



Extraordinary
musical
encounters
>

IMPACT REPORT

2023-24



The Secret Sounds of Trees, 2023
Photo by Rod McLachlan.

OUR VISION AND MISSION

Our vision is that people across the UK can access, experience and participate in high quality new music wherever they live.

Our mission is to bring artists and people together across the UK to experience extraordinary events that enrich lives.

We support artists at all stages of their career to create innovative new work.

We increase access to this work through engagement activity and partnerships.

Since 2001, we have supported and developed 338 of the world's most creative artists and composers working across contemporary music.

We have commissioned and presented 93 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 hundreds of the country's venues.

About Sound UK



IN 2023-24 WE WERE PROUD TO:

Reach over **16,000 people**, including **4,549** live audiences and **11,276** online.

Support **17** music creators, **53%** of whom identify as female or non-binary, **24%** global majority and **6%** deaf or disabled.

Invest **£23,613** in **7** new commissions.

Support **6** early-career artists.

Provide employment for **25** freelance musicians and **8** technical staff.

Our participation programme benefitted **414** participants through the delivery of **12** workshops and outreach activities.

SUPPORTING EARLY CAREER ARTISTS – SOUND GENERATOR

The third year of our artist development scheme supported six early career artists to research and develop a new project idea.

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

From an AV project exploring the spirituality of People of Colour in Scotland to a new work for orchestra, Welsh mining choir, electronics and instruments from natural materials.

We presented scratch performances of Marco Woolf's project dream setting at two libraries in August and September, with plans for a full tour in 2025. Gwen Siôn's Llŵch a Llechi was fully commissioned by Wales Millennium Centre, with members of BBC Orchestra of Wales and Côr y Penrhyn choir performing its premiere at Lais Festival in October 2024.

In 2023-24, Sound UK continued as a PRS Foundation Talent Development Partner.

"Having access to Sound UK's networks and the opportunity to connect with incredible artists who are experts in their fields and to receive targeted mentoring from them to support the project has been both inspiring and transformational for my practice." - Gwen Siôn, Sound Generator Artist 2023

"This has been so valuable for me. Sound Generator has definitely helped me take my career to the next stage." - Marco Woolf, Sound Generator Artist 2023

Click to learn more



"It was an incredibly beautiful and richly textured, immersive meditation on the forest environment. A profoundly wonderful work." - Audience feedback



*The Secret Sounds of Trees,
Beechenhurst, Forest of Dean, 2023.*

THE SECRET SOUNDS OF TREES

In this new audio-visual experience, we invited audiences to step into the forest and explore the inner world of the trees.

Sound artist Jez riley French recorded the sounds of tree processes, ants and the soil at Beechenhurst in the Forest of Dean. These were drawn into a 20 minute soundscape with music by Finnish artist Lau Nau.

Ulf Pederson created a lighting design that responded to the soundtrack, using the setting of the pine trees at Beechenhurst to create a dramatic three dimensional experience.

Over three nights, 571 members of the public attended timed performances of the work.

We used this project to explore the impact art can have on nature connectedness. We collected overwhelming qualitative and quantitative evidence of the project's impact on this.

An incredible 85% of audiences completed a short feedback survey before entering and after exiting the event. 83% of people surveyed experienced an increased connection to nature after the performance.

[Click to learn more](#)



"It was extremely immersing and wonderful. An experience I will remember forever. Thank you." - Audience feedback

*"I haven't seen anything like this before.
Incredible work!" - Audience feedback*



The Paper Cinema, 2024

THE PAPER CINEMA

In autumn 2023, we remounted a successful commission by The Paper Cinema, which saw the group return to their 'out-of-a suitcase' origins to delight audiences with atmospheric tales of ghosts, dreams and the supernatural.

The show gathered favourite short stories, including the dream-like Night Flyer, humorous Devil in Cornwall, spooky Wanderer and Edgar Allan Poe's King Pest.

The tour reignited the audience for the company after being dormant over lockdown and has resulted in a renewed demand for their work with more live dates booked throughout 2024 and into 2025. Sound UK continues to look after their engagements as an agent, and is working on a new production.

