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Annual Report 2022

Feis Ceoil

**Ireland's largest classical
music competition**

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Feis Ceoil Association is a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). It is a charity, registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority of Ireland, Registered Charity no: 20005771

Registered Office: Suite 34 Morrison Chambers, 32 Nassau Street, Dublin 2, D02 W727

Auditors: KSi Faulkner Orr, Behan House, 10 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2, D02 HT71

Solicitors: Linda Scales, Castleview House, 22 Sandymount Green, Dublin 4

Principal Bank: AIB

Chairperson's statement

On Behalf of the Board of Directors, it gives me great pleasure to present the Feis Ceoil Association's (the "Feis Ceoil") Annual Report in respect of the year ended 31 July 2022.



As the effects of the pandemic began to dissipate and the Covid clouds lifted, our focus and efforts in 2022 turned towards transitioning and navigating to a more settled social and musical landscape. In spite of some residual reverberations

from Covid, our CEO Laura and the entire Feis team of staff, adjudicators and volunteers succeeded in delivering a 2022 Feis that, in the circumstances, was as near as physically possible to a "normal Feis". After our cancellation in 2020 and our online format in 2021 this return to near normality was greeted by all involved with relief and no small measure of joy.

In order to minimise the potential risk of infection with ensembles we opted for the abundance of caution approach and continued the choir and orchestra competitions in an online format. But all of the individual competitions and their participation rates returned to normal and, if that were not enough, the team profited from the 2021 online experience and carried over the practice of uploading to the Feis website videos of a selection of competitions and adjudications.

On top of this, and undaunted by the uncertain environment, the team also managed to research, develop and add a new Percussion competition to the Feis programme. Surely a case of "Who dares wins".

It truly is a time for adaptation, resilience and innovation, and Laura and the team are to be congratulated for demonstrating all of these qualities in responding to the changed environment. Not

unexpectedly the enthusiasm and fearlessness of youth shone through as the competitors eagerly returned in numbers, enthusiastically embracing

"Not unexpectedly the enthusiasm and fearlessness of youth shone through as the competitors eagerly returned in numbers, enthusiastically embracing the new norm."

the new norm.

Music only comes to life with performance and part of the mission of the Feis is to provide performance platforms for rising musicians. I am pleased to report that this activity was expanded in 2022 by finally giving life to some of the planned Feis 125th Anniversary events originally scheduled for 2021. For example, recitals in Farmleigh, St. Ann's Church and the *Centre Culturel Irlandais* in Paris all proved successful events for performers and audiences.

Over the past two years, music teachers all over the island of Ireland, experienced disruption in their activities that necessitated reorganising and adapting their normal working routines. They more than coped with the new demands and, in the context of our mutual interest, maintained their steady supply of talented Feis entrants.

I want to recognise the vital support of all of our sponsors – RDS as our primary grant provider; Carmel Naughton, SteriPack, ESB, for its support over the last decade; and a most welcome grant from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht,



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Sport and Media. I must also mention two gifts we received from generous friends of the Feis who requested anonymity.

So, I am pleased to report that the overall financial health of the Feis remains sustainable as you will see in the Financial Statements. However, given the uncertainty of times ahead, we will continue our quest for additional funds and funders to support our growth into new festival and performance opportunities.

I would like to thank our loyal Members, our tireless and generous volunteers and all those who help make the Feis happen. Many similar associations and bodies in Ireland in 2022 have been beset with difficulties in finding and retaining permanent or part-time staff. Luckily, and thanks to the loyal support of our volunteers, this has not been an issue for the Feis.

I would like to thank each and every member of the Board for their dedication and contribution to every

aspect of the remit of the Feis. They continue to bring to the table an extraordinary range and depth of music, education and business experience which they are happy and eager to share for the furtherance of the role of the Feis in Irish musical life. They are truly a unique crew of music lovers.

