CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

# Trustees' annual report for the period

**From: Period start date January 2025** **To: Period end date December 2025**

**Charity name: Music For Hope**

**Charity registration number: 1167556**

## Objectives and activities

| | |
|---|---|
| Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document | • To actively promote our work as a positive, non-violent alternative to gangs for young people in the Bajo Lempa;<br>• To promote confidence and leadership qualities in all the young musicians we work with and create opportunities for cross-project team building;<br>• To support La Asociación para el Desarrollo de las Artes y la Cultura en Jiquilisco (ASDACJI) and our team to explore alternative options for funding Music for Hope's activities and team expenses;<br>• To support and promote Music for Hope's bands to achieve higher standards and greater exposure inside and outside of the Bajo Lempa;<br>• To provide students and teachers with instruments, equipment and various learning materials including online tuition for our teaching team;<br>• To continue to improve communication and coordination between Music for Hope collaborators locally and internationally;<br>• To continue to improve our music classes;<br>• To maintain and develop our social media capacity and build our Facebook community;<br>• To capture and record aspects of Music for Hope's cultural history and legacy, as well as that of the Bajo Lempa communities. |
| Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts. | To actively promote our work as a positive, non-violent alternative to gangs for the young people of the Bajo Lempa, we continue to provide music tuition, music workshops, performance opportunities and psychological support. Music for Hope has continued to offer a positive, safe alternative that supports healthy choices and long-term aspirations through the connection that music-making promotes and through the pro-social interactions that our teacher team model. Music remains central to our work, strengthening creative thinking, discipline, and problem-solving skills, and enabling students to express their experiences through music, connect with others, and resist negative influences.<br><br>To promote confidence and leadership qualities in our young people, we ensure our classes are accessible and constantly look for social development opportunities for students, as well as helping them improve their musical skill. Over the past year, young musicians were given multiple opportunities to experience leadership by organising rehearsals, mentoring younger students, and supporting the organisation of public events and community concerts. These developments reflect Music for Hope's commitment to cultivating future leaders who are responsible, creative and dedicated to their communities. Songwriting continues to be embedded into the programme too, which encourages reflective, |



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independent thinking alongside listening to others and compromising when composing together as a group.

To support our team in exploring alternative funding options we have launched a new, paid newsletter via Substack. We are hoping to role out online music classes next year, and Music for Hope's sound-system investment continues to bring in additional contributions by being hired out for private events in the communities.

Our teacher team provide music classes of a high standard across six different music centres, educating on average 300 students and supporting the Music for Hope bands in preparing them for events and seeking out performance opportunities for them. Music for Hope bands also gain exposure from our prominent online presence and receive great support from our online community, for example, when we live stream performances or share videos of the bands' contributions to community events throughout the year.

At Music for Hope, we have maintained our commitment to instrument repair and replacement, recognising that every instrument is an essential tool for both students and teachers. Instruments are treated with care and respect and stored securely along with musical equipment such as sound systems. We have also continued to cover essential costs such as electricity, drinking water, internet and travel, ensuring safe and functional learning spaces.

We aim to continue to improve communication between Music for Hope collaborators locally and internationally. The UK team hold bi-monthly trustee meetings, preparing reports, supporting fundraising initiatives, and ensuring clear communication of their activities to the team in El Salvador and in Catalonia. It is also possible for the UK team and supporters of the charity to keep up to date with brilliant work happening in El Salvador through our active social media pages. Furthermore, in 2025 our UK coordinator and one of our trustees were able to visit the team in El Salvador which is a vital cord of connection between the two countries and highly valued by both teams.
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Our teacher team continue to be passionate about providing improved music classes and musical opportunities to students. The teacher team and psychologist encourage student engagement and feedback and think of creative ways to use music to educate and inspire, as well as alleviating day-to-day anxieties in changing social contexts. As part of the team's continued professional development, they received renewed training in safeguarding and social media use, creating engaging content, particularly for our new platform Substack.

