is for, and what it can be."

– Danielle Price & Martin Lee Thomson





# Supporting musicians

## Young Artist in Residence

Our inaugural YAiR [Simone Seales](#) completed their residency with us in Oct. 2022. While in post Simone collaborated with [CMS Embedded Musician Rylan Gleave](#); received mentorship in electronics and live looping from sound artist [Kim Moore](#); and completed a short 4-day residency at [Cromarty Arts Trust](#), to create field recordings and interviews with local residents as part their 'Sea' project.

## Ensemble alumni

Alumni from our residency programmes – such as [Maxwell Quartet](#), [Kim Moore](#), and [Simone Seales](#) – have continued to build successful careers within the chamber music sector. Here we include some recent alumni news:

In Sept. 2022 [Sequoia Duo](#) launched their debut album 'Isola', with music by [Fergus Hall](#), [Aileen Sweeney](#), [Rylan Gleave](#), and [Sonia Killmann](#), supported by [Creative Scotland](#) and [The Hope](#)

[Scott Trust](#).

In Apr. 2023 [GAIA Duo](#) released their debut album 'Stone, Salt & Sky' with [Delphian Records](#). The album featured [CMS commissions](#) from [Sally Beamish](#) and [Duncan Strachan](#).

"We're extremely proud to have released an album ... None of this would have been possible without CMS who are a beacon of light and hope for chamber music making in Scotland."

– Katrina Lee & Alice Allen



# Our resident artists

## Ambassador

In Oct. 2022 we appointed our first ever **CMS Ambassador**: Scottish percussionist **Colin Currie**. Colin is working with us to support the local and international reputation of the Scottish chamber music industry with a curated concert series. In Feb. 2023, Colin hosted the first community event in this curated series at Venue 18, Rutherglen, in association with **Healthy n Happy Community Development Trust**.

"I am delighted to be appointed Ambassador for CMS. Since my return to live in Scotland in 2019, I have been looking for the right institution to partner with to take forward my goals for growing a diverse and vibrant 'chamber community' at home."

– Colin Currie

## Associate Artist

In Jan. 2023 we appointed Irish composer **Linda Buckley** to the role of **CMS Associate Artist**. Linda will be

working with us on 'Thar Farrage (Over Sea)', an exciting new chamber music commission that explores Irish and Scottish traditional music and language, as part of **PRS Foundation Beyond Borders 2023**.

"I feel a kinship with the ethos of CMS, which at its heart approaches their work from a generous place – nurturing a sense of community, with a wish to share the immensely rich and communicative power of music."

– Linda Buckley





# Our commissions

## Sound Tracks

In Apr. 2022 [Euan Stevenson](#) premiered 'Sound Tracks', his co-commission from us and [Classic Music Live! Falkirk](#).

Inspired by the people, places, and landmarks of his home town of Falkirk, the new suite of contemporary classical music was performed by [Euan](#), [RSNO Principal Flautist Katherine Bryan](#), and [RSNO Principal Cellist Betsy Taylor](#), at Falkirk Trinity Church for the local community. 'Sound Tracks' was recorded and released as [Earthtones Trio](#)'s debut album in Oct. 2022.

## Senary

In Oct. 2022 the members of [Senary](#) released three, full-length pieces for an experimental, chamber music line-up of violin, cello, harp, flute, tuba and electronics: 'Carbon' by [Kim Moore](#), 'To Make it Move to Make it Live' by [Sarah Hayes](#), and 'Untitled' by [Ailie Robertson](#). Our commissions were supported by the [PRS Foundation](#).

## Thar Farraige (Over Sea)

In Feb. 2023 we were awarded funding from [PRS Foundation](#)'s Beyond Borders to commission a new chamber music piece for small pipes ([Brìghde Chaimbeul](#)), string quartet ([Maxwell Quartet](#)), and electronics from CMS Associate Artist and composer [Linda Buckley](#). The live premiere will be held in Belfast later in 2023, with further performances in Ireland and Scotland in collaboration with [Moving On Music](#), [Solstice Arts](#), and [Celtic Connections](#).



