

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 313755**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**  
**FOR**  
**BENSILOW MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**BENSILOW MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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## **BENSLow MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

The corporate trustee presents its report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustee has adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives and aims**

Benslow Music Instrument Loan Scheme's charitable objects, as set out in its governing document, are 'to lend good quality instruments to promising young music students who are unable to afford or obtain a suitable instrument of their own'.

##### **Main activities**

The charity achieves its objectives principally through a rolling programme of loaning instruments to young musicians (aged 7-25). This incorporates maintaining a collection of around 850 instruments, mainly string instruments as well as a smaller number of harps, woodwind and brass instruments. Where appropriate, bursaries are made available to borrowers whose families otherwise may not be able to meet the loan fees.

Additionally, the charity offers a programme for senior borrowers, offering young musicians an extended loan to age 30 as they navigate the financial and logistical difficulties faced by young professional musicians. The organisation also produces a small number of concerts at Benslow Music to showcase current and alumni instrument borrowers.

##### **Public benefit**

The Trustee confirms that it has complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Public benefit is derived from the programme of instruments loans, which is managed through open applications. As families continue to face pressure on finances, and there are ongoing funding challenges in music education, access to low-cost, high-quality instruments can have a significant beneficial impact on young musicians' development. The charity continues to offer bursaries to borrowers from lower socio-economic backgrounds to broaden the reach of its activity and benefit.

#### **ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

##### **Achievement and performance**

2024 was a period of consolidation for the scheme. This year saw the number of young people borrowing an instrument remain steady, starting the year with 537 and finishing with 538 at the end of the year. This included 87 new borrowers joining and 86 borrowers leaving the scheme. Across the year the scheme awarded bursaries to 145 borrowers, offering 20% off the cost of loaning an instrument from the scheme to young people from families with a total household income of less than £50,000.

During the year the Scheme also acquired 87 new instruments and 98 bows via donations, purchases and loans (106 donations, 31 purchases and 48 loans). 14 instruments were also withdrawn during the year, making a net gain of 73 to the Scheme's collection. The instruments added to the scheme included a number of high-quality cellos purchased with funds previously generously donated to the Scheme.

The annual service charge, designed to ensure that the requirement to have loaned instruments serviced annually is being followed, continued to be rolled out throughout the year as borrowers renewed loans or joined the scheme. This has been supported through developing relationship with a network of luthiers across the country to provide instrument servicing to borrowers who are not within reasonable distance of the Scheme's workshop.

## BENSLow MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

A new partnership with the Music in Secondary Schools Trust began pilot activity in 2024. The aim is to work together to support young people from different backgrounds in their musical education. This saw the Scheme loan instruments to young players at Central Foundation School in London.

The Scheme also took time to focus on its business systems and processes during the year. In a project that will culminate in 2025, a new instrument database and customer relationship management system is being implemented to aid efficiency that will ultimately help the scheme continue to grow its number of beneficiaries. This was complemented by purchasing additional technology to allow for instrumental teachers to join appointments remotely where needed.

Opportunities were given to current and former borrowers to perform as part of Benslow Music's afternoon recital series. These concerts attracted good attendee numbers and provided an opportunity to showcase the work of the Scheme to local audiences.

#### **Fundraising performance**

Donations and grants for the year totalled £84,033, an increase of 76% from 2023. This included £3,745 through the Friends of BMILS giving scheme, £27,100 in general donations, legacies of £40,000, and the second grant from the Scops Arts Trust of £5,000, part of a three-year arrangement towards the Scheme's bursary fund.

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Financial position**

##### **Income and Expenditure**

The result for the year was an overall surplus of £634,253 on the Scheme's unrestricted funds. Within this there was an operational position (excluding voluntary and in-kind income and bursaries allocated) of £9,200 surplus.

The budget approved by the Governors was prepared on the basis of a £6,100 operational surplus on the year. This assumed that the scheme would continue to attract a similar number of borrowers to 2023 and that borrowing fees would remain at current levels. While this was the case, operational income and expenditure grew 22% and 21% higher than budgeted respectively.

<b>Analysis of income source</b>	<b>2024</b>		<b>2023</b>	
Instrument loan fees	£192,042	37%	£173,344	47%
Income in kind*	£225,080	43%	£139,128	38%
Voluntary income	£84,033	16%	£22,328	6%
Bank & Investment income	£14,184	3%	£4,794	1%
Miscellaneous income**	£6,350	1%	£8,870	2%
Instrument sales	£4,000	1%	£16,282	4%
Insurance commission	£0	0%	£2,800	1%
	£525,689		£367,546	

\* Income in kind represents the value of instruments donated to the Scheme.