In 2025, our active social media platforms were Facebook, Instagram and, towards the end of the year, Substack. Our Facebook page has continued to grow in followers and content interaction. This is thanks to consistent efforts from the teacher team to use Facebook to spread the word of Music for Hope and to capture content of the talented musicians that have developed through the programme. The success of video content has also led us to set the goal of creating a Tik Tok account in 2026 (a social media platform that is widely used in the communities). As 2026 is a 30th anniversary for the charity, we will be running a '30 stories for 30 years of Music for Hope' social media campaign where we post current and historical stories relating to the charity which we started planning in 2025.

To preserve and celebrate the cultural history and legacy of Music for Hope and the Bajo Lempa, the teacher team continue to incorporate specific musical elements of the Cumbia and Indigenous Andean traditions when teaching. This ensures that the region's musical identity remains central to Music for Hope's work, and students are encouraged to compose music in these styles and traditions. In keeping with local custom, the primary teaching method is aural and students were encouraged to reflect on both past and present community experiences when composing. Through this approach, we strengthened our



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| | |
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| | ongoing focus on nurturing civil responsibility, cultural awareness, and social cohesion across all our centres. |
| Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit | The trustees of Music for Hope continue to work in accordance with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and always hold this guidance in mind when making decisions and planning activities as trustees. |

## Achievements and performance

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| Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole. | Overall, 2025 was a year of growth, resilience, and deepened community impact.<br><br>In 2025, our teachers in El Salvador continued delivering both group and individual music lessons across six music training centres (Nueva Esperanza, El Zamoran, Amando López, La Papalota, El Marillo and our newest centre La Canoa) as well as reaching other nearby communities in the Bajo Lempa region. Music for Hope directly impacted 300 individuals and reached approximately 2,000 people indirectly (e.g. members of the communities and family members of the young people).<br><br>We succeeded in providing vital support to young people, offering a safe and supportive environment in which they could develop essential skills such as teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving. Teachers and families observed clear improvements in students' confidence, with many young people who were initially shy now performing in front of audiences, speaking up in groups, and taking on responsibilities within their music centres. This is essential for individual and social wellbeing in communities affected by a legacy of marginalisation, social violence and gang activity, and the positive impact of Music for Hope means that more children and young people chose to spend their time in music rehearsals instead of engaging in risky behaviours.<br><br>As always, the Christmas Concert was a major highlight in 2025, where students are given the opportunity to present their learnings from the past year. This year, the concert was held in the community of Amando Lopez and included performances from 9 of our music groups, plus 2 duets and a soloist. Teachers described how meaningful it was to see children embrace the vision of Music for Hope, and how parents felt proud to see their sons and daughters on stage. Parents were involved in supporting with logistics and decorations, so it was a true demonstration of community and collaboration. The concert was a huge success, with over 500 people attending, 200 of which were children. We were also joined by 300 people watching the live stream via our Facebook page from all over the world, including in the United States, in the UK and across Latin America.<br><br>Other performance highlights throughout the year included performances to welcome the President of Fons Català to the communities, the anniversary celebration of the Nuevo Modelo de Esperanza Cooperative, and regular community and online appearances where students enjoyed contributing Facebook content, sometimes even making their own videos.<br><br>Music for Hope is committed to supporting pupils' understanding of important social issues. For example, creative workshops and songwriting labs promoted environmental awareness and cultural heritage. Students composed original pieces inspired by personal stories, climate resilience, and nonviolence. These workshops helped strengthen relationships between parents and children, build community pride, and deepen recognition of the importance of music in daily community life. |