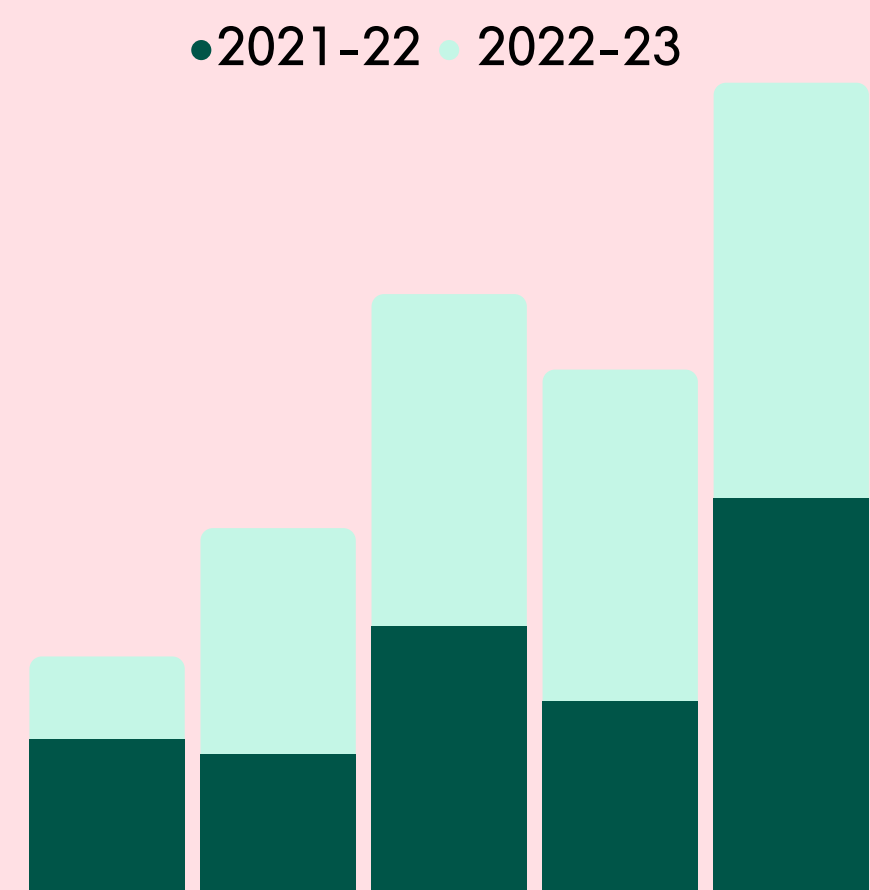
# Widening participation

In 2022/23 CMS supported over 650 musicians through our funding programmes and projects. We are committed to supporting a diverse and inclusive community of musicians to thrive, and to pursue sustainable careers within the chamber music sector.

## Challenging barriers

At CMS we have focussed on widening access to our opportunities for musicians of all identities and backgrounds, and we're pleased that these initiatives have been largely successful. Overall we have seen an increase in the percentage of applications to CMS-led projects from ethnic minority (12%), LGBTQ+ (9%), socio-economic minority (19%), and gender minority (3%) candidates in the last few years (second-left to right on graph). However, we have also seen a negative growth of 9% from applicants who identified as disabled (first left). We will review our strategy for 2023/24 and continue to prioritise actions to

promote genuine equality, diversity, and inclusivity in our work.



Total applications received in 2021/22 and 2022/23 with selected protected characteristics