\*\* Miscellaneous income represents income from sources such as insurance claims.

Expenditure across the year was against cost running the Scheme, including the maintenance and care of the instrument collection and the allocation of bursaries to individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds. The amount spent on bursaries in 2024 was £29,914, an increase of 42% on 2023. All of this activity is in service of the charitable objectives.

The monthly budget process, including cash flow reports, continued to be used to inform managers, Governors and the Trustee of the latest financial position. The Trustee maintains a strong financial policy and robust financial controls to comply with latest guidance from the Charity Commission.

## **BENSLOW MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

##### **Reserves policy**

The reserves policy of the Scheme is to build and maintain equivalent to six months of operating expenditure as a minimum secure level. This is held to ensure long term security for the Scheme in the event of future deficits, or unexpected events that result in loss of income.

The unrestricted reserve funds at year end were £3,439,378. Of this, £3,187,393 is held as tangible assets, including the leasehold on the Scheme's office and workshop (Aston Building), musical instruments cases and office equipment, as well as the musical instrument collection held as a designated Musical Instrument Fund (£2,576,649). Additional designated funds held are:

- Aston Development Fund (£76,136) for the purpose of the organisational development of the Scheme. The fund will continue to be drawn down in 2025.
- Parker Instrument Fund (£18,262) for the purpose of purchasing high-quality cellos to expand the instrument collection. This will be drawn down in 2025.

After taking into account funds held as restricted, designated and fixed assets, the Scheme holds £251,985 of free reserves, exceeding its target by 78%. The surplus in reserves will be reinvested into the development and maintenance of the instrument collection.

##### **Going concern**

The Trustee considers that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis. The Scheme's reserves are at an appropriate level, and the growth of income from core activity of instrument loans from 2022 to 2023 demonstrates that there is still demand for the Scheme's activities.

##### **FUTURE PLANS**

The Scheme's plans for 2025 will focus on development and growth. The review of the digital systems is expected to be completed, improving efficiency and increasing the Scheme's capacity for borrower appointments, which in turn will help to grow the Scheme.

The Scheme will also review some of its operations alongside that of the Trustee to help improve effective and to reduce operational burden on the Scheme in areas of shared administration, such as marketing and fundraising.

Continued development of the instrument collection remains a priority, with plans to invest in both full size and fractional sized instruments, driven by current demand. In addition, further exploration of the Scheme woodwind collection is expected.

The Scheme also hosted an Open Day in spring 2025 to build relationships with current and potential instruments donors, lenders and borrowers, as well as alumni of the Scheme. It was also an opportunity to showcase new instrument acquisitions.

## **BENSIOW MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

##### **Governing document**

Benslow Music Instrument Loan Scheme is an unincorporated trust registered as a charity, with Benslow Music Trust as its sole corporate trustee. It is governed by a Trust Deed, most recently amended in June 2022.

The trustees of Benslow Music Trust appoint a Committee of Governors annually. The membership of the committee must contain a majority of Benslow Music Trust trustees. Additional Governors may be appointed from beyond the trustee body and are not required to be members of Benslow Music Trust. The Governors elect their own Chair, who must also be a trustee of Benslow Music Trust.

Between 29 June and 23 November 2024, the trustees of Benslow Music Trust elected to suspend the requirement for trustees to form a majority of the Governors' Committee while Benslow Music Trust underwent a recruitment and induction process for its own trustees. This was reinstated on 23 November 2024 with the appointment of new Governors.

Benslow Music Trust retains ultimate responsibility for the scheme, including policy setting and risk management, with Governors being delegated the responsibility for overseeing strategic direction, ensuring all activity supports the Scheme's objectives, some elements of risk management, and approving annual budgets.

Benslow Music Trust appoints senior staff led by the Chief Executive of Benslow Music Trust. A Head of Benslow Music Instrument Loan Scheme, oversees the day-to-day operation of the Scheme, reporting to the Chief Executive and supported by other Benslow Music Trust staff in communications, fundraising and financial management.

All Governors give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration other than reasonable expenses to enable their participation as Governor. No expenses were given to Governors in 2024.

