



London City Brass

Annual Report

11/11/2019 - 31/12/2020

Reference and administration

Charity name and number

London City Brass (1186265)

Principal address

249 Buckhurst Way
Buckhurst Hill
Essex
IG9 6JB

Trustees

Jack Boyles	11/11/2019-current	Chair
Josephine Ashdown	11/11/2019-current	Secretary
Hannah Scales	11/11/2019-current	Treasurer
Sean Platton	11/11/2019-current	
Christopher Silberberg	11/11/2019-current	

Structure and governance

London City Brass (LCB) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charities Commission, registration number 1186265.

LCB is governed by a Constitution adopted 11 November 2019.

Trustees are appointed or re-appointed by election at an annual general meeting.

Charitable objectives

LCB set out the following charitable objectives in their constitution:

- To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.
- To support such other purposes deemed to be exclusively charitable within the laws of England and Wales as the trustees in their absolute discretion from time to time determine.

Activities undertaken for public benefit

In planning the activities of London City Brass, the Trustees have taken into account the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Towards the end of 2019 (the beginning of this review period), we carried out a large number of performances for public benefit. We had a number of carolling events across London. We played at the Famous Royal Oak pub for a community carolling event which was attended by people of all ages and backgrounds. Children were able to partake with percussion, contributing to their understanding and enjoyment of music and brass bands. Members of the public could also join in with singing, giving them an opportunity to take part in the music-making. We also took our carolling outside, playing for commuters at Cannon Street and outside our rehearsal venue in the busy Bank area, as well as the shopping area at Coal Drops Yard. All these brought musical enjoyment and education to the public, as well as chances to perform for our members, which is a valuable part of musical education and personal development.

Our biggest event of the Christmas period was to put on our own concert. The concert had free entry and was widely attended by friends and members of the public. We took donations for the Evelyn 190 Centre, an advice charity that supported vulnerable people in South East London that was at risk of closure.

Despite our plans being dramatically changed due to the Covid-19 pandemic this year, LCB has managed to maintain a strong commitment to benefiting the public through our activities. We quickly adapted to virtual performance, encouraging members to improve their playing individually and supporting them technologically to record themselves. Not only did this improve individuals' musical confidence and technique, but enabled them to contribute to projects we made as a team. This created a sense of community in a time of isolation. The virtual content we produced is publicly and freely available on YouTube and social media, allowing the general public to enjoy and learn about brass band music.

We sent out a weekly bulletin over lockdown, which various members contributed to. Alongside a weekly zoom meeting, this kept up our strong sense of community and helped more isolated band members to socialise and feel included.

As well as keeping our membership included and socially engaged, we managed one public performance to spread the benefits of music to others. We were able to safely play carols in a public outdoor location, which many stopped to enjoy.

Finally, we were able to support other charities this year, Cricket Builds Hope and the Surrey Cricket Club. We participated in their virtual carol service by recording three pieces for them to include.

Main achievements

At the end of 2019, we had our usual busy Christmas period, taking music out to the public and enjoying a number of performance opportunities. We reached a high standard of performance and saw members grow in

confidence and in musical ability, a great achievement for us. This involved carolling out in public and for private events, as well as our own Christmas Concert which was a great success.

In 2020, the bulk of our performances were virtual as we adapted to Covid-19 restrictions and guidelines. Our overwhelming main achievement is to have adapted and continued activities over the course of such a turbulent year. We have learned both how to produce online content and switch to virtual activities, and how to make our rehearsals Covid-safe when we are able to meet in person. The risk assessment and safety provisions in place are now ready to be put into practice when government guidelines allow us to carry out rehearsals again.

We have maintained a sense of community and belonging integral to our ethos as a band. This was achieved by keeping up regular contact with the band through weekly zooms and bulletins where members could share information and stay in touch in times of isolation during the course of the pandemic.

Our virtual performances include recordings and videos expertly produced by one of our members who has a flair for video design. The videos have been very well-received on social media, increasing our listenership and spreading joy in difficult times. We also created a high-quality video for the Cory Online Contest, which members very much enjoyed putting together.

Finally, for the Christmas season, we managed to keep up some normality by carolling in a Covid-safe space outside in public. We also participated in a virtual carol concert, supporting Cricket Builds Hope and the Surrey Cricket Club.

Plans for the future

LCB will not be changing our charitable objectives in 2021 and our plans for the future continue to support these objectives. All plans made for next year will depend on the pandemic and will be subject to adaptations or cancellations accordingly.

Our first goal is to safely return to rehearsals with our Covid-19 risk assessment measures in place to protect members, as soon as government guidelines allow us to meet in person as a band. Until then, we plan to keep the band engaged as a community through virtual communication and playing opportunities wherever possible.

We have a number of bookings for events which support other charities or causes, such as the MacMillan Cancer Research Parliamentary Tug of War event, a march to commemorate the Poplar Rates Rebellion, and a repeat of 2020's Cricket Builds Hope and Surrey Cricket Club carol service.

LCB hopes to return to the French Brass Band Open in Amboise in 2021, engaging with the wider European community of brass banding. We also hope to perform on various bandstands in the summer, including in Victoria Park and Regents Park. These are great opportunities to take brass band music to the public, spreading awareness and appreciation of the genre and giving members an opportunity to perform.

Financial review

Financial position

At the end of 2020, LCB's finances are in a relatively strong position, despite the limit on activity which has occurred due to the Covid 19 pandemic. As the band's first full year in operation, a priority in 2020 was building reserves within the finances and ensuring that we set up a robust foundation. We have achieved this, with end-year balances in excess of the minimum reserve amount. Lost revenue from performances has been offset by reduction in costs, whilst continued payment of subs by members throughout the year has meant the main income stream has been relatively stable. This has put us in a strong position as we move into 2021 to be able to invest in the development of the band, whilst maintaining an appropriate safety net of reserves.

Policy on reserves

The trustees have set a policy to ensure an unrestricted reserve of £3,000 as a minimum is kept in the current account. This is to ensure short term commitments such as Musical Director expenses and hire of rehearsal premises can be sustained for at least 6 months.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Boyles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jack Boyles

Chair

21 March 2021



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name London City Brass	No (if any)
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Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 23/09/2019	To	Period end date 31/12/2020
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Subs	11,791	-	-	11,791	-
Performance Income	1,097	-	-	1,097	-
Amboise Payments	8,503	-	-	8,503	-
Miscellaneous	2,104	-	-	2,104	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	23,495	-	-	23,495	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	23,495	-	-	23,495	-
A3 Payments					
Venue Hire	3,399	-	-	3,399	-
Staff	-	-	-	-	-
Admin Costs	762	-	-	762	-
Incidentals	63	-	-	63	-
Amboise Costs	8,335	-	-	8,335	-
Member Refunds	4,995	-	-	4,995	-
Charity Donations	250	-	-	250	-
Miscellaneous	68	-	-	68	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	17,872	-	-	17,872	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
Music, equipment and instruments	1,688	-	-	1,688	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,688	-	-	1,688	-
Total payments	19,560	-	-	19,560	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,935	-	-	3,935	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	3,935	-	-	3,935	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Main Bank Account	3,935	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	3,935	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Music	Unrestricted	-	-
	Musical equipment	Unrestricted	-	-
	Instruments	Unrestricted	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Hannah Scales	Hannah Scales	03-Jan-21	