With the pandemic firmly in our rear-view mirror, I believe we are better equipped than ever to move forward embracing new technology and platforms both technical and performing, amplifying their effect to encourage and facilitate the enjoyment and promotion of music in Irish life.

And we all definitely look forward with confidence and relish to the return of a 100% live Feis in 2023.

Ray Bates
Chair, Feis Ceoil

ABOUT THE FEIS



Our story

Established in 1896, Feis Ceoil Association promotes excellence in music education and performance across all ages, levels and disciplines. We run an annual festival before Easter each year in Dublin which comprises almost 200 competitions, attracting over 5,000 participants from all over the island of Ireland. We also run non-competitive events and concerts throughout the rest of the year.

Feis Ceoil occupies a unique position in Irish life. It is an essential element in the musical infrastructure of the country and has made an immeasurable contribution to the study and cultivation of music at all levels in Ireland. The Association looks to the future with confidence and welcomes the opportunity to continue operating at a fully professional level with new partnership arrangements in place.

Feis Ceoil was founded by the chief representatives of music activity in Ireland under the guidance of Dr. Annie Patterson, to counteract the neglect of music development in this country. It consisted of competitions for performance and composition and was supported by all musicians of the day, both national and classical. Since then the Feis

has undergone many changes to accommodate the development of music in Ireland. Gone are the competitions for Bamboo Pipes and the Whistling of Irish Ais!

In its 125-year history, the festival has only ever been cancelled on two occasions, both due to communicable diseases; Foot & Mouth in 2001, and COVID-19 in 2020.

Today, Feis Ceoil is an event of major significance in the development of classical music talent in Ireland. To be successful at the Feis is very important in the musical career of many entrants, for many others it is a means of obtaining enhanced enjoyment from their music while also providing a yardstick by which to measure their personal standards.

200
competitions

5,000
participants

“It is an essential element in the musical infrastructure of the country and has made an immeasurable contribution to the study and cultivation of music at all levels in Ireland.”

The cultural agenda

Internationally

At its 33rd session in Paris on 21 October 2005, the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) affirmed that cultural diversity is a defining characteristic of humanity, and acknowledged that cultural diversity creates a rich and varied world, which increases the range of choices and nurtures human capacities and values, and therefore is a mainspring for sustainable development for communities, peoples and nations.

Certain of the key objectives of its Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions therefore are to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions and raise awareness of its value at the local, national and international levels.

FEIS CEOIL'S ROLE

Feis Ceoil has been protecting and promoting music in Ireland since its inception. Having a rich seam of indigenous talent in which to tap, Ireland has been exceptionally well-represented nationally and internationally. Of its nature as a small island, the majority of professional musicians are required to move abroad to further their studies and/or to find employment. Feis Ceoil has significantly contributed to the cultivation of a standard of classical musicianship which allows our musicians to perform at the highest international standards.

In Europe

The European Commission also recognises that the culture sector is increasingly a source of job creation, contributes both to growth in Europe and quality of life for EU citizens, and is also an excellent conduit for promoting social inclusion and supporting cultural diversity.

It's five main priorities under the 2019-22 Work Plan for Culture, adopted on 27 November 2018, are:

- Sustainability in cultural heritage
- Cohesion and well-being
- An ecosystem supporting artists, cultural and creative professionals and European content
- Gender equality
- International cultural relations

FEIS CEOIL'S ROLE

Drawing from our European neighbours as adjudicators and by extension forming links with conservatories and studios across Europe, Feis Ceoil is at once being fed by and feeding into the European Arts network. The freedom to study and work within the EEA has improved standards of teaching and performing exponentially.

In Ireland

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has issued a draft discussion paper entitled "Culture 2025 / Éire Ildánach" which sets a proposed overarching vision and framework for the future and outlines the priorities for action over the coming years. Through this Framework Policy, the Government seeks to nurture creativity, boost citizen participation, help more people to follow a sustainable career in the cultural sector, promote Ireland's cultural wealth and ensure a cultural contribution to wider social and economic goals.