##### **Key management remuneration**

The remuneration of all members of staff is reviewed annually by Benslow Music Trust's board of trustees, following report from its Remuneration Committee. Staff are appraised annually by line managers; their recommendations are considered alongside details of movement in standard indices prepared by the Office of National Statistics including CPI, CPIH, RPI, National Living Wage and average earnings.

##### **Related parties**

Benslow Music Trust (Registered Charity No. 313663) took on responsibility for the Scheme as its sole corporate trustee when it incorporated in 1986. The Scheme has premises on the Benslow Music campus and pays an annual management charge to Benslow Music Trust for the cost of utilities, services and staff time.

The Scheme is part of a group operating as Benslow Music. Alongside Benslow Music Trust this includes Benslow Music Enterprises Limited (Registered Company 10967344), a wholly owned subsidiary which manages Benslow Music Trust's non-charitable trading activity.

##### **Risk management**

In its duty to manage the Scheme's exposure to risk, the Trustee annually reviews its risk management policy and regular review key risks, maintaining a risk register. The senior management team support in developing plans and control measures to provide reasonable mitigation.

As the UK continues to face a challenges to the cost of living, the principal risk to the scheme is diminishing demand for its services as families face increasing financial pressures. This has been accounted for by raising the threshold for bursaries to ensure that the Scheme remains accessible to individuals from varying socio-economic backgrounds.

**BENSLOW MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Name** Benslow Music Instrument Loan Scheme

**Registered Charity** 313755

**Principal address** Benslow Music, Benslow Lane, Hitchin, SG4 9RB

**Trustee** Benslow Music Trust (Registered Company Number: 408404) (Registered Charity Number: 313663)

**Benslow Music Trust Board of Trustees at 31 December 2024**

Andy Baruch (resigned 29 June 2024)

Colin Bates

Andrew Blankfield (resigned 29 June 2024)

Ellen Falconer (appointed 14 September 2024)

Tim Gillott (Vice-Chair)

Katy Hamilton (resigned 29 June 2024)

Norma King

Heidi Malaure (Chair) (appointed 14 September 2024)

Philip Meaden (Chair) (resigned 29 June 2024)

Alessandra Mongiardino (appointed 14 September 2024)

Peter Neville (resigned 29 June 2024)

Gwen Owen Robinson

Alan Sheppard (appointed 14 September 2024)

Bhagwant Singh (Honorary Treasurer)

Michael Taylor (Vice-Chair)

Mark Bowen (Honorary Secretary)

**Governors of Loan Scheme**

Andrew Blankfield (resigned 29 June 2024)

Rosalind Hedley-Miller

Norma King

Joely Koos

Peter Neville (Chair) (resigned 29 June 2024)

Gwen Owen Robinson (appointed 23 November 2024)

Alan Sheppard (appointed 23 November 2024)

Sandra Saunders

Michael Taylor (Chair)

**Senior Staff**

Chief Executive: Michael Duffy

Head of BMILS: Nick Evans-Pughe

**Auditors** Bradshaw Johnson Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor, Croft Chambers, 11 Bancroft, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 1JQ

**Bankers** Barclays Bank plc, 5/6 High Street, Hitchin, SG5 1BJ

**Financial Advisers** CCLA Investment Management Limited, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4ET

**BENLOW MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 26 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
Trustee - M Taylor

**BENSLow MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
BENSLOW MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Benslow Music Instrument Loan Scheme (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

**Other information**

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements;
- or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
BENSLOW MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We considered the nature of the Charity's industry and its control environment, and reviewed the Charity's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to fraud and compliance with laws and regulations. We also enquired of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the Charity operates in, and identified the key laws and regulations that:

- had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. These included the Charity Commission; and
- do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Charity's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

We discussed among the audit engagement team including relevant internal specialists such as tax specialists regarding the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluated the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
BENSLOW MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to the risks identified included the following:

- reviewing financial statement disclosures by testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- enquiring of management and external legal counsel concerning actual and potential litigation and claims, and instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance, reviewing internal audit reports and reviewing correspondence with HMRC.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Bradshaw Johnson*

Bradshaw Johnson  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor  
Croft Chambers  
11 Bancroft  
Hitchin  
Hertfordshire  
SG5 1JQ

