

West Cork Music Clg Annual Report 2020

West Cork Music - established in 1995, is a small Bantry-based arts organisation employing 6 full-time & 2 part-time personnel. It is responsible for producing three major festivals in Bantry and an extensive music-in-schools project in collaboration with the County Arts Office. In 2019, West Cork Music was funded by the Arts Council, Cork County Council and Fáilte Ireland and the European Union.

The Coronavirus Crisis had various substantial impacts on WCM's planned 2020 activities. Faced with an estimated 50% reduction in expected turnover, a number of difficult and drastic decisions were necessary. Within the cost cutting measures devised priority was placed on a number of fundamental WCM principles.

- I. Prioritise commitments to Artists and continue to provide performance Opportunities
- II. Maintain programme quality by supporting the development and presentation of work by Irish and International artists of vision, nurturing artistic ambition and excellence
- III. Retention and well-being of the core WCM team, who worked from home from lockdown onwards.
- IV. Provide alternative free virtual performances for our patrons
- V. Expanding our audience, especially in USA

A number of factors assisted WCM in accomplishing the above; the Arts Council honoured its funding commitment, Cork County Council, Fáilte Ireland and major Donors supported our new plans and Friends and ticket-holders also responded very generously to the cancellation of the chamber music Festival (WCCMF). These along with the government subsidy supports were critical in facilitating WCM's redevelopment and reprogramming whilst complying with all health and safety guidelines.

Both live programmes WCCMF and the West Cork Literary Festival (WCLF) were cancelled. All contracted artists and writers, who were not transferred to the virtual programmes, were paid cancellation fees.

WCM filmed 12 performances involving 36 of the cancelled WCCMF musicians in seven venues - Cork, Amsterdam, London, Warsaw, Paris, Chicago, Bremen. These admission free concerts were consequently streamed daily throughout the period of the cancelled festival, 26 June – 5 July. WCM also participated in Culture Night with a recorded concert featuring the Pacifica Quartet.

WCLF successfully hosted over 55 free and paid virtual events covering the usual workshops, readings, book launches and children's events alongside some newly devised online events from April to December.

Due a slight relaxing in Covid restrictions, Masters of Tradition could be presented as a virtual/live hybrid festival with a mix of pre-recorded performances and live concerts with reduced capacity audience in attendance. These were all paid admission events. Due to last-minute changes in regulations one event had to be cancelled at the last minute.

In 2020 WCM also introduced Resound, a programme consisting of original music performed by 12 locally based artists and songwriters. Filmed in Bantry in early December, performances were made available on WCM virtual channels and social media.

READ ON is a project through the Creative Europe programme of the EU. It is across 7 partners, in 6 European countries and through 5 languages. It aims to reignite a passion for reading amongst young people and is specifically focused on those between the ages of 12 -19. Activities for teenagers include: Reading, Creative Writing, Interviewing, Literature and Cultural Identity, Graphic Novels, Illustration, and Multimedia. The project was modified to be mainly online for 2020. Brussels extended the project for a year.

Tuning-up, our music-in-schools project was also impacted in the autumn and was condensed to a series of free interactive online workshops and a pre-recorded workshop with the Dagda Quartet, these workshops were open to all County Cork Schools.

Other regrettable casualties of the pandemic were the WCCMF Masterclasses and the Concert Series. Strenuous attempts were made to run these in the latter part of 2020. However due to continued movement restrictions they were postponed until 2021 and the funds for these events will be carried forward.

In 2020 WCM is proud to have successfully organised over 180 events involving over 130 artists with a further 105 artists receiving cancellation fees. These activities resulted in a direct virtual audience exceeding 45,000, a figure that is still growing, and WCCMF recordings reached 40,000,000 via the European Broadcast Union. These outcomes are especially significant given the challenges and uncertainty that unfolded due to COVID-19.

Statement of Annual Accounts for year ended 31 December 2020

Income			€
Festivals and Concerts			18,875
Grants	Arts Council	318,000	
	Arts Council EU Co-Funding	10,500	
	Fáilte Ireland	32,500	
	Cork County Council	31,350	
	Creative Europe	5,000	
	Others		397,350
Sponsorship and other income			195,912
Education	Cork County council	10,040	
	Other	2,750	12,790
Total Income			624,927
Expenditure			€
Festivals and education			278,873
Staff Costs			235,984
Administration			72,747
Total Expenditure			587,604
Deficit of Income over Expenditure			37,323