The Framework Policy is underpinned by certain key values. They are:

- The intrinsic value of culture
- The value of culture to our lives and our communities
- The right of everyone to participate in the cultural life of the nation
- The importance of the Irish language, our cultural heritage, folklore, games, music and the uniqueness of our Gaeltacht areas
- The value of cultural diversity, informed by the many traditions and social backgrounds now in Ireland
- The value of culture as a means of fostering a more sustainable future for Ireland, including through economic and social policy
- The value of culture in presenting Ireland to the world

FEIS CEOIL'S ROLE

Feis Ceoil's primary focus has always been the island of Ireland. However, the Ireland of today is almost unrecognisable from when the Association was first established. Throughout that period, Feis Ceoil has remained committed to its original mission and objectives, while evolving and responding to myriad cultural and social developments. By virtue of its age range (7+), diversity of instruments and inclusion of ensembles, choirs and orchestras, Feis Ceoil promotes inclusivity at its core. As a result, development and the promotion of Ireland's cultural wealth is a natural consequence of its core activities.



Our purpose

Mission Statement

The primary objectives of Feis Ceoil Association are:

- To promote the general cultivation and advancement of the musical arts in Ireland, especially among the young
- To organise and promote an annual Music Festival or Feis Ceoil consisting of competitions and concerts, and by so doing to provide a forum of professional benchmarking, constructive criticism, and general encouragement to all who participate
- To promote the study and cultivation of Irish Music
- To promote the creation of original music composition, especially among the young
- To organise lectures, concerts, recitals and musical performances in Ireland and abroad, so as to foster and awaken a consciousness and appreciation of the country's wealth of musical talent
- To do all such other lawful things as are necessary to the attainments of the objects of the Company

What are our strategic goals?

1 Cultivating and advancing the musical arts in Ireland in accordance with our Mission Statement

2 Ensuring Organisational Viability

What does this mean in terms of outcomes?

Our overarching charitable purpose is the advancement of the arts, culture and Irish heritage. Our principal objectives are to;

- promote the musical arts in Ireland
- foster an appreciation of the country's wealth of musical talent
- to develop further opportunities for competitors through partnerships with appropriate organisations
- to maintain a viable organisation through which to attain the aims stated above

How will we achieve them?

We seek to achieve our objectives through the organisation and promotion of an annual Music Festival, or "Feis Ceoil", consisting of competitions, concerts, lectures, recitals and musical performances, both in Ireland and abroad.

Who benefits from our efforts?

The immediate beneficiaries of the Feis Ceoil are its participants. Irrespective of the outcome of any competition, we believe that participation in the festival instils key values in young people including;



dedication, determination, resilience, musical appreciation, and an appreciation of Irish heritage.

At a wider level, we believe that Irish society benefits from our efforts to nurture the very best in Irish musical talent, to provide a platform for this talent to launch their careers, and to showcase this talent on an international level.

What are our values?

- We cherish our relationships with participants, adjudicators, teachers, members and collaborative partners
- We promote diversity, equality, inclusivity, honesty, integrity, respect and understanding across all our activities
- We adhere to the highest ethical standards of fairness and consistency

Why do we do it?

Our founders initially set up the festival to counteract a neglect of Irish music and musicians. The fact that the festival remains a cornerstone in the development of aspiring musicians 126 years later is testament to commitment of Irish society to its musical heritage.

Irish culture is one of our greatest strengths: it is a source of values, identity and a sense of belonging. It also contributes to people's well-being, to social cohesion and inclusion. We believe that our efforts are in keeping with the separate cultural agendas of UNESCO, the European Commission, and the Irish State.

Hosting the Feis Ceoil and its related activities is our way of protecting and preserving our culture for future generations of Irish citizens.



Who are we?

Competitors

The festival participants are our reason for being. Aged from 7 years upwards, this annual cohort of circa 5,000 aspiring musicians are the future of Irish classical music.

Competitors' support network

The Feis owes its existence to the army of parents, other support networks and – critically – music teachers from around the country who encourage our performers and facilitate their participation each year.

