

# RED NOTE ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



# WELCOME



John Harris, CEO

## Dear Everyone,

I'm delighted to present Red Note's Annual Report for the financial year April 2022 - March 2023.

As an Ensemble, we were very proud to have worked throughout the years of the pandemic - developing, recording and live-streaming new work, and eventually performing it to live audiences when it was safe to do so.

However, this was the first year in which work across all three of our strands of activity became fully possible again. It was such a relief to be "back in the room", and we took full advantage of the opportunities!

Thank you so much to everyone who made this year possible - our incredibly hard-working and multi-skilled group of players, our endlessly flexible and solution-oriented staff, our wonderful and creative composers, and all of the funders, partners and partner organisations who have made this such a joyful year. We hope you enjoy reading all about it!

John Harris, CEO

## 2022-23 in figures

**3602** live audience

**24** concerts

**10** new commissions

We premiered **94** new works

**862** community music-making participants

We worked with **7** schools  
and **440** pupils

**53** community events

# PERFORMANCE & COMMISSIONING



Even though Covid still forced a few cancellations upon us, Red Note's 2022/23 performing schedule still took us right across Scotland and the UK, with a good mixture of national and international co-commissions and returning favourites.

## 13 Vices – New Music Biennial

Premiered by **Red Note, Ensemble Doubt, Jennifer Walshe and Brian Irvine** in 2015 in the Mac in Belfast, and subsequently touring Ireland and Scotland, *13 Vices* was selected to be part of the PRSF New Music Biennial in 2017, performing in Hull and London and on Radio 3. In 2022 it returned as part of the **PRSF New Music Biennial 10th Anniversary special selection**, being performed in Coventry and at the Southbank in London. Unfortunately due to covid the London date was cancelled.



*Photo from the 13 Vices premiere back in 2015*

## The Good Company Tour

A varied programme, supported by Scotland on Tour, visiting **Lerwick, Harris, Poolewe, Skye, Arnsidale and Aberdeen**. Ironically – for concerts funded to take place to celebrate the return of touring post-pandemic, the last four dates (of six) had to be cancelled due to Covid!

## Lammermuir Festival

We returned to the Lammermuir Festival in a new venue – the Big Shed in Musselburgh – for a **sell-out performance of Gavin Bryar's hypnotic *Jesus' Blood Never Failed Me Yet***.



*Our players on our Good Company tour*

## Sound Festival

The culmination of a project begun in the years before the pandemic – the premiere of *Aber Dîn* by **Franco-Lebanese composer and visual artist Zad Moultaqa**, in co-production between **Red Note, Sound and Percussions de Lyon**. Supported by **Diaphonique**, *Aber Dîn* takes audiences on a delirious audio-visual journey inspired by Jules Verne's novel *Backwards to Britain*.

## HCMF

Red Note returned to Huddersfield with a **sold-out full Irish programme**: the premiere and live broadcast of three works - a Red Note world premiere commission by **Úna Monaghan**, and UK premieres by **Ann Cleare** and **Nick Roth**.



## New commissions

Alongside the commissions premiered above, Red Note also commissioned **Tine Surel Lange**, a young Norwegian composer, from a selection made from an open call for proposals for [Northern Connection](#), an international collaboration aiming to establish new **creative links between Scotland, Finland and Norway**.

Additionally we formally commissioned **Brian Irvine and Dumbworld** to create [An Easterhouse Children's Manifesto](#), and **Kathy Hinde** to create [Flock](#) (both for performance in 2023/24).

# DEVELOPING TALENT



From school right through to first steps in to the profession, Red Note works with new music composers, performers and conductors to develop their skills in many different formal and informal settings.