Click to learn more



*"What a privilege to see amazing artists and musicians
sharing their amazing talent in such a beautiful creative
way." - Audience feedback*



Ice Music Quartet, Nov 2023.
Photo by Laurence Harvey.

ICE MUSIC QUARTET

Following a successful tour in 2021 with Arctic Ice Music, we brought the Norwegian percussionist and ice musician Terje Isungset back to the UK with his ice quartet featuring ice harp and ice bass.

They performed 6 concerts in Bury St Edmunds, Nottingham, Milton Keynes, Manchester, Basingstoke and Bristol.

[Click to learn more](#)



"One of the best concerts I have ever been to. Certainly the most unique experience. Absolutely loved it."

- Audience feedback

"It was an extraordinary, profound and moving musical experience." - Audience feedback



Jason Singh performing *Drifters* (1929) Live,
Mar 2024.

RURAL TOUR – THE FLEET

Sound UK secured Arts Council England project funding on behalf of Jason Singh, to produce an 8 date rural tour of Cornwall, Scilly, Devon, Dorset and Hampshire.

The tour featured Jason Singh's live soundtrack to 1929 silent film *Drifters* (a BFI commission) plus a new commission by Sarah Acton and Adrian Cooper who created a film about seine fishing along the South-West coast of England.

[Click to learn more](#)



"Such an incredible event, with such talented artists. I feel privileged and grateful for the arts funding which allowed such a phenomenal event to come to our local area. Huge congrats and many thanks to all involved." - Audience feedback

"You could hear a pin drop. Everyone was captivated. Please go and watch this show, history and modern technology uniting in utter brilliance." - Audience feedback



Hack-Poets Guild, London, 2023.

HACK-POETS GUILD

Following a successful debut tour in March 2023, we continued to tour Hack-Poets Guild through the summer and autumn of 2023.

Originally commissioned by Sound UK and OCM, Hack-Poets Guild is an innovative new collaboration between three of folk's most prestigious artists, Marry Waterson, Lisa Knapp and Nathaniel Mann.

Uniquely inventive with a strikingly original and varied sound world, their debut album, Blackletter Garland (One Little Independent) garnered unanimously praise heavy reviews and secured 'best of 2023' accolades across folk and mainstream media.

[Click to learn more](#)



"Just brilliant on so many levels - the sheer talent and brilliance of the musicians, the cultural importance of the work, the attention to detail on every level of the project."

- Audience feedback

"Bold, sharp and immediate." – Songlines Magazine

SINCE APRIL 2024, WE HAVE PRESENTED:

ARVE HENRIKSEN AND HARMEN FRAANJE – a welcome return to the UK for Norwegian trumpeter Arve Henriksen, an extraordinary artist who Sound UK has worked with for two decades. For this tour he was joined by Dutch pianist Harmen Fraanje, to present music from their debut duo album *Touch of Time*.

BIRD BATH – an installation inviting audiences to pause, rest and 'bathe' in the sound of local bird song for Brighton Festival in collaboration with the Festival of Ideas at the University of Sussex.

DRIFTERS (1929) LIVE WITH JASON SINGH – following the success of our rural tour in March 2024, we presented *Drifters (1929)* Live at Arnolfini Bristol in November, with more live shows booked for 2025.

KAREN WIMHURST'S JUMP – a tour that launched during the Royal Entomological Society's Insect Week in June and featured live clarinets and field recordings of insects and amphibians.

HACK-POETS GUILD – 2 summer festival performances at WOMAD and Cambridge Folk Festival.



SINCE APRIL 2024, WE HAVE PRESENTED:

MARCO WOOLF'S DREAM SETTING – scratch performances at libraries in Oldham and St Helens to help develop the project ready for an extended library tour in 2025.

NILS ØKLAND & SIGBJØRN APELAND – 3 UK tour dates in September presenting music from their beautiful duo album *Glimmer*.

THE PAPER CINEMA – touring 'Short Tales of Other Worlds' throughout 2024 with a brilliant show at Green Man's Cinedrome and autumn live performances in Glasgow, Clevedon's Curzon Cinema and Devon.