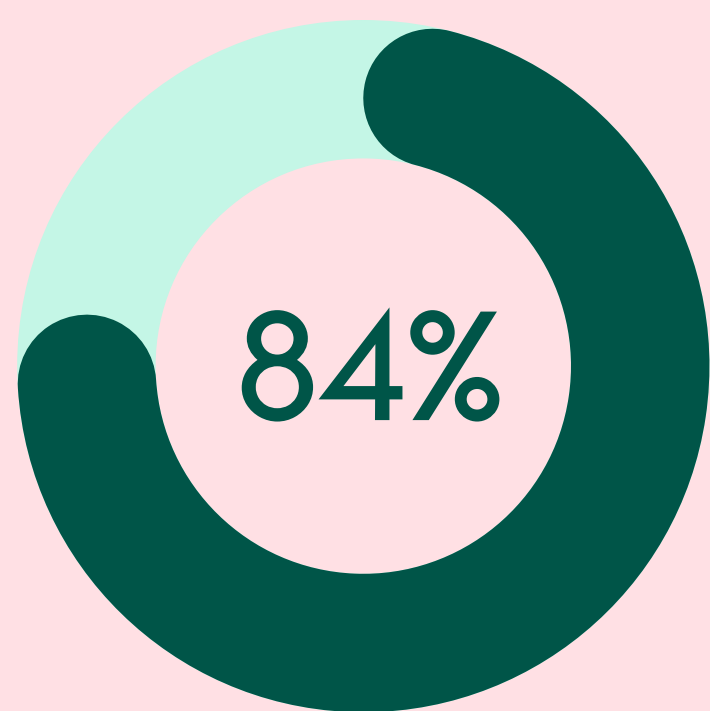


## 2 - Our projects

Every year we strive to be at the forefront of creating new and innovative ways for people to listen to, perform, and create chamber music.

In 2022/23 we supported a range of unique chamber music projects that aimed to reflect the diversity of Scotland's people and places. Activities supported by CMS benefitted local, national, and international audiences across 27 local authority areas, including in 4/5ths of the 10 most deprived areas (SIMD, 2020).

In this section you can read about CMS' most recent projects, including our concert series, workshops, and films.



Percentage of local authority areas with CMS-supported activity in 2022/23

### Mechanical Music Makers

In Jun. 2022 [Danielle Price](#), [Martin Lee Thomson](#), and [Rylan Gleave](#) led our community project in Moray. Working with the team at [impROVise robotics](#), the musicians helped local school students to combine music and technology in a performance piece for the local community of Keith. The results were showcased in a public exhibition with support from the [Hugh Fraser Foundation](#), [Foundation Scotland](#), and [Gartmhor Trust](#). [Watch our project film here.](#)



# Supporting creativity

## Coorie Doon COP 26 & 27

In Nov. 2022 our music film 'Coorie Doon: a World for our Children' was premiered in the British Council's Blue Zone at COP27. The film was created during the COP26 conference, with support from The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Our Embedded Musician Esther Swift, YAiR Simone Seales, and Rachel Drury worked with international participants from Kigali, Gaza, and Erbil, who shared their songs, hopes, and fears for the next generation during COP26. Our 'Coorie Doon' project, which works with families to create a song for their baby, began in 2015.

## Musicians' Recovery, Resilience, and Growth

In Dec. 2022 the RCS included our MRRG project in their 'Making it Happen' report, which documented outstanding examples of creative enterprise and innovation from 2017–2022. Designed by us in partnership

with RCS, the project provided industry mentorship, mindfulness coaching, and seed funding to support freelance musicians to continue creating during the pandemic. Musicians were able to use their seed funding to support professional development, performance and tours planning, and new chamber music commissions.

"The MRRG project supported me in exploring what's possible on my own and started this new journey for me."

Justyna Jablonska





# Exploring new voices

## Songs from the Last Page

From Jan.–Dec. 2022 CMS produced Year of Stories project 'Songs from the Last Page' with Irish composer Gareth Williams. Supported by VisitScotland and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the project created 20 new chamber music songs to represent the diverse voices of Scotland today, with help from songwriters, writers, and local communities. The songs – written in English, Gaelic, and Scots – were created and performed across 21 live concerts and 4 songwriting workshops. Held at book festivals, libraries, and community spaces in 12 local authorities, these events reached local, national, and international audiences. [Watch our project film here.](#)

## Underrepresented Composers Tours

From Mar.–Apr. 2023 we supported Underrepresented Composers Tours by Scotland-based ensembles [Isola](#)

[Quartet](#), [Scots Baroque](#), and [Clyde Duo](#). Across 11 dates the ensembles performed music by marginalised composers – such as [Joseph Bologne](#), [Samuel Coleridge Taylor](#), and [Jessie Montgomery](#) – for audiences from our Promoter Network in 10 local authorities. Our Underrepresented Composers Tours began in 2021, with our subsidised tour of [Saanjh](#).