## RCS PLUG 2022

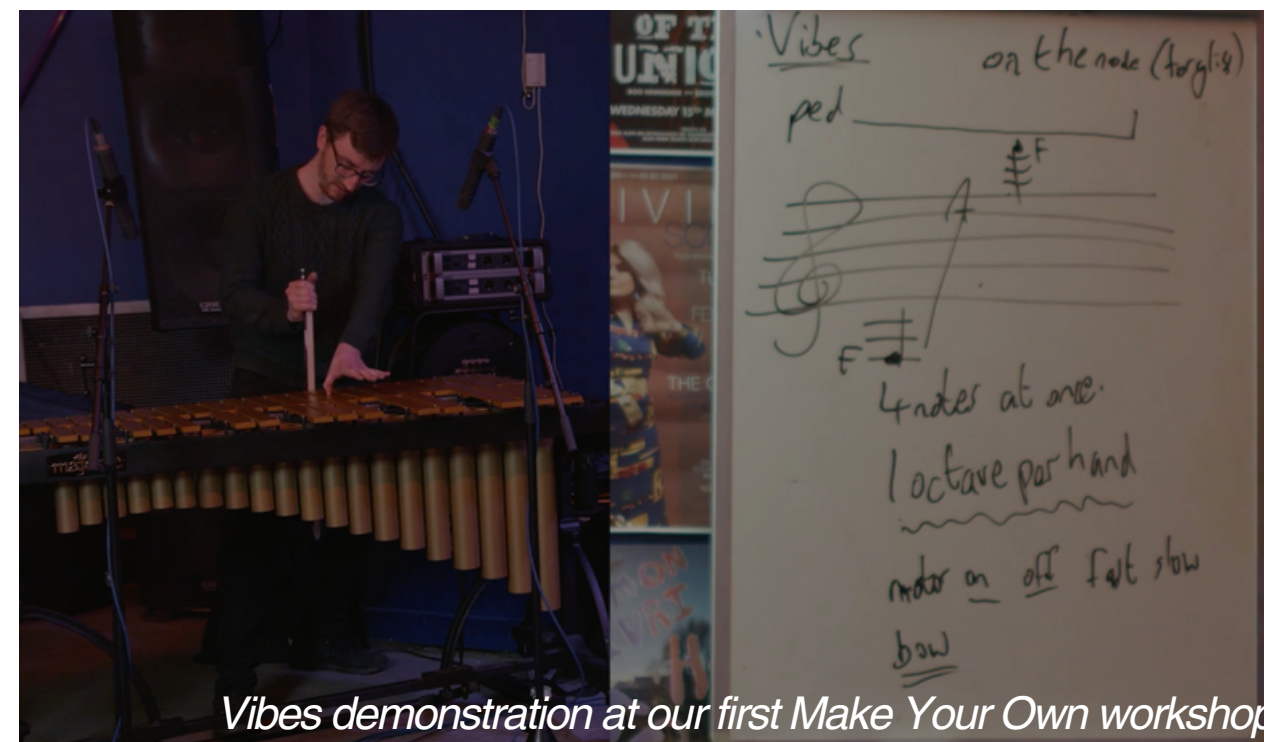
We returned at the [Royal Conservatoire of Scotland](#) to their **PLUG festival** to perform works by student composers with guest artists, **Marianna Abrahamyan, Stephanie Lamprea** and **Rylan Gleave**.

## Make Your Own

Two open, [pilot workshops](#) – one entirely online, one hybrid online / in-person – **introducing writing music for specific instruments** and the techniques involved. These are designed to be introductory sessions for people wanting to write for Noisy Nights, and are suitable **for composers just starting out**.

## Noisy Nights

We undertook two events in the year, introducing new elements in to this [long-running series](#). Both selected the music to be performed by a specially-convened panel: the first took place at **Sound Festival in Aberdeen**, and the second in Noisy Nights' new home, the **Glad Café in Glasgow**. **20 new works** were performed in total.



*Vibes demonstration at our first Make Your Own workshop*



*Red Note's first Noisy Nights at Glad Cafe*

## Go Compose!

Our long-running [3-day composition course](#) for **young composers age 11-18** and in secondary education, in association with Sound. This year's lead composers were Laura Bowler and Rylan Gleave.

## Composer Development

**5 emerging composers** selected by [open call](#) were commissioned to have works developed and **premiered at Sound Festival** by Fiona Winning (viola) and Stephanie Lamprea (soprano).

## RCS Emerging Conductor Concert

A key part of [our work in the RCS](#), working with student conductors on contemporary music.

## New Music Makers

Red Note's [award-winning creative composing sessions](#) for **high schools** in our partner communities and elsewhere. Young music-makers collaborated with a professional composer and Red Note players to create and share their own new music over **5 creative sessions**, with a **final community performance**, in Levenmouth Academy (Methil), Kirkintilloch High School, Castlehead High School (Ferguslie Park/Paisley) and Tynecastle High School (Edinburgh).



*Oli Searle with a New Music Makers pupil*





# WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

Red Note Ensemble's [Access, Engagement and Participation](#) (AEP) programme aims to play new music for, and make new music with, communities which may not have had access to creative opportunities due to geographical, socio-economic or protected characteristic-based barriers and/or preconceptions. We **aim to connect, listen to and collaborate with underserved audiences and new creative partners** wherever they find us, or we find them.

## An Easterhouse Children's Manifesto

Red Note has been active in the **Easterhouse community for over six years**, leading to a major artistic collaboration with the **pupils of Oakwood Primary School** and some of their **community partners**. The process of creating [An Easterhouse Children's Manifesto](#) offered pupils the opportunity to express in their own words and music what the world should look like.

The **240 pupils** at Oakwood PS received **weekly vocal coaching sessions**, boosting pupils' confidence and skills in singing. They also took part in an **intensive creative activity week** with composer

Brian Irvine, Red Note WJCB Martina Corsini and Red Note players.

In April 2022, they presented their songs in a **whole-school sharing**. Due to ongoing Covid restrictions, the work was shared with families via the school's Facebook page. Some danced. Everyone sang!

In November 2022, a professional mobile **recording studio recorded the songs of every class** at Oakwood PS.