TORD GUSTAVSEN TRIO – UK live concerts following the release of *Seeing* on ECM records at Nottingham's Lakeside Arts, London's Cadogan Hall (part of the EFG London Jazz Festival) and Southampton's Turner Sims.

WILL GREGORY MOOG ENSEMBLE – a series of special live performances presenting music from their debut album *Heat Ray: The Archimedes Project*, which was released on Mute Records in May 2024.



SERVICES WE OFFER

PRODUCING & PROGRAMMING

Since 2001, we have been producing extraordinary music and sound projects.

Clients include artists as well as arts organisations and non-arts organisations across heritage, local authority and higher education.

MARKETING

We provide marketing support for tours, festivals and artists.

We have a wealth of experience working with clients to develop marketing and PR strategies and deliver campaigns.

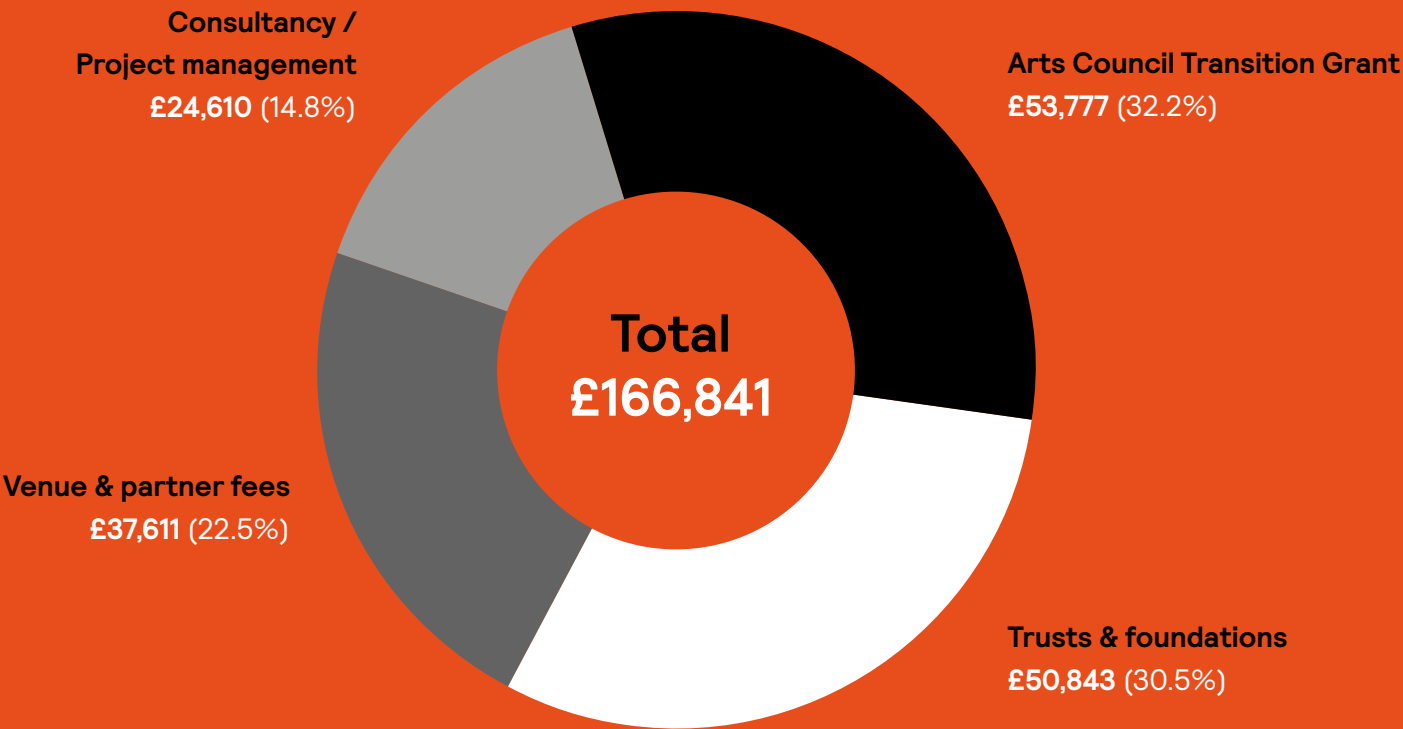
"A big thanks from the Beacon team for all the support on the Bristol New Music festival marketing and PR this year. I have heard nothing but good things and the events were really busy and buzzing. It was a great help to know that the core campaign was in your capable hands – a real success." - Andy Boreham, Head of Marketing, Bristol Beacon.