Members

As a company limited by guarantee, our membership base of approx. 300 individuals is the equivalent of a shareholder base for a company limited by shares. We are accountable to our members for the ongoing management of the association and meet with them for feedback and input at our Annual General Meeting.

Volunteers

Feis Ceoil is essentially a voluntary organisation. Apart from its two paid staff (the CEO and the Events Manager), the festival is largely reliant on its dedicated cohort of volunteers. As well as the Board, our Music sub-committees, competition stewards, door staff and meet-and-greeters are populated by approximately 40 music-loving volunteers, some of whom have been with us for decades. The 'Feis family' is loyal, enthusiastic, flexible and very hardworking. They follow the progress and careers of our competitors with great interest and collectively represent an impressive repository of Feis knowledge, history and folklore. Simply put, the Feis could not happen without them.

Kathleen Watkins

President

A household name in Ireland, Kathleen Watkins has been associated with Feis Ceoil since her competing years as a harpist some decades ago! As a broadcaster, harpist, actress, singer and author,

she has remained at the forefront of the Arts in Ireland throughout her long and distinguished career. She has always been a supporter of young Irish musicians and as such we are honoured to have her in the role of President of Feis Ceoil.

Laura Gilsonan

Chief Executive Officer

A keen musician, Laura Gilsonan has many years' experience in Arts administration, the last fourteen of which as CEO of Feis Ceoil Association. Previously, she worked with the Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition and the Great Music in Irish Houses Festival. Having graduated from Trinity College Dublin in 1989 with an honour's degree in English and French, she moved to Paris, where she taught several modules on the English language degree programme at the Sorbonne University. Upon her return to Ireland, Laura moved into the area of Human Resources and spent a number of years as a Human Resources manager before making the full-time move to music and Arts administration.

Andrea Gilsonan

Events Manager

Director of Project Management company DG Foyle, Andy is contracted to oversee Feis Ceoil events and concerts. Working with the CEO and the volunteers of the Concerts committee, she ensures the seamless integration of non-competitive events within the Feis Ceoil calendar, in addition to administrative functions as agreed with the CEO. She works with other organisations within the arts and culture sector on a project by project basis.

Board of Directors

In order to serve the complex needs of a Charitable organisation with very specialised artistic goals, our Board comprises individuals with music, business, governance, legal and financial expertise. Within those categories, specific areas of individual responsibility have been identified to ensure the organisation is constantly moving forward.

Board rotation

At the annual general meeting of the Association in each year, provided that there shall be no fewer than four elected directors, one of them shall retire from office. The director to retire in every year shall be that person who has been longest in office, but as between persons who became directors on the same day, the director to retire shall (unless they agree otherwise among themselves) be determined by lot.

A retiring director shall be eligible for re-election for a further term or terms of office which, when aggregated with the terms already served, shall not exceed six years, but this time limit shall not prevent a retiring director from offering himself or herself for re-election when two years have passed since the expiration of the director's last term of office.

Director	Area of individual responsibility	Tenure
Ray Bates	Chairperson of the Board/Strategy	4
Chris O'Toole	Company Secretary	4
Edith Forrest	Honorary Music Secretary	5
James Gleeson	Finance	4
Joan Cowle	Heritage and History	5
Ursula Gormley	Non-competitive events	5
David Mooney	Teacher relations	5
Deirdre Seaver	Event management	4

BOARD GENDER



BOARD TENURE



BOARD BACKGROUND



Structure, governance & management

Music Sub-Committees

Our music sub-committees comprise prominent representatives from their respective fields who work closely with our Honorary Music Secretary to ensure the continued quality and continued relevance of the competitions which fall within their discipline. They are responsible for choosing appropriate test pieces where applicable and suggesting modifications to competitions and/or new competitions in response to demand or changing conditions.