"A great concept and beautifully performed. I loved the chamber-pop element – thank you so much!"

– Audience member





# Supporting innovation

## Classical EDI Development Fund

In Mar. 2023 we launched a new fund to help identify and develop pathways to greater diversity and inclusivity in the Scottish music sector. Supported by [Creative Scotland](#), the fund is aimed at Scotland-based freelance musicians, and individuals representatives of arts organisations and creative businesses. A series of accessible, digital resources – including audio description, live-captioning, and BSL interpretation – and more information about the fund can be found [on our website](#).

## Embedded Musicians

During the past year our [Embedded Musicians project](#) has supported five Scotland-based creatives to work in specific regions of Scotland to design and deliver performances, works, and events based on the needs of local communities. [Duncan Strachan](#) (North Region), [Esther Swift](#) (South Region),

[Rylan Gleave](#) (East Region), [Ailie Robertson](#) (West Region), and [Calum Huggan](#) (Central Region) have each programmed a series of free events for local communities, in partnership with arts organisations and charities including [Dandelion Scot](#), [The Stove Network](#), [Loch Shiel Festival](#), [SoundLab](#), and [Hope Kitchen](#). So far, their work has included community concerts, music workshops, exhibitions, arts showcases, and new music commissions. The Embedded Musicians project, supported by [Creative Scotland](#), will conclude later this year.





# Supporting new music

## Final lines

In Feb. 2023 our [Year of Stories](#) project 'Songs from the Last Page' received support from [Creative Scotland's](#) Open Fund to record a full-length album of music from the project. Featuring songs in Scots, Gaelic, and English, the album will comprise of [CMS commissions](#) from [Gareth Williams](#), Skye Gaelic singer [Deirdre Graham](#), and Scottish traditional music specialist [Lori Watson](#). It will feature contributions from some of the 10 original freelance musicians supported by the project, including [Aisling O'Dea](#) and [Justyna Jablonska](#). The album will be followed by a supporting Scottish tour, including a showcase at [Made in Scotland](#) at the [Edinburgh Fringe Festival](#) in 2023.

## Otherness

In Apr. 2023 [Calum Huggan](#) premiered his short film and new chamber music piece 'Otherness' at the [Scottish Opera Studios](#) during the international [il Corpo](#)

[nel Suono](#) conference in Glasgow.

Commissioned through our [Embedded Musicians](#) project, 'Otherness' combines an original composition by composer [Gillian Walker](#) with text and movement, in a collaboration between women and LGBTQ+ performers, that explores the experience of being othered by society.

"We want these songs and stories and the emotional response to them to have a profound effect on different people throughout the community."

- Deirdre Graham

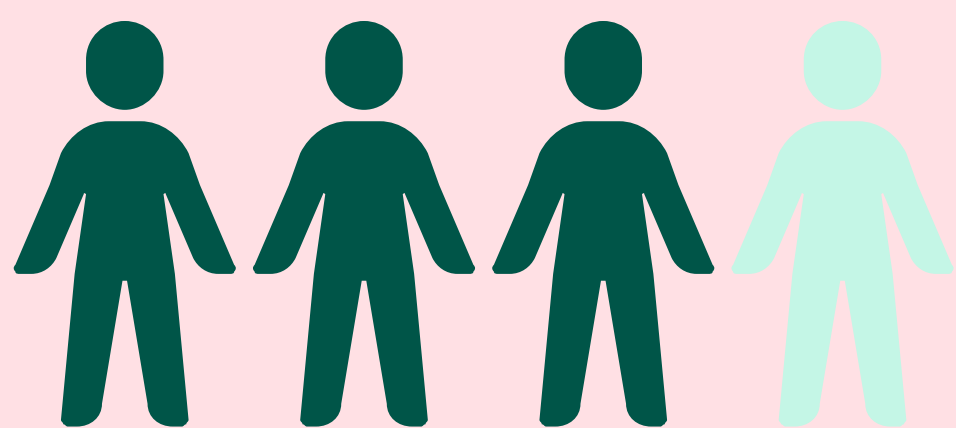


# 3 – Our promoters

Our network of promoters stretches from Kirkcudbright to the Orkneys, and serves many small towns, rural, and island areas. By supporting this network of music societies, clubs, and arts organisations, we ensure that audiences all over the country can access high-quality chamber music, particularly in rural and remote areas. In this section you can read about our support for our promoter network.