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| | Our UK team of trustees and volunteers are always open to possibilities that allow us to spread the word of the brilliant work being carried out in El Salvador. This year, our UK co-ordinator and one of our trustees presented at a UNISON Regional Internation Forum Meeting which was a useful opportunity in furthering the reach of Music for Hope. In addition to this, in the Autumn of 2025, after considered preparation, the UK team launched our Music for Hope Substack as a means of strengthening engagement with supporters and keeping up to date with the current supporter trends. Our followers can follow the project's latest news and for a small, charitable donation can receive our new monthly newsletter, *Ritmos Solidarios,* which contains detailed updates directly from El Salvador.<br><br>The charity continues to function well, even after some personnel changes. At the end of August, our treasurer stepped down as scheduled and we welcomed a new treasurer to the charity who spent several months shadowing our former treasurer to ensure a thorough handover and smooth transition. We also welcomed another new trustee who will gradually take over secretarial duties. And in other operational news, we updated our safeguarding policy in collaboration with the safeguarding officer on the El Salvador team, resulting in a more robust and purpose-fit procedure.<br><br>During the academic year 2025-2026 Music for Hope has offered a work placement for a student in Hispanic Studies from Lancaster University, as we have for several consecutive years now. These placements permit students an insight into the work of a small charity working in an area relevant to the students' university studies. These placements raise awareness about El Salvador and the work of the charity among young people in the UK, hones a new generation of supporters and activists, and supports young people in the UK in building their CV and gaining skills towards future employment.<br><br>In the Spring of 2025 two of our teaching team submitted song lyrics they had written to the Consuelo Rivera Fuentes Poetry Competition, held in conjunction with the annual El Sueño Existe festival in Machynlleth. This gave strength to the culture of song-writing that Music for Hope nurtures among the teaching team and music students in the Bajo Lempa.<br><br>We would like to honour the huge contribution of Music for Hope, founder member, José Neris Ventura Jácobo who passed away in December 2024 after a fierce battle with cancer. Neris was a highly skilled local musician who had a deep understanding of the folk and popular music traditions of El Salvador. Music for Hope is indebted to him for his knowledge, skill and commitment to students and developing bands. His legacy lives on in the many musicians he taught and bands he helped set up and train. |

## Financial review

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|---|---|---|
| Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period | Para 1.21 | See end of annual report |
| Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held | Para 1.22 | We aim to keep 3 months' running costs in reserve in case of an emergency where funds need to be sent urgently to El Salvador to ensure the project continues to operate. |
| Amount of reserves held | Para 1.22 | £12,622 as at 31 December 2025 (2024 £8,860) |
| Reasons for holding zero reserves | Para 1.22 | N/A |



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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Details of fund materially in deficit | Para 1.24 | N/A |
| Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern | Para 1.23 | N/A |

## Structure, governance and management

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| Description of charity's trusts: | N/A |
| Type of governing document: for example, trust deed, memorandum and articles of association etc | Constitution |
| How is the charity constituted? for example limited company, unincorporated association, CIO | Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) |
| Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees | Trustees are usually selected after having served as a volunteer for the charity so that they have a thorough understanding of Music for Hope's mission. If needed, the charity advertises for trustees by creating a job description and circulating it to contacts. Appointments take place at the AGM, where someone puts themselves forward for election, and motions are then passed by vote when quorate. The election and resignation of trustees is set out in our governing document.<br><br>Music for Hope is a 'horizontally' rather than 'vertically' structured organisation and the work that we do is based on communication and consensus between the two teams.; one based in the UK and one in El Salvador. Both teams work closely together and communicate regularly with each other via online platforms such as Zoom. This communication is facilitated by our contracted coordinator based in the UK who meets monthly with the teacher team in El Salvador, and more frequently with our Salvadoran co-ordinator if necessary. The UK team is there to support the work and needs of the El Salvador team. Updates, needs, queries and issues from the El Salvador team are communicated to the UK team via the UK-based coordinator, either immediately if necessary or at bi-monthly UK meetings. |

## Reference and administrative details

| | |
|---|---|
| Charity name | Music For Hope |
| Other name the charity uses | |
| Registered charity number | 1167556 |
| Charity's principal address | 12 Holman Road, Garston, Liverpool, L19 5NS |

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## Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

| Trustee name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Andrew Redden | Chair | | |