*'Stop controlling us like toys! We Are Not Robots!'*

*'Don't forget to help people! Don't forget yourself!'*

*'Eat strawberries'*

*'Listen to the frogs, they speak wisdom'*

## Artlink - 'Human Threads' exhibition

Artlink works across Edinburgh and the Lothians to increase opportunities to take part in the arts for those who experience disadvantage or disability. Red Note has partnered with Artlink for a number of years **providing 1-to-1 responsive performances and immersive live music experiences** at Cherry Road Adult Resource Centre.

Artlink's **Human Threads**, staged at Tramway from May to August 22 was a multi-sensory exhibition conceived as an accessible, creative experience informed by individuals with profound and multiple learning disabilities. It invited audiences on a journey of light, sound, touch and smell. Red Note's **'Fair Play'** provided a **playful, inclusive and interactive sharing** of the exhibition through live improvisation and a new site-specific work created by composer Martina Corsini.

## 5 Places /Methil

Red Note has been active in the Methil community since first working with Levenmouth Academy in 2017. Since then we have engaged with a number of local community groups including Connect Club, Methilhill Community Children's Initiative, History Group, Circle Group, and more.

This year we've built a more focussed collaboration with **Woodlands Family Nurture Centre/nursery** (via a partnership with **Starcatchers**) and **Methilhill Primary School**. These included creative play and music-making sessions with our musicians and composer Oliver Searle, alongside our New Music Makers work in Levenmouth Academy.

The year's activity culminated in a **community sharing event**, "**Methil Makes Music**", in February, with both primary and secondary school new songs and compositions performed to a community audience in Levenmouth Academy.

## FLOCK - Development

The development phase of a new touring piece commissioned from **renowned audio-visual artist Kathy Hinde** and created to bring new music to **young audiences aged 4 – 8 years** took place in partnership with **Oakwood Primary School, Easterhouse**. Informed by the expertise of dramaturg **Matt Addicott**, Red Note musicians performed alongside an installation of invented instruments inspired by chirruping, flocking birds.

*FLOCK will continue to develop until premiere in 2023/24.*

## RCS BMus2 Professional Skills

Louise Martin, Red Note's Head of Access, Engagement and Participation (Working with Communities) gave a presentation to RCS undergraduates about Red Note's outreach programme.

# RESEARCH

Red Note is not only interested in creating new music, but also in understanding the impact of new music on the people we make it with, and the challenges and opportunities that exist. To do this, we undertake a great deal of research, including in to our own projects, in partnership with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Research Department. Recent research projects include:

- 1** **Emerging Composer Research (in partnership with New Music Scotland)**: Dr. Jill Morgan, "Exploring the potential barriers for emerging composers to constructing and maintaining a career in the field of composition in Scotland", presented at the 2023 New Music Scotland Conference.
- 2** **The impact of New Music Makers**: funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, conducted by Dr. Jill Morgan (RCS) - *currently in preparation.*
- 3** **The impact of Five Places/Easterhouse/An Easterhouse Children's Manifesto**: conducted by Dr. Jill Morgan (RCS) - *currently in preparation.*
- 4** **The impact of Five Places/Methil**: funded by the People's Postcode Trust, conducted by Dr. Benjamin Redman (RCS) - *currently in preparation.*

We are also collaborating with other freelance ensembles in Scotland on research supported by the [Classical EDI Development Fund](#), which is managed by Chamber Music Scotland in partnership with Creative Scotland. The research seeks to better understand the **entrenched practice of engaging artists based on existing relationships or word-of-mouth recommendations** which, in turn, **prevents a diversification of the pool of freelance musicians** working in Scotland across all protected characteristics. This collaboration between several of Scotland's key freelance ensembles sets out to create a 'Best Practice Guide' to help address this pressing and historic issue in our own work, as well as sharing freely with our colleagues across the sector.

Red Note is also an active member of the [Scottish Classical Sustainability Group](#), which recently launched its report "[Classical Music and Train Travel in Scotland 2022-23](#)", which highlights the issues, challenges and benefits of travelling by train to increase the sustainability of the sector.



# STAFF & FINANCE

## ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM:

**John Harris:** Chief Executive

**Louise Martin:** Director of Access, Engagement and Participation

**Sarah Mills:** General Manager

**Flore Ducasse:** Marketing and Administration Co-ordinator

**Natalie Dobbs:** Community Co-ordinator (Easterhouse)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**Fiona Duncan (Chair)**

**John Harris**

**Ian Smith (vice-Chair)**

**Lindsey Shields (Company Secretary)**

**Alison Fleming**

**Stefaan Coninx**

*Red Note Ensemble Ltd is a Living Wage Employer*

## SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	£408,073	£320,349	£278,144	£387,492	£300,250
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	£297,594	£269,226	£227,814	£421,805	£363,687

Published accounts for all years can be found on the website of Companies House

Registered Company Number: SC355726

Registered Charity Number: SC045030

Registered Office and Principal Operating Address: Room 136, Artist Block, Summerhall, 1 Summerhall Place, Edinburgh EH9 1PL

# OUR FUNDERS

We would like to thank all of our funders for their support in 2022-23!

