



Extraordinary  
musical  
encounters  
>

# Impact Report

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2021-22



*The Planets 2018* – various composers, performed by Ligeti Quartet, Bristol Planetarium.  
Photo by Lee Pullen.

# Our mission

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Sound UK enables artists to reach their creative potential through research and development, commissioning and producing excellent music projects. In partnership with leading organisations, we deliver high-quality work to audiences throughout the UK.

Founded in 2001, we have supported and developed over 200 of the world's most creative artists and composers working across contemporary music. We have commissioned and presented over 80 acclaimed new projects to tens of thousands of audiences across the length and breadth of the country. From village greens to major concert halls, farms to national museums, beaches to national heritage sites, we have worked with over 100 of the country's venues.



Arun Ghosh's *The Canticle of the Sun*, Spitalfields Music Festival, 2022. Photo by James Berry.

# What We Do

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## **Produce extraordinary musical encounters for all**

In 2021-22 Sound UK celebrated 20 years of creating extraordinary musical encounters. Throughout this landmark year, we continued to create opportunities for music creators and the public to come together, with 551 artists and performers, and over 20,000 live and digital audiences, experiencing a huge range of new music.

## **Support artists to take creative risks**

2021-22 saw the launch of our new artist development programme, *Sound Generator*. This enabled 6 early career artists working at the forefront of new music and sound to research and develop bold new ideas with support from industry mentors.

In partnership with Historic England and the National Trust, we commissioned nine artists to create six new *High Street Sound Walks*. We also supported artists to develop ambitious new work, including Arun Ghosh's *The Canticle of the Sun*, and major project *A Song for Us*.

## **Ignite curiosity and inspire minds through music**

We continued to engage people of all ages with opportunities to participate in creative workshops and performance opportunities. Through *A Song for Us*, our nationwide project celebrating the power of music to bring people together, we delivered 61 workshops and worked with 405 participants, ranging in age from 5 – 95 years.

**Read on to find out more about our projects in 2021-22.**

# In 2021–22 we were proud that we worked with and supported:

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**55** music creators **67** partners **496** performers.

Our work reached over **20,000** people.

With **3,057** live audiences and **17,420** online.

We invested **£59,884** in **17** new commissions.

We provided employment for **55** freelance musicians and artists.

And supported **6** emerging artists.

We delivered **65** workshops reaching **451** participants.



# Major national project – A Song for Us

*A Song for Us* was Sound UK's nationwide project created to mark the COVID 19 pandemic and celebrated the power of music to bring people together. The project commissioned a wide range of composers to write a song for amateur adult and children's choirs to mark our sense of community and experiences during the pandemic. In 2021-22, thanks to an additional grant from Arts Council England, we were able to expand the project to a further 10 counties.

AFLO the poet and Varndean School Choirs, *A Song for East Sussex*, Brighton Dome, 2022. Photo by Jamie MacMillan.

14

county songs

680

performers

17

composers

*"A Song For Us allowed us to have a high quality creative collaboration with musicians and singers from across our local area. It very much supported the message that creativity can be a light in dark times, and this allowed us to stay connected and engaged in a positive way."*

– Graham Whitehead, Junction Goole



*Just Breathe, A Song for Wales. RWCMD Big Band and singers from choirs of The Aloud Charity, at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, 2022.*

18

partners

405

workshop  
participants

61

workshops

# Major national project – A Song for Us

In total we commissioned **14 county songs**, providing work for **17 artists** from a range of genres to write new songs for community choirs around the country. The project engaged **680 performers**, primarily younger and older age groups, with **43% aged 12-25** and **19% aged 65+**.

**61 song writing workshops** across the country helped **405 adults and young people** to write their own songs about their pandemic experience.

The project is hosted on the website [asongforus.org](https://asongforus.org), where films of the commissioned songs, plus over 638 of the public's songs can be heard on a music map, creating a unique musical time capsule of this time.

This high profile project generated major press coverage including BBC Radio 4 Today, The Times and Sky News.

*"I am so grateful to have been a part of this wonderful experience. Fantastically THANK YOU." – Choir member*

*Being involved in this project has made my hopes and dreams seem possible." – School student*



# New artist development scheme – Sound Generator

*"I feel like this is a crucial opportunity that is really propelling me forwards with my research and artwork."* – Jordan Edge, Sound Generator artist 2021

In 2021 we launched our new artist development scheme to support early career artists and the work they present.

Following an open call, a panel of leading figures across contemporary music, chose six emerging artists working at the forefront of sound and music.

The Sound Generator programme gives contemporary music artists time and a safe space to research and develop bold new ideas in collaboration with Sound UK and a national network of industry mentors.

Each year, Sound UK will choose 1-2 projects to produce and tour. One of these projects, NikNak's *Sankofa* toured to UK audiences in July 2022 and continues to receive bookings, while two others are currently being developed with the hope that they will be toured as part of Sound UK's programme in 2023.

Sound Generator was also the flagship project in Sound UK's debut season as a PRS Foundation Talent Development Partner.

*"Participating on the Sound Generator opportunity has given me time and space to think deeply about the relationship between my music and my identity."* – Alex Ho, Sound Generator artist 2021.