Participation in the music sub-committee is entirely voluntary and underpins the professionalism of the annual festival. In addition, the Music Sub-Committees are key promoters of the festival amongst aspiring classical musical students around the country and therefore represent the cornerstone upon which we achieve our strategic goal of cultivating and advancing the musical arts in Ireland.

The following is a summary of our Music Sub-Committee structure:

VOCAL	PIANOFORTE	CHORAL	NATIONAL SECTION	ORGAN
Mary Brennan Trudi Carberry Edith Forrest Emmanuel Lawler Niamh McCormack Colette McGahon-Tosh Fiona Mullaney Aine Mulvey Kathleen Tynan	Colma Brioscú Reamonn Keary Gabriela Mayer David Mooney Pádraic Ó Cuinneagáin Pádraic Ó Cuinneagáin	Helen Doyle John Morris Blanaid Murphy Pádraic Ó Cuinneagáin Niamh Williams	Denise Kelly Orla Kelly Áine Ni Dhúill Pádraic Ó Cuinneagáin	David Adams Simon Harden Gerard Lillis Carole O'Connor
STRINGS	WIND	BRASS	ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING	
Simon Aspell Andreea Banciu John Feeley Alan Grundy Fionnuala Hunt Marion Hyland Martin Johnson	Ailbhe McDonagh David O'Doherty Cian O'Duill Adrian Petcu Marco Ramelli Arun Rao Gillian Williams	Ruby Ashley William Dowdall John Finucane Aedin Halpin Kevin Hanafin John Hearne Ciaran O'Connell	David Collins Ian Dakin Sean Fleming Eamonn Nolan Conor O'Riordan	Cliona Doris Ursula Gormley Maria Judge James Kavanagh Joe Csibi Pádraic Ó Cuinneagáin
PERCUSSION				
Noel Eccles Alex Petcu				

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Roles and responsibilities of the Board

The Board is accountable to the Feis Ceoil's members and wider stakeholders for the overall performance of the organisation and for ensuring good governance. The Board takes all significant strategic decisions, retaining full and effective control of the organisation's activities, while delegating regular day-to-day management to the Chief Executive Officer.

The CEO implements the strategic direction set by the Board and ensures the Board has a clear understanding of their key activities, decisions and performance results and of any significant risks likely to arise.

The Board delegates authority to the following sub-committee (as outlined below) to carry out certain tasks on its behalf so that it can give the appropriate level of attention and consideration to those and other matters:

- **Strategy and Risk Committee:** To identify the policies and actions necessary to assure the continued survival of the Feis Ceoil Association and to bring all issues arising to the attention of the Board of the Association for timely resolution.
- **Remuneration Committee:** To consider the appropriateness of remuneration and benefits paid to Executive Leadership of the Company.

Matters considered by the Board in 2022

The Board met 6 times (2021: 7 times) during the year and achieved a 95% attendance rate. The following were the key matters considered by the Board over the course of the year:

STRATEGY	CHARITABLE PURPOSES	CORPORATE GOVERNANCE	FINANCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with the Charities Governance Code (ongoing) • Revision of initiatives introduced during Covid years • Role of traditional PR in addition to Digital Marketing strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful delivery of 'Hybrid' Feis 2022, Gala Concert and additional recitals and performances • Public engagement with the projects via Digital Marketing strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board evaluation • Ongoing review of new/revised Policies in compliance with the Governance Code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New funding partnerships • Annual budget • Annual published results

Board composition

Decisions regarding the appointment and re-appointment of Board members are made by the Board, in line with our rotation policy. Board Members have a blend of skills and experience and the necessary competence to support effective decision making.

Based on the breadth of expertise required (as exemplified in the 'areas of individual responsibility', the requirement for additional/complementary expertise is always under review. Vacancies are notified via the membership base when they arise.

Independence

The Board is satisfied that the non-executive Board members are independent of management, in character and judgement, and free from relationships or circumstances that could affect, or appear to affect, their judgement and ability to meet the requirements of the role.