Date: 30-6-25

**BENSLOW MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.12.24 Total funds £	31.12.23 Total funds as restated £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	313,113	-	313,113	161,457
Other trading activities	3	14,184	-	14,184	4,794
Other income		<u>198,392</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>198,392</u>	<u>185,019</u>
<b>Total</b>		<u>525,689</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>525,689</u>	<u>351,270</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Benslow Musical Instrument Loan Scheme	4	<u>227,347</u>	<u>56,516</u>	<u>283,863</u>	<u>242,364</u>
Net gains on investments		<u>335,911</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>335,911</u>	<u>7,795</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>					
Transfers between funds	12	634,253	(56,516)	577,737	116,701
		<u>49,086</u>	<u>(49,086)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<u>683,339</u>	<u>(105,602)</u>	<u>577,737</u>	<u>116,701</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>2,756,039</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>2,956,039</u>	<u>2,839,338</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>3,439,378</u>	<u>94,398</u>	<u>3,533,776</u>	<u>2,956,039</u>

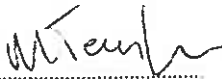
The notes form part of these financial statements

**BENSILOW MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.12.24 Total funds £	31.12.23 Total funds as restated £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	9	3,187,957	-	3,187,957	2,566,784
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	10	79,349	-	79,349	85,638
Cash at bank		<u>293,548</u>	<u>94,398</u>	<u>387,946</u>	<u>404,833</u>
		372,897	94,398	467,295	490,471
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(121,476)</u>	-	<u>(121,476)</u>	<u>(101,216)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>251,421</u>	<u>94,398</u>	<u>345,819</u>	<u>389,255</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>3,439,378</u>	<u>94,398</u>	<u>3,533,776</u>	<u>2,956,039</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>3,439,378</u>	<u>94,398</u>	<u>3,533,776</u>	<u>2,956,039</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>	12				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				862,729	815,128
Designated fund - Musical Instruments				<u>2,576,649</u>	<u>1,940,911</u>
				<u>3,439,378</u>	<u>2,756,039</u>
Restricted funds:					
Aston Development Fund				76,136	100,000
Parker Instrument Fund				<u>18,262</u>	<u>100,000</u>
				<u>94,398</u>	<u>200,000</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>3,533,776</u>	<u>2,956,039</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 26 April 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

  
Trustee - M Taylor

The notes form part of these financial statements

**BENSLOW MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Notes	31.12.24 £	31.12.23 as restated £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Cash generated from operations	I	<u>288,755</u>	<u>151,772</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>288,755</u>	<u>151,772</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(316,542)	(139,994)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		16,048	48,400
Sale of heritage assets		<u>(5,148)</u>	<u>(31,916)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(305,642)</u>	<u>(123,510)</u>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		(16,887)	28,262
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>404,833</u>	<u>376,571</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>			
		<u>387,946</u>	<u>404,833</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**BENSLOW MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

<b>1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	31.12.24	31.12.23 as restated
	£	£
<b>Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)</b>	577,737	116,701
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	15,232	15,119
Gain on investments	(335,911)	(7,795)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	5,148	31,916
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	6,289	(22,031)
Increase in creditors	<u>20,260</u>	<u>17,862</u>
<b>Net cash provided by operations</b>	<u>288,755</u>	<u>151,772</u>

**2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS**

	At 1.1.24 £	Cash flow £	At 31.12.24 £
<b>Net cash</b>			
Cash at bank	<u>404,833</u>	<u>(16,887)</u>	<u>387,946</u>
	<u>404,833</u>	<u>(16,887)</u>	<u>387,946</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>404,833</u>	<u>(16,887)</u>	<u>387,946</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**BENSLOW MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Benslow Musical Instrument Loan Scheme meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

**Income**

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when:

- the Scheme becomes entitled to the donation, legacy or similar income and any conditions for receipt are met;
- the Scheme is virtually certain that it will receive it; and
- the Scheme is reasonably certain that the value can be reliably measured.

Donated instruments are included in the accounts in the year in which the instrument is received. The Scheme's policy is only to dispose of instruments where they are unsuitable for the Scheme's objectives.

Income from tax claims is included in the accounts at the same time as the gift to which it relates. Income from legacies is included when the Scheme has been notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

Administration charges (from lending instruments) represent amounts invoiced in the year for the rental of musical instruments.

All income is stated gross and is wholly derived in the United Kingdom.

**Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised in the year in which it is incurred.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Scheme in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature to support them. This includes those incurred in connection with administration of the Scheme and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Minor additions of less than £50 are not capitalised.