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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sophie Helsby | Treasurer | Until 01/09/2025 | |
| Roland Clark | Treasurer | From 01/09/2025 to the present | Board of Trustees (AGM) |
| Lucie Phillips | Secretary | | |
| Katherine Girling Rogers | | | |
| Cornelia Graebner | | | |
| Emily Mcindoe | | | |

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

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|---|---|
| Description of the assets held in this capacity | N/A |
| Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects | N/A |
| Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets | N/A |

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

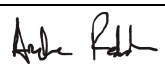
N/A

## Declarations

**The company has taken advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the report above.**

**The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report (including directors' report) above.**

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Signature(s)** |  |  |
| **Full name(s)** | Andrew Redden | Roland Clark |
| **Position (for example Secretary, Chair, etc)** | Chair | Treasurer |

**Date** 20/10/2026



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# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

## TO THE TRUSTEES OF
## Music for Hope

I report on the accounts for the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 8 to 9 and are receipts and payments accounts.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**
The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedure laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Paul Cowham

Paul Cowham FCA DChA
Withington Works
Withington Baths
30 Burton Road
Manchester, M20 3EB

20/10/2026



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## Music for Hope

Year ending 31 December 2025

**Receipts and Payments Accounts**

| | 2025 | | | *2024* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Unrestricted funds | Restricted funds | Total funds | *Unrestricted funds* | *Restricted funds* | *Total funds* |
| **Receipts** | £ | £ | £ | *£* | *£* | *£* |
| CD and book sales | 23 | - | 23 | *158* | *-* | *158* |
| Donations | 4,018 | - | 4,018 | *3,169* | *500* | *3,669* |
| Gift aid | - | - | - | *-* | *-* | *-* |
| Main project grant | - | 12,800 | 12,800 | *-* | *12,800* | *12,800* |
| School Exchange Project | - | - | - | | *980* | *980* |
| Songwriting (Liverpool Uni) | | - | - | *-* | *1,625* | *1,625* |
| Total receipts | 4,041 | 12,800 | 16,841 | *3,326* | *15,905* | *19,231* |
| **Payments** | | | | | | |
| Programme delivery in El Salvador | - | 11,047 | 11,047 | *-* | *13,047* | *13,047* |
| School Exchange Project | - | | - | *-* | *317* | *317* |
| Accountancy and Independent examination | | 550 | 550 | *-* | *500* | *500* |
| Project coordination | | 4,400 | 4,400 | *-* | *4,800* | *4,800* |
| Travel expenses | | | - | *80* | *-* | *80* |
| Meeting expenses | | | - | *234* | *-* | *234* |
| IT costs | 36 | 195 | 231 | *36* | *187* | *223* |
| Total payments | 36 | 16,192 | 16,228 | *350* | *18,851* | *19,201* |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | 4,005 | (3,392) | 613 | *2,976* | *(2,946)* | *30* |
| Transfers | (243) | 243 | - | *413* | *(413)* | *-* |
| Cash funds last year end | 9,410 | 3,149 | 12,559 | *6,021* | *6,508* | *12,529* |
| Cash funds this year end | 13,172 | - | 13,172 | *9,410* | *3,149* | *12,559* |



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## Music for Hope

Year ending 31 December 2025

**Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year**

| | Notes | 2025 Unrestricted funds £ | 2025 Restricted funds £ | Total funds £ | *2024 Unrestricted funds* | *2024 Restricted funds* | *Prior period £* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cash funds | | 13,172 | - | 13,172 | *9,410* | *3,149* | *12,559* |
| Assets | | | | | | | |
| Monies received after 31 Dec 25, relating to the year | | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Liabilities | | | | | | | |
| Items paid after 31 December 24 relating to the year | | 550 | - | 550 | *550* | - | *550* |
| | | 12,622 | - | 12,622 | *8,860* | *3,149* | *12,009* |

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Andrew Redden
*Name*

*Signed*

Roland Clark
*Name*

*Signed*

Date 20/10/2026



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