Each Board member brings independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance, resources and standards of conduct. Board members must declare any conflict of interest which could interfere with the exercise of their independent judgement.

“Today, Feis Ceoil is an event of major significance in the development of classical music talent in Ireland. To be successful at the Feis is very important in the musical career of many entrants, for many others it is a means of obtaining enhanced enjoyment from their music while also providing a yardstick by which to measure their personal standards.”



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Risk Management

The Board has overall responsibility for ensuring the organisation has an appropriate risk management system in place. The Board's processes to identify and evaluate business risks includes:

- Identifying the nature, extent and implications, including financial, of risks facing the Feis Ceoil including the extent and categories which it regards as acceptable;
- Assessing the likelihood of identified risks occurring; and
- Assessing the organisation's ability to manage and mitigate these risks

The following are the organisation's principal risks and uncertainties:

PRINCIPAL RISK	CONTEXT	KEY MITIGATION(S)
Funding position and going concern	The main risk facing the viability of the Feis Ceoil is the availability of long-term sponsors and private donors.	Diversification of funding streams: Feis Ceoil is committed to fostering existing funding relationships while continuing to identify potential additions to its funding portfolio.
Succession risk	As a small organisation, the Feis Ceoil relies heavily on its CEO to carry out its operating activities and coordinate the hosting of the annual festival.	We are continuing to develop a comprehensive procedures manual for both the CEO's and Events Manager's functions to facilitate a change in personnel, should that arise.
Operational risk	Inability to host a live festival due to pandemic or other such national/global event.	Mitigations include our demonstrated ability to transform the festival to an online event. Going forward, contingency planning will be a key feature of festival preparations.
Compliance risk	The Company falls within the scope of many laws and regulations, particularly those that apply to the safeguarding of young people.	In addition to ensuring the Board possesses appropriate legal and regulatory expertise, the Company avails of advice from its professional advisors and the Charities Regulator to mitigate the risk of non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Child Protection training has been carried out for all relevant staff and volunteers.
Reputational risk	The resilience and prominence of the festival is attributed to the high quality of adjudicators, competitions, organisation and standards. The long-term viability of the festival is dependent on the ability to maintain this reputation for quality.	Addition of new competitions where appropriate; annual review of existing competitions, and identification of monetary award and bursary funders to maintain our reputation as the pre-eminent classical music festival in Ireland.

Charities Governance Code

Feis Ceoil is compliant with the Charities Governance Code. The following table provides an overview of the current status of the organisation's governance structures by reference to the Code's principles:

CODE PRINCIPLE	APPLICATION TO FEIS CEOIL
Advancing our charitable purpose	The Board believes the Feis Ceoil has a clearly defined charitable purpose, and has committed itself to an annual review to ensure our strategy and objectives remain in line with our charity's purpose and continue to provide a public benefit. The Board has implemented a firm plan of the forthcoming 12 months setting out what the organisation will do to advance its purpose and works to ensure that that we have adequate resources to execute that plan.
Behaving with integrity	The Board has established a clear set of values (as outlined on Page 11) and works to ensure that everyone involved in the organisation understands the way things should be done and how everyone is expected to behave. The Board has developed a Code of Conduct for all charity trustees, which includes matters such as conflicts of interests and loyalties, board confidentiality, gifts and hospitality and out-of-pocket expenses.
Leading people	The Board works to ensure arrangements are in place for the effective involvement of the organisation's volunteers, including what to do if any problems arise. The arrangements for paid staff are governed by contracts of employment which comply with relevant employment legislation including remuneration, development, support, and grounds for dismissal.
Exercising control	The Risk and Strategy sub-committee conducts an annual Risk Assessment and reports to the Board on key risks to which the organisation is exposed and proposes plans to the mitigation of these risks. The organisation has implemented appropriate financial controls relative to the size and complexity of the organisation. The Feis Ceoil maintains insurance cover which is appropriate for the scale of its activities.
Working effectively	The Board works to ensure its members has the collective skillset necessary to advance its charitable purpose. Regular board meetings are held with adequate advance notice and agendas provided to members. Standing agenda items include approval of previous meeting's minutes, reporting on activities, review of finances and conflicts of interest and loyalties.
Being accountable & transparent	The Board works to identify the stakeholders in the Feis Ceoil and decides an appropriate communication strategy for each cohort of stakeholder. In particular, the organisation strictly adheres to the reporting requirements of its funders and donors. The Board is committed to ensuring that the Feis Ceoil's Registered Charity Number is displayed on our written materials (including online platforms).



