



Trustee Report 2015-2016 Season

Our first full year as Shetland JAWS (acronym for Jazz And World Sounds) which embraces a wider range of music, including the educational work carried out by experienced African drummer Joy Duncan and her many contacts in the world music fraternity.

As usual, we are most indebted to the generous support from the funding bodies that make possible our activity in the promotion of high quality jazz. Creative Scotland have been the mainstay of this support with other significant amounts coming from the Shetland Arts Trust and some smaller local donations.

The Shetland JAWS 2015 Festival, in the summer months, was an ebullient affair with a wide range of jazz and world music. We had a major coup in the form of Eddi Reader singing with the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra. Two sensational concerts at Mareel Concert Hall were the high point of a very successful festival. Other notable concerts were Christine Tobin's homage to WB Yeats at the Town Hall, the Criterion Jazz Band in the rural setting of Bixter Hall. We also featured Trio Tarot from Amsterdam and the Bevvie Sisters celebrating the poetry and song of Dundee poet Michael Marra. We commissioned a new, highly original work from Tommy Smith, who worked with two Shetland poets Christine de Lorca and Alex Cluness. This work was later featured at the Edinburgh Festival and at other Scottish venues.

We staged two terrific Drum Explosion events, featuring Bruce Ncube from Zimbabwe, Asaf Sirkis from Israel and Sura Susso from Senegal. The workshop elements of these were attended by large groups of children and young people, many of whom also participated in the following concerts. This was another festival high point.

Another satisfying jazz year and thanks to the generous grant awards of our funders and sponsors jazz continues to be firmly established on the music calendar of Shetland with the new added element of world music which we plan to extend next year. Our festival was perhaps over rich in outlook and provision and box office receipts were not sufficient to cover costs. We were fortunate to secure some interest free loans from a local benefactor to retain our immediate solvency. Special concerts will be arranged over the next year to cover the loan arrangements, which were tended with generosity, and without strings or pressure to quickly repay.

Dr Jeff Merrifield
Trustee Director
For Shetland Jazz Club

23 December 2016