

Trustees Annual Report
Panarts NIC106590 2022/2023

Purposes of the Charity Trust

The purposes of the Trust are exclusively charitable namely the education of the public in Northern Ireland in relation to the advantages of cultural diversity, and so, to promote improved understanding of cultural traditions through, in particular, the innovative use of the performing arts. In pursuit of our objectives the charity shall:

1. Promote cross cultural arts projects
2. Facilitate contact between individuals and groups in a creative and unthreatening environment
3. Encourage dialogue and demonstrate arts skills and help individuals to learn new skills in the performing arts
4. Provide training and education to develop existing arts skills and help individuals to learn new skills in the performing arts
5. Establish national and international exchanges to educate and introduce individuals to different cultures and traditions

Activities Period End 31 March 2023

Since 1992, Panarts has developed a variety of diversity programmes and worked with community groups, schools, colleges, minority ethnic groups, public bodies and many songwriters, musicians and artists.

In recent years we focused our work on encouraging members of the public to get involved in the arts with particular emphasis on song writing. Our previous year 2021 had been a very challenging time for Panarts due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With changing levels of infection and government restrictions, planning our charitable activities was very difficult. Each year we had held song writing panel discussions, workshops, seminars and performances but Covid led to multiple cancellations.

During the year 2022 we moved to online training and featured many of the creative people we worked with through our website, www.panarts.org. We attempted to keep our international exchange programme alive but the overseas songwriters could not plan with any certainty, making flights impossible. We had brought twenty-five staff and students from Belmont University, Nashville Tennessee, to Belfast on many occasions, but this had regrettably come to an end due to Covid uncertainty.

At the end of March 2022, we had secured a Covid Recovery Programme Award from the Arts Council of NI. From April 2022 onwards we were then able to use these funds to

cover the shortfall of the 2021-2022 year before moving to working in a voluntary capacity for year April 2022 - March 2023.

Throughout the year 22/23, we encouraged several people to be creative, write new songs and record their music for the public. We then linked with them online and connected through Zoom calls.

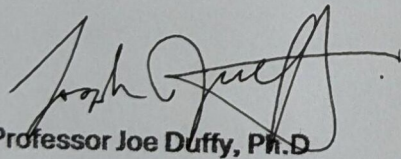
We also worked closely with very talented local creative film makers and website designers such as Will McConnell and Nick Martin. We filmed unreleased music with everyone encouraged to write new material, using the skills learned through Panarts education workshops. Many of the short videos have been viewed hundreds of times online and the public have been introduced to many creative local people from all over Northern Ireland including Shauna Tohill, Bridget O'Neill, Peter McVeigh and Noel Mclean, to name just a few.

Although there may have been some private benefit for each songwriter, it was incidental compared to the public benefit of hearing the new music and the stories behind the creative process of writing.

Another important aspect of our work is to link with songwriters willing to share their experiences to benefit others. These writers have proven skills and have been successful as artists. A good example of this is Chris Difford of the acclaimed band, Squeeze, whom we approached to share his knowledge and craft through a Panarts interview. The filmed event was released and made available to the public free of charge on our www.Youtube.com channel, Panarts Belfast Songwriters.

In summary, although our work changed quite dramatically because of Covid, we were able to organise activities that benefited many people across Northern Ireland.

In all of our work, we also complied with the duty to have regard to the Charity Commissions public benefit requirement. We can also confirm there is no harm flowing from our work as a Charity.



Professor Joe Duffy, Ph.D

Panarts Chair