CEO's year in review



'Hybrid' Feis

Having navigated the trials of a fully online Feis in 2021, the spectre of Covid was lingering just enough for us to consider it prudent to proceed with caution for 2022. While we were happy to offer live competitions for solo and small ensembles, we felt that it was too soon to have large groups congregating in the RDS. Therefore we took the decision to hold choir and orchestra competitions online. As had been done for Virtual Feis, those competitors were required to submit videos of their performances which were adjudicated remotely. For live competitions, audience numbers were restricted to a maximum per venue, depending on the venue size.

We were delighted to be able to reinstate our Orchestral Conducting competition together with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra - albeit with just the Strings section for social distancing purposes - and we had a very worthy winner in Patrick Rafter.

Covid initiatives carried through

We had decided that some of the initiatives introduced during Virtual Feis were worth retaining, namely posting adjudication videos online and providing video content from competitions in order to build on the considerable online audience that had been generated in 2021. In relation to the latter, we filmed a number of key competitions which were uploaded onto our website the following day and which could be viewed until the end of the Feis. This proved extremely popular, particularly as in-person audience numbers were restricted, and is something we will continue to do, as funds allow.

In relation to the former, it transpired that the viewing figures of adjudication videos dropped considerably, mainly because the winners' names were posted online immediately after each competition, so it was not necessary to view the adjudications in order to find out who had won, as had been the case during Virtual Feis. Further, the feedback from the adjudicators was that in this 'hybrid' setting, where they were addressing competitors and some audience live while also being filmed, they felt somehow inhibited about what and how they could communicate. This initiative will therefore be consigned to the 'tried and failed' folder!

New in 2022

New venue

We used Wesley House for the first time which proved extremely successful. Being that bit further away from the RDS, there were some logistical issues to be resolved in terms of movement of adjudicators and stewards across the various venues, but it was perfect in every other respect and we look forward to returning in 2023. Thanks to Don Black of Wesley House and Trish Malone who managed the venue on our behalf.

New competition

A Percussion competition was introduced and was held in the state of the art concert hall in TU Dublin's Conservatoire in Grangegorman. All the requisite facilities were there and thanks must go to Noel Eccles who oversaw the complicated set-up of instruments for the various competitors. The inaugural winner of the competition was Seán Tighe.

New prize collaboration

We were delighted to partner with Power Fine Violins, Dungarvan, who are providing a violin to the value of €5,000 to the overall winner of a number of junior strings competitions for a period of five years. The inaugural winner was Lucia Murphy from Limerick.



Concerts and Performances

The best thing about 2022 was being able to experience live music once again. We had had to postpone all our 125th anniversary celebration events from 2021 so were delighted to be in a position to finally hold them. What followed the Feis was a busy concert season, comprising the Gala Concert in the RDS Concert Hall on 28th April; three lunchtime recitals in St. Ann's Church Dawson St. on May 5th, 12th and 19th; a members' recital and reception in Farmleigh House in collaboration with the OPW on May 28th; two Young Platform Series concerts in the NCH on September 6th and 13th and finally, a series of six short piano recitals in the Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris as part of the 'Journées Nationales du Patrimoine' on September 17th and 18th. We also had a bonus performance at the Irish Embassy in Paris on September 18th for a group of visually impaired visitors. (See more in the 'Spotlight on Performances' section, page 24)