# Producing – High Street Sound Walks



*A Reading of London Street* by Aundre Goddard and Richard Bentley, High Street Sound Walks, 2021. Photo by James John.

In partnership with Historic England and the National Trust, we commissioned 9 artists to produce 6 new High Street Sound Walks. Each was co-created with local people to bring hidden histories and stories to life, helping listeners to see their high streets in a new light.

These were launched online as part of National Trust's Heritage Open Days, and we've gone on to create additional audio trails for Reading Borough Council as part of their High Street Heritage Action Zone Community Programme.

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*"The project encouraged people to look beyond the shop fronts. There was unanimous positive feedback from audiences."* – Local partner

*"It gave me a new way of looking at the high street."*  
– Audience member





Terje Isungset's *Arctic Ice Music* at Kings Place, London, 2021. Photo by Monika S Jakubowska.

# Arctic Ice Music – 20th Anniversary Tour

In November 2021, we produced the UK premiere tour of Terje Isungset's international Arctic Ice Music ensemble, featuring performers from Siberia, Northern Canada, Finland and Norway.

The project brought Terje's unique ice instruments and these incredible international musicians to four cities; Leeds, Nottingham, Bristol and London, with sell-out performances.

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to learn  
more

*"It's always really nice to come to England and to work with Sound UK because everything is properly prepared. Sound UK have respect for artists and that makes a big difference I think."* – Terje Isungset

*"A phenomenal experience I will never forget!"* – Audience member

*"One of the strangest and most memorable things I have seen and heard. Wonderful."* – Audience member



Arun Ghosh's *The Canticle of the Sun*, Spitalfields Music Festival, 2022. Photo by James Berry.

# Supporting new commissions – *The Canticle of the Sun*

We worked with composer Arun Ghosh to secure an Arts Council England project grant to write a substantial new work based on the poem *The Canticle of the Sun* by St Francis of Assisi.

The project was written and rehearsed, and then we presented a scratch performance to an invited industry audience in preparation for a tour in 2022.

[Click to learn more](#)

*"It's been brilliant to work with Sound UK...we're all really well supported and respected."* – Arun Ghosh

*"The performance had both elements of familiarity in its spiritual jazz roots and something unique to Arun and the band. It had a transcendent feel about it."* – Audience member at scratch performance.

# Producing new tours – Keeley Forsyth

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We produced a 6-date tour across the UK with singer Keeley Forsyth, marking the release of her second album, *Limbs*. This continued a relationship with Keeley that started with research and development two years before.

Following the *Limbs* tour, we secured a new commission for Keeley and Ross Downes, to be premiered at PRS Foundation and Southbank Centre's New Music Biennial Festival in 2022.

*"Sound UK are my go to when it comes to trusted innovative producers...without the collaborative support of Sound UK none of this would have been achievable. Sound UK have not only helped me realise these projects but also, with their hands on approach and consistent belief, they have been instrumental in my artistry continuing to thrive."* – Keeley Forsyth

Keeley Forsyth's *Limbs* tour, 2022. Photo by Sophie J Stafford.



NikNak's *Sankofa*, Strange Brew Bristol, 2022. Photo by Chris Lucas.