"Sound UK helps us create those unforgettable moments that define us to our audiences for years after. Very few producers in any art form can do that." – Mark Wallace, Beaford Arts



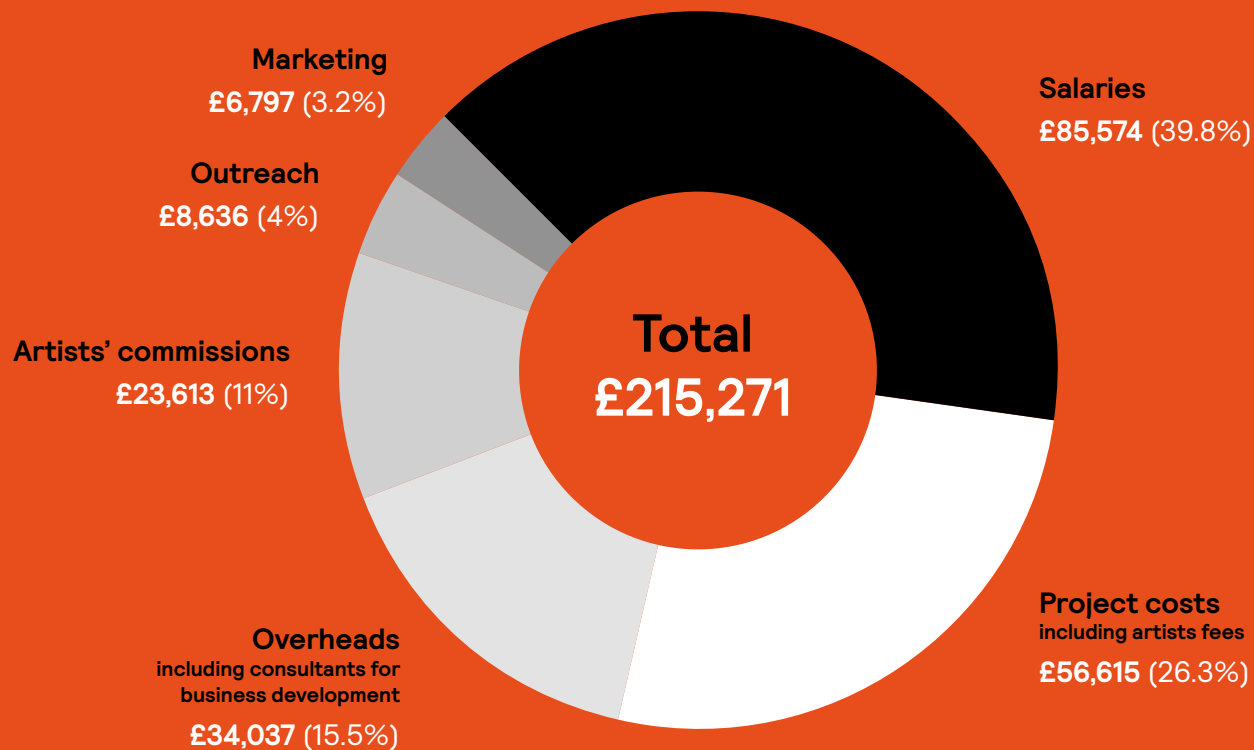
Arun Ghosh's The Canticule of the Sun, 2022.
Photo by James Berry.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION 2023-24 INCOME



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

FINANCIAL INFORMATION 2023-24 EXPENDITURE




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



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Registered Charity Number: 1157305

Sound UK is grateful for the support of the following core funder



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