## Promoter Fund

During 2022/23 we supported 56 promoters across 24 local authorities in Scotland to deliver chamber music events. We opened our annual promoter funding call in Jun. 2022 and received 64 applications for our annual grants of up to £3,000. Although the fund was oversubscribed we were able



Percentage of Scottish local authorities with music societies supported by CMS

to distribute total funds of £140,000 to successful applicants across Scotland.

## Learning and Communities Fund

In May 2022 we opened our call for grants towards a series of chamber music activity in local communities. We distributed additional funds of £7,000 to our Promoter Network to support a range of activities including young musician masterclasses, schools and families workshops, and care home concerts.





# Supporting collaboration

## 2022 Promoter Conference

In Oct. 2022 we held our annual Promoter Conference at the Tolbooth, Stirling. The conference allows members of the Promoter Network to explore emerging topics and pressing issues within the chamber music sector with fellow music societies. Our 2022 conference featured a tours planning session, followed by a roundtable discussion with [Professor David Watkin](#) (Chair in Chamber Music, [RCS](#)) and [John McLinden](#) (Head of Knowledge and Research, [Creative Scotland](#)). The conference also featured performances from [Ethan Loch](#), [Chiari Trio](#), [Euan Stevenson](#), and [Resol String Quartet](#).

## Subsidised Tours

Every year we offer several subsidised tours to our Promoter Network in support of rural touring. In 2022/23, we subsidised tours by [Isola Quartet](#), [Scots Baroque](#), and [Clyde Duo](#) to eleven music promoters within our Network.

## Promoter development

In Feb. 2023 our newest board member [Maria Taylor](#) started a series of virtual coffee mornings, offering promoters drop-in chats with her and fellow organisations about current news, issues, and opportunities within the Network. We are also currently creating several development sessions for our Network organisations: from fundraising with [Ruth Ogston](#) to recruiting and retaining volunteer to audience development for later this year.



# 4 – Our audiences

We believe that everyone should have the ability to participate in and have access to live music and performance. Across 2022/23 we delivered a range of live music events for audiences that are underserved and underrepresented in chamber music, including young people, ethnic minority communities, and low-income households.

Our activities reached local, national, and international audiences and took place across 84% of Scotland's local authority areas – including both rural areas and areas of high economic deprivation. They included a range of in-person and online events, events with subtitles and live captioning, relaxed and dementia-friendly performances.

In this section you can read about how we are working to grow new audiences for chamber music. Read about our digital activities, our creative learning programmes, and our work to embed inclusivity and access in our events.

## Scotland and beyond

During 2022/23 we focussed on reaching new and international audiences for chamber music through our digital activities. Last year, our website and social media accounts reached an audience of 18,000 and 200,000 users respectively, and we will continue growing global awareness of the brilliant Scottish chamber music community.

"Music allows communication to flow more freely...breaks everything down and allows people to connect."

– Rachel Drury, on 'Coorie Doon'





# Chamber music online

## Chamber Music Directory

Every year we provide opportunities to platform artists and ensembles in the Scottish chamber music community to our online audiences. In Jun. 2022 we launched the third edition of our online [Scottish Chamber Music Directory](#). With both a public-facing page and a private page available to music promoters, the directory features everything an artist needs to be booked. Over 160 ensembles signed-up for the Directory's 2022/23 edition, which has been viewed 2,974 times.

## Social platforms for artists

We regularly use our social media pages to platform freelance ensembles. This includes our 2022/23 'Takeover' series, which gave artists – including [Fiona Sweeney](#), [Simone Seales](#), [Asaka Quartet](#), [Isola Quartet](#), [Scots Baroque](#), [Sequoia Duo](#), and [Clyde Duo](#) – the opportunity to host our platform for a week and discuss any aspect of the industry with our followers.

