



London City Brass

Annual Report

01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021

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	11/11/2019-26/01/2022	
Christopher Silberberg	11/11/2019-current	
Laura Kirk	26/01/2022-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.

Over the course of 2021, once Covid-19 restrictions allowed, we carried out a large number of performances for public benefit. Our return to rehearsals was carefully managed to keep everyone safe and to restart our members' much-needed musical involvement in preparation for gigs. Our first outing after our return to rehearsals was part of the national Proms in the Playground campaign, performing for school children at Churchill Gardens Primary Academy in Pimlico. This was a great opportunity to introduce future generations to brass band music and instruments, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Following this successful return to public performance, we played two bandstands across the summer: Victoria Park and Regents Park. Notably, the latter performance had a substantial audience who were introduced to the sounds of a brass band through popular music alongside traditional repertoire, free of charge.

After the summer period, we focused on furthering the musical skills and knowledge of our members by learning an extensive range of less familiar and more challenging pieces. We were also able to support several other charities, starting with the Cricket Builds Hope service in Kennington. This was followed by our Christmas concert with a closing collection in aid of St Mungo's and The Together Project. Other Christmas events included performing at Stepney City Farm, St Margaret Pattens Church, and the Famous Royal Oak pub for community carolling events which were 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. Our Christmas performances 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.

As well as our in-person engagements, we continued to foster a thriving online community through social media and our website. Sharing videos of rehearsals and performances helped to bring brass band music to a wider audience. Evidence of our extended reach includes an increase of 66 Facebook page likes and 93 Instagram followers.

By carefully planning around the rapidly changing Covid-19 guidelines this year, LCB has managed to maintain a strong commitment to benefiting the public through our activities. When we were unable to rehearse, we kept members engaged and connected through monthly online socials and a regular newsletter. Once rehearsals recommenced, the mental health benefits and social interactions facilitated by our activities were obvious and much-appreciated.

Main achievements

Over the course of 2021 we put on a number of successful, high-quality performances:

- Proms in the Playground
- Victoria Park bandstand
- Regents Park bandstand
- Cricket Builds Hope Carol Service
- Christmas Concert
- Stepney City Farm Carolling
- St Margaret Pattens Carolling
- The Famous Royal Oak Carolling

We reached a high standard of performance and saw members grow in confidence and in musical ability, a great achievement for us. This was enabled by a prompt reaction to changing Covid-19 regulations.

We have maintained a sense of community and belonging integral to our ethos as a band. This was achieved by keeping up regular social and musical events. Some of our socials included meals out, a virtual quiz, and virtual pottery and cupcake-making. Additionally, we introduced a band uniform to strengthen our branding and identity as a community. This was provided to members free of charge.

This year, we were able to register for Gift Aid and establish a Friends of LCB scheme. These two initiatives help to maximise our income from donations and therefore the charitable impact we make.

Plans for the future

LCB will not be changing our charitable objectives in 2022 and our plans for the future continue to support these objectives.

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, Cricket Builds Hope and Surrey Cricket Club foundation carol service, and a concert to support Bench Outreach, a local homelessness charity in South East London.

LCB hopes to return to the French Brass Band Open in Amboise in 2022, engaging with the wider European community of brass banding. We also hope to perform on various bandstands in the summer, including in Victoria Park, Regents Park, and Golders Hill. 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.

We will continue to challenge and develop our members' and audiences' education and appreciation of brass band music with an expanded and varied repertoire and programme of events.

Financial review

Financial position

At the end of 2021, LCB's finances are in a strong position, despite the continuing limitation of activity due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic. In 2020 a priority was to build reserves within the finances and ensure that we had a robust foundation for the band to build upon in future years. We have continued to build upon this position throughout 2021, with end-year balances continuing to remain well in excess of the minimum reserve amount. Lost revenue from performances has been offset by reduction in costs whilst the continued regular income of subs from members has meant our main income stream has been relatively stable. In 2021 we were able to conduct a subs review and lower the cost of subs to £15, which we feel is sufficient to bring value to members whilst still providing the band with adequate income to meet our needs.

As we move into 2022, we will look to consider where best to invest in the development of the band, whilst still maintaining a healthy surplus to our reserve figure. We will also be looking to introduce a more formalised budget in 2022, which should allow us to plan for larger spending and use the band's funds more efficiently.

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:



Jack Boyles

Chair

10 February 2022