Blackdowns Early Music Projects

Charity Number: 1156177

Report by the Trustees Year 2025

2025 was another exciting year for Blackdowns Early Music with five separate performances including another successful 4-day residential choral event.

Without a doubt the finest event was this residential choral event "Vespers from Pueblo Cathedral" in May which brought the intriguing rhythms of 17th century Latin American Baroque from Mexico to Peru to a most appreciative audience in Wellington. This choice of mostly unknown choral works again emphasised our ideals of *"advancing the education of the public in the appreciation and practice of early music"*. The complex scores required highly skilful band players who performed on a number of brass, percussion and wind instruments to support the vocal group of 28 singers.

As in recent years, we also promoted recitals by a variety of professional ensembles who are currently achieving a dynamic impact by their performances of early music. In each case they brought instruments which highlighted the origins of the many and varied styles and different classes of early chamber music with a focus this year on string players.

In February Masumi Yamamoto on harpsichord directed a pair of violinists from the London Obbligato Collective to play an unusual mid 17thC repertoire. This was followed by a "Charles ll's Private Musick" programme of 16thC compositions by Fiddlers Three with theorbo and chamber organ. The third recital in September took the little-known string repertoire back further into the heyday of the viols in the Elizabethan period. The year closed with a powerful November recital of Venetian cornetto music by Gawain Glenton with Silas Wollston supporting from the harpsichord.

Audiences for each event were good and costs were well controlled although the professional musician costs for the recitals were higher than in previous years. In summary BEMP looked forward into 2026 and beyond with bank reserves over £11,600.

31st October 2026

Signed by Managing Trustee: Geoffrey Bass

approved remotely by Trustees: Malcolm Plastow & Alison Baily

BLACKDOWN EARLY MUSIC PROJECT

Balance Sheet - 31 December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Turnover	**15,992**	14,171
Cost of Sales	**(15,701)**	(11,124)
Gross profit	**291**	3,048
Administrative expenses	**(157)**	(97)
Operating profit	**134**	2,951
Profit for the period	**134**	2,951
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	**11,860**	11,726
Creditors : amounts falling due within one year	**(75)**	(75)
Net Current assets	**11,785**	11,651
Net assets	**11,785**	11,651
Capital and reserves	**11,651**	8,701
Profit and loss account	**134**	2,951
Shareholders funds	**11,785**	11,652

Signed: Catherine Bass 28/10/2026

BLACKDOWN EARLY MUSIC PROJECT
Detailed profit and loss - 31 December 2025

		2025	2024
Income			
	Ticket Sales	**4172**	2776
	Subscription	**8438**	8630
	Gift Aid	**1703**	1607
	Donation		10
	Grants/ Loss guarantees	**1000**	-
	Programme sales	**-**	-
	Singers accommodation	**440**	580
	Misc	**213**	547
	Bank interest	**26**	22
	TOTAL INCOME	**15992**	14171
			0
Expenses			
	Venue Hire	**570**	681
	Musicians	**9631**	4926
	Advertising	**63**	173
	Instrument hire	**-**	-
	Poster and leaflets	**396**	-
	Ticket printing and music cost	**467**	329
	Tens Licences	**-**	21
	Meals & Drink	**3267**	3748
	Accommodation and transport	**840**	405
	Revenue Share		-
	Donations		-
	Misc	**467**	840
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**15701**	11124
			0
Gross profit/ (loss)		**291**	3048

Signed: Catherine Boas 28/10/2026