## Chamber music films

During 2022/23 we reached thousands of new digital audiences with our three online, chamber music films ('[Moray Mechanical Music Makers](#)', '[Coorie Doon: a World for our Children](#)', and '[Songs from the Last Page on Skye](#)') and digital concert film ('[Songs from the Last Page](#)'). Together these films have been watched over 5,000 times across our platforms. We will continue to innovate and reach new chamber music audiences with our digital activities.



# Creative learning

During 2022/23 we supported a range of creative learning events for communities across Scotland which offered opportunities for young instrumentalists, families, and ageing communities to experience the positive impact that creative learning has on health and mental wellbeing.

## Music workshops

Last year we supported 98 community music workshops, across our projects and Promoter Network, which reached 726 participants. These included free workshops for young persons, held in association with [Northern Stories Festival](#), [WAYWORD Festival](#), [Scottish Culture & Tradition Youth](#), and [Wigtown Book Festival](#), as well as free workshops in partnership with [The SoundLab](#), which provided lunch and travel costs for care-experienced young persons.

"It was really inspiring to see the ways I could use Gaelic in my own writing"

- Workshop participant

## Promoter creative learning

We also supported members of our [Promoter Network](#) to deliver a further range of creative and experimental learning activities in 2022/23. Working with [CMS](#)-supported artists such as [Sequoia Duo](#) and [Còmhradh Collective](#) these activities included dementia-friendly and care home concerts; sonic trails, field recordings, and family activities; and music, health, and wellbeing sessions that benefitted over 500 participants from communities across Scotland.





# 5 – Our people

During 2022/23 our team worked with over 150 organisations to deliver our fantastic programmes, projects, and events. Working with new collaborators and partners, we maximised the quality of our provision for the individuals, organisations, and networks that we support. In this section you can read about the ways which CMS has grown and developed this year.

## Our partnerships

This year we worked with over 150 partner organisations – including arts venues, charities, conservatoires, and community organisations – to deliver our programmes and projects across Scotland and internationally.

Although we don't have space in this report to highlight every project, we are extremely grateful to every person and organisation who contributed to and supported our successes this year. If you are interested in partnering with us on a chamber music activity email us at: [info@chambermusicscotland.com](mailto:info@chambermusicscotland.com).

## Our Board of Trustees

At CMS we are committed to creating meaningful progress in the chamber music industry, including within our own organisation. In Mar. 2022 we called for trustees with diverse talents and perspectives to join us. The call was open to candidates from all sectors, backgrounds, and experience-levels.

From this call we appointed four new members to our Board of Trustees: [Roz De Vile](#) (CEO, UK Music Masters),



# Fostering collaboration

Berginald Rash (Clarinetist, [Chineke!](#)), Gillian Walker (Composer, [Guildhall School of Music & Drama](#)), and Maria Taylor (Chair, [Gatehouse of Fleet Music Society](#)). You can read more about the [CMS Board on our website](#).

"CMS' reach and commitment to artist well-being, growth, and sustainability inspired me to get involved. As a trustee it becomes incumbent upon us to nurture, foster, and ensure that these tenets remain central to the work that CMS does in both the short and long-term."

- Berginald Rash

## Supporting our staff

We supported a number of wellbeing, learning, and professional development activities for staff during 2022/23. Our employees benefitted from counselling and coaching, as well as training in digital skills, widening accessibility, and management. In Jan. 2023 our staff participated in [UK Music Masters' 'I'm In'](#) programme, a self-evaluation and strategy tool created to stimulate organisational progress with EDI.

## New research initiatives

Between Mar.-Jun. 2022 we partnered with researchers based at the [RCS](#) and [The University of Edinburgh](#) to conduct novel social science research on our programmes and projects. Working with [Dr Una MacGlone](#) and [Lee Holland](#) respectively, we sought to investigate the experiences of musicians on our projects and programmes, and to make future recommendations based on results from the surveys and interviews they conducted.





# We thank you for your interest and support for our programmes, projects, and people.

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