# Since April 2022

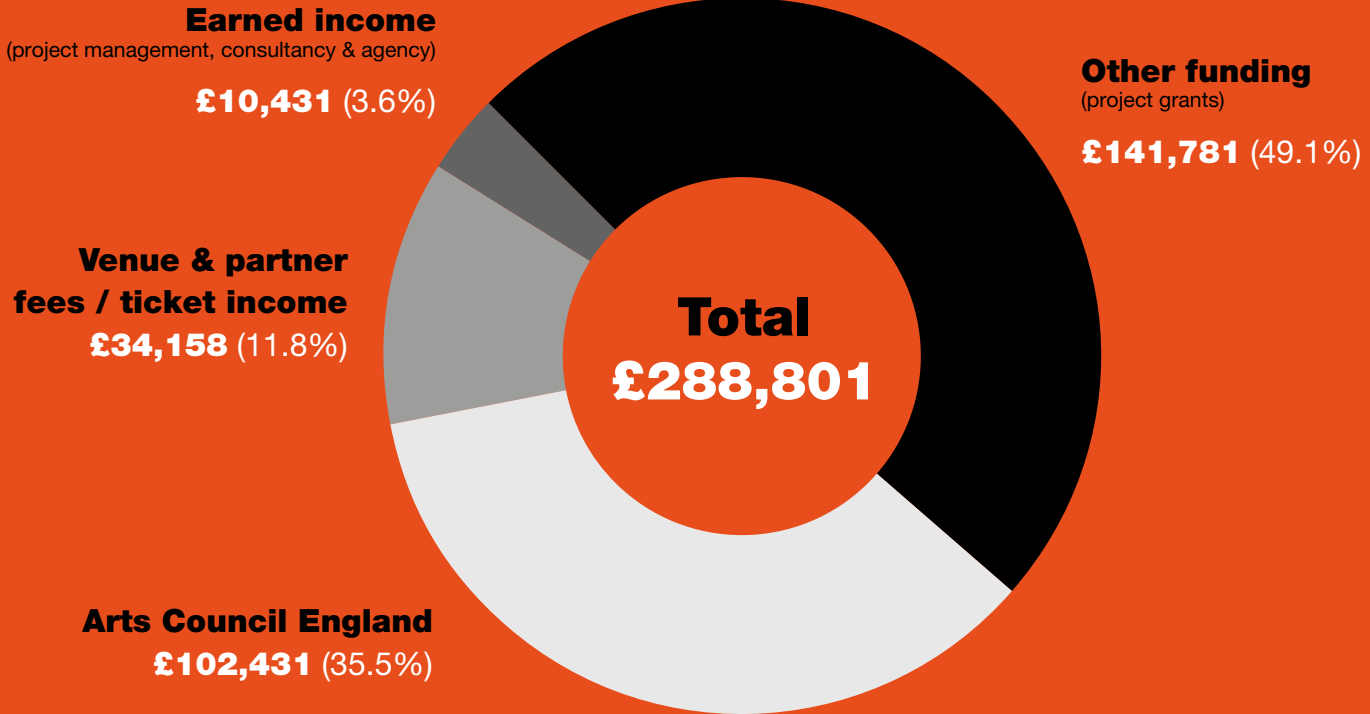
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- We have produced a 6-date tour of Arun Ghosh's commission *The Canticle of the Sun*.
- Commissioned a new piece by Keeley Forsyth and Ross Downes, *Bog Body*, selected for PRS Foundation and Southbank Centre's New Music Biennial 2022.
- Year 2 of Sound Generator supported 6 early-career artists to research and develop new work.
- Worked with artists to commission 2 new audio trails for Reading Borough Council.
- Produced a 6-date tour with NikNak, one of our 2021 Sound Generator artists.
- Developed and produced a 9-date tour of *Arcadia Live* – a live soundtrack performance and screening of the acclaimed film by Paul Wright.

# Financial information

## 2021-22 Income

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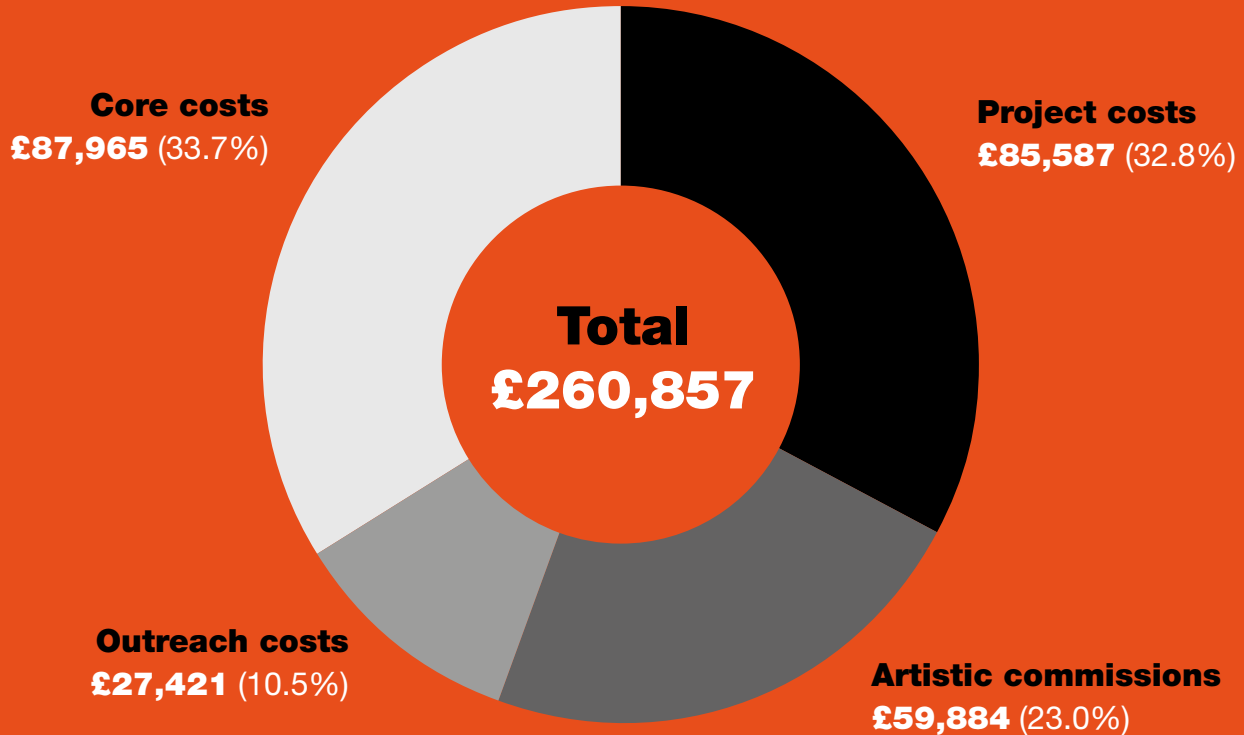


Full copies of our end of year accounts are available on request.

# Financial information

## 2021-22 Expenditure

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