Musical Instruments donated to the Scheme are initially valued professionally and included on that basis. Instruments purchased are included at cost. The individual values of all instruments are continuously reviewed on a rolling basis - primarily for insurance purposes - and adjustments made where necessary.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Musical Instruments	- Not depreciated
Instrument cases and equipment	- 10% straight line
Office equipment	- 20% straight line

**BENSLow MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

**Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is not provided on musical instruments individually but an annual adjustment is made to reflect value changes arising from reviews during the year and acquisitions and disposals. A view is also taken at the time of the overall reserve provided against the aggregate musical instrument stock valuation (see Note 6).

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

**Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustee in furtherance of the general objectives of the Scheme and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustee for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Scheme for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

**Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

**2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	31.12.24	31.12.23 as restated
	£	£
Donations	84,033	22,329
Instruments donated	<u>229,080</u>	<u>139,128</u>
	<u>313,113</u>	<u>161,457</u>

**3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	31.12.24	31.12.23 as restated
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>14,184</u>	<u>4,794</u>

**BENSLOW MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS**

	Direct Costs £
Benslow Musical Instrument Loan Scheme	<u>283,863</u>

**5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.

**6. STAFF COSTS**

	31.12.24	31.12.23 as restated
	£	£
Wages and salaries	96,998	92,332
Other pension costs	<u>1,914</u>	<u>1,972</u>
	<u>98,912</u>	<u>94,304</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.12.24	31.12.23 as restated
Lending instruments / administration	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

**7. 2023 COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds as restated
	£	£	£
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	155,457	6,000	161,457
Other trading activities	4,794	-	4,794
Other income	<u>185,019</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>185,019</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>345,270</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>351,270</u>
 <b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Benslow Musical Instrument Loan Scheme	221,324	21,040	242,364

**BENSLow MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

7. 2023 COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds as restated
	£	£	£
Net gains on investments	7,795	-	7,795
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	131,741	(15,040)	116,701
Transfers between funds	(15,040)	15,040	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	116,701	-	116,701
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	2,639,338	200,000	2,839,338
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u>2,756,039</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>2,956,039</u>

**8. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT**

Historically, the Aston Development Fund and Parker Instrument Fund were treated as designated funds, however, the Trustees have now reviewed the treatment and believe this treatment was incorrect and they should be treated as restricted funds. This resulted in the designated funds being overstated and restricted funds being understated as at 31 December 2023.

**9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Long leaschold £	Instrument cases £	Musical instruments £	Office equipment £	Totals £
<b>COST OR VALUATION</b>					
At 1 January 2024	676,860	37,048	1,940,911	11,733	2,666,552
Additions	-	200	315,875	467	316,542
Disposals	-	-	(16,048)	-	(16,048)
Revaluations	-	-	335,911	-	335,911
At 31 December 2024	<u>676,860</u>	<u>37,248</u>	<u>2,576,649</u>	<u>12,200</u>	<u>3,302,957</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>					
At 1 January 2024	53,562	35,449	-	10,757	99,768
Charge for year	13,537	816	-	879	15,232
At 31 December 2024	<u>67,099</u>	<u>36,265</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,636</u>	<u>115,000</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>					
At 31 December 2024	<u>609,761</u>	<u>983</u>	<u>2,576,649</u>	<u>564</u>	<u>3,187,957</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>623,298</u>	<u>1,599</u>	<u>1,940,911</u>	<u>976</u>	<u>2,566,784</u>

**BENSLow MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - continued**

Cost or valuation at 31 December 2024 is represented by:

	Long leasehold £	Instrument cases £	Musical instruments £	Office equipment £	Totals £
Valuation in 2024	-	-	2,576,649	-	2,576,649
Cost	<u>676,860</u>	<u>37,248</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,200</u>	<u>726,308</u>
	<u>676,860</u>	<u>37,248</u>	<u>2,576,649</u>	<u>12,200</u>	<u>3,302,957</u>

Musical Instruments - the Scheme's policy is only to sell or dispose of instruments where they are deemed unsuitable for purpose. Occasionally this may include instruments which prove unappealing to borrowers, when they may be disposed of or returned to the owner as appropriate. The overall instrument stock forms no part of any collateral given or contemplated.

As noted above the total owned instrument stock reflects the aggregate of individual valuations under constant review. The market for instruments is a highly specialised one and much distorted in recent years by the perception of 'named' musical instruments as a pure investment asset. To keep our aggregate book value within bounds we have applied a discount of 40% (2023: 50%) to the insurance valuation and the discounted figure is the figure of £2,576,649 included above.

