



# ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

Registered Scottish Charity  
No.: SC006906

The 2015/16 season was another record-breaking one for Music in Peebles, with membership and average attendance both at all-time high levels, finances in a healthy state and with both artistic standards and audience enjoyment maintained.

The season of seven concerts included the familiar mix of internationally-renowned artists and some of the finest musicians of the new generation. The former included French pianist Pascal Rogé (who attracted our second largest audience ever) and English tenor James Gilchrist, while the latter included the award-winning Scottish group Athenaeum Winds, a very welcome return visit by BBC Young Musician Laura van der Heijden and closing with a superb recital from former Peebles High School pupil and Peebles Youth Orchestra member, Colin Scobie. Repertoire also displayed wide variety, from Bach through to a number of works by living composers, including James MacMillan and the American minimalists Philip Glass and Steve Reich (in his 80th birthday year). The virtuosic ensemble Kosmos also brought an exotic injection of 'world music' into the season, to the delight of a large audience.

Our outreach programme was further expanded this year, with seven school visits by three different ensembles, and two concerts in Peebles Nursing Home. Feedback from all these has been excellent, and there has been recognition of the quality and ambition of the Music in Peebles outreach work from both Enterprise Music Scotland (EMS) and Creative Scotland. We are grateful to EMS and to the Peeblesshire Charitable Trust for the funding given to our outreach work. Particular thanks, however, are due to those local businesses who supported us financially through the purchase of advertising space in our concert programmes (a new venture for us) – their commitment to our local community is much appreciated.

There has been greater emphasis than ever on fundraising in the last year, and this is reflected in the income generated. The Fundraising Group, of Rosemary Hamilton, Alison Cruickshanks, Alison Dodds and Sheena McKnight, is to be congratulated for not only securing over £800 in advertising revenue, but also for adding almost £900 more from raffles and the strawberry tea and tombola. The appeal for donations to the Piano Fund received a very generous response, and we are most grateful to everyone who helped us to collect over £1,000 (including Gift Aid) in this way. We are also very grateful to those who helped by offering hospitality and transport for musicians, saving what would otherwise have been a substantial outlay. As ever, we are grateful to EMS, whose backing gives us the financial security to go on planning and presenting concerts of such high quality.

As a result of substantial increases in membership and ticket sales, added to the income from fundraising, Music in Peebles has shown a healthy surplus this year. This allowed us, at the end of the season, to transfer a further £1,000 from general reserves to the Piano Fund, which now stands at over £10,000.

Finally, I wish to record my gratitude to my fellow Committee members, all of whom have made their contributions to the success enjoyed by Music in Peebles over the last year. In particular, I wish to thank Philip Hutton for his excellent programme notes, Tony Bell for keeping membership records and producing the concert posters and Sheena McKnight for accurately recording minutes of our meetings. I would like to add special thanks to Douglas Holligan who has taken on the vital role of page-turner. Finally, as we bid farewell from the Committee to Carole Archibald, I wish to thank her on behalf of us all, for her work organising hospitality for musicians and for her vision in launching care home concerts and establishing our links with the local care home and sheltered housing, work that has put Music in Peebles at the forefront of extending the reach of chamber music into the wider community.

**John Fox**  
**President, Music in Peebles**  
**24 April 2016**