**10. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	31.12.24	31.12.23 as restated
	£	£
Trade debtors	65,647	82,388
Other debtors	<u>13,702</u>	<u>3,250</u>
	<u>79,349</u>	<u>85,638</u>

**11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	31.12.24	31.12.23 as restated
	£	£
Trade creditors	95,467	90,970
Other creditors	<u>26,009</u>	<u>10,246</u>
	<u>121,476</u>	<u>101,216</u>

Trade creditors represents the deposits held for instruments out on loan.

**BENSILOW MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1.1.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.24 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	815,128	298,342	(250,741)	862,729
Designated fund - Musical Instruments	<u>1,940,911</u>	<u>335,911</u>	<u>299,827</u>	<u>2,576,649</u>
	2,756,039	634,253	49,086	3,439,378
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Bursary fund	-	(29,914)	29,914	-
Aston Development Fund	100,000	(23,864)	-	76,136
Parker Instrument Fund	<u>100,000</u>	<u>(2,738)</u>	<u>(79,000)</u>	<u>18,262</u>
	<u>200,000</u>	<u>(56,516)</u>	<u>(49,086)</u>	<u>94,398</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>2,956,039</u>	<u>577,737</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,533,776</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	525,689	(227,347)	-	298,342
Designated fund - Musical Instruments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>335,911</u>	<u>335,911</u>
	525,689	(227,347)	335,911	634,253
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Bursary fund	-	(29,914)	-	(29,914)
Aston Development Fund	-	(23,864)	-	(23,864)
Parker Instrument Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,738)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,738)</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>(56,516)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(56,516)</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>525,689</u>	<u>(283,863)</u>	<u>335,911</u>	<u>577,737</u>

**BENSLOW MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

**Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.12.23 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	797,570	123,946	(106,388)	815,128
Designated fund - Musical Instruments	<u>1,841,768</u>	<u>7,795</u>	<u>91,348</u>	<u>1,940,911</u>
	2,639,338	131,741	(15,040)	2,756,039
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Bursary fund	-	(15,040)	15,040	-
Aston Development Fund	100,000	-	-	100,000
Parker Instrument Fund	<u>100,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>100,000</u>
	200,000	(15,040)	15,040	200,000
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>2,839,338</u>	<u>116,701</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,956,039</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	345,270	(221,324)	-	123,946
Designated fund - Musical Instruments	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,795</u>	<u>7,795</u>
	345,270	(221,324)	7,795	131,741
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Bursary fund	6,000	(21,040)	-	(15,040)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>351,270</u>	<u>(242,364)</u>	<u>7,795</u>	<u>116,701</u>

**Unrestricted fund - General**

This fund represents the accumulated surplus arising from the general activity of the Scheme after allocating income and expenditure to other funds where appropriate and is consistent with the policy of the Governors.

**Designated fund - Musical instruments**

This fund represents the total value of musical instruments owned by the Scheme, although it should be noted the operational stock includes substantial numbers of instruments placed in the Scheme by supporters. As noted in 9 above the Scheme only parts with instruments if they are deemed unsuitable for purpose, and the Governors therefore consider that for accounting clarity the proportion of general reserves representing the net aggregate value should be shown as a separate item.

**Restricted fund - Aston Development Fund**

This fund represents a donation to the Scheme by Tony Aston, former Governor and Chair of the Scheme and former trustee of Benslow Music Trust. The fund is to allow the Scheme to continue to develop in the future.

**BENSLow MUSIC INSTRUMENT LOAN SCHEME**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

**12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

**Restricted fund - Parker Instrument Fund**

This fund represents a donation given specifically for the purchase of instruments.

**Restricted fund - Bursary Fund**

The Scheme maintains its charges to borrowers at a low level and these primarily reflect only the direct cost of maintaining and insuring the instruments. To meet cases of extreme hardship however, bursaries are given that further reduce these charges and in 2023 awards totalling £21,040 were given. These are shown separately on the Statement of Financial Activities, being effectively a reduction in the year's income.

**Transfers between funds**

The transfer from the unrestricted funds to the bursary fund has been made as no restricted funds are currently held for this purpose.

**13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

A management charge of £28,447 was paid to Benslow Music Trust, the sole Trustee, for the year ended 31 December 2024 (2023: £28,447). This covered premises, facilities and other support activities.

At the end of the year £0 was owed to Benslow Music Trust (Owed to BMT at 31 December 2023: £461).