16,448
video views across all social platforms

69,100
impressions earned by tweets

22,899
Facebook Reach

PR and Digital Marketing

Our main focus this year was on Digital Marketing. The goals of this year's campaign, run once again by Digital Strategist Aileen Power, were to highlight the hybrid Feis model, new initiatives, maintain awareness of Feis at a time when live attendance is limited, and utilize video in many formats and channels. Some interesting statistics from her report are as follows:

Total video views across all social platforms: 16,448 (up 36% on 2021)

Total impressions earned by Tweets: 69,100 (down 26% on 2021), however Link Clicks, Retweets and Likes were up by 35%, 14% and 41% respectively. Facebook Reach: 22,899 (up 24% on 2021)

Key recommendations for next year are that we commission content on the first day of the Feis such as a filmed competition or professional photos that can be shared that evening. This will lead to higher reach for the content from the rest of the festival, and raises awareness of the festival from earlier on.

As our publicist Christine Monk had left to take up a full-time position, we had much less traditional PR than normal. We had reasonable press coverage of our launch event and an Irish Times 'Image of the Day' during the Feis, in addition to my appearance on RTÉ lyric fm's Marty in the Morning programme. However, we missed the nationwide reach of images and features that we would ordinarily have. The result of this is that we feel that both PR and Digital Marketing feed into and bolster each other when they work together, so we will re-engage a publicist for 2023 to put a combined communications strategy in place. I am also delighted to report that Christine Monk has joined our Board, so will be able to guide us through best practice in terms of this strategy.

Looking ahead

We are very excited about being back fully live in 2023 for the first time since 2019. We are especially keen to attract as many Choirs as possible to participate, as live choral music is so much part of what Feis is all about.

Our performances this year were so successful that we plan to repeat all of them: the Gala Concert (NCH April 26th, 2023); St. Ann's lunchtime recitals; Farmleigh; a Cork venue yet to be confirmed; three Young Platform concerts in the NCH in September and a return trip to the Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris to help broaden the awareness of Feis Ceoil nationally and internationally.

Please see below a summary of our performance in 2022 and outline plans for 2023:

STRATEGIC GOALS	CULTIVATING AND ADVANCING THE MUSICAL ARTS IN IRELAND	ENSURING ORGANISATIONAL VIABILITY
Associated risks (refer to risk mitigation strategies on Page 17)	Operational risk Reputational risk	Funding position and going concern Succession risk Compliance risk
FY22 performance review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Hybrid' Feis, with majority of competitions live, successfully completed • Live Gala Concert held in RDS • 125-year anniversary events, postponed from last year, successfully completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Board composition and skills requirements • Establishment of contingency plan for implementation of Virtual Feis • Timely and appropriate engagement with stakeholders
Key performance indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition applications: 1,518 (2021: 1,230) • Competition attendees: N/A - (numbers were restricted due to Covid concerns) Total Video views on Social Media: 16,448 (2021: 12,087) • Gala Concert attendees: 650 (2021: N/A) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income: €292,655 (2021: €209,651)
2023 objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run a fully live Feis Ceoil • Develop performance opportunities in Dublin, Cork and Paris • Build on our enhanced social media presence • Re-introduce traditional PR to complement the Digital Marketing Strategy • Film key competitions for online viewing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to keep our governance and organisational progress under review • Continue to develop our relationship with RDS, sponsors, partners and the Dept. of Arts to the benefit of all parties



Thank you...

To all who made Feis Ceoil 2022 such a success. My thanks to the Board and our President for steering us through the challenges of the past couple of years; our Music sub-committee members; Events Manager Andy Gilsenan and Concerts Committee members Edith Forrest and Ursula Gormley; Steward co-ordinator Anna McCabe; Digital Strategist Aileen Power; Website manager Rémi Thomas at Fusio; our Stewards, Adjudicators, and generous prize fund donors; our loyal Feis Ceoil members and of course the teachers, competitors and parents on whom we rely for the festival to be the incredible display of talent that it is.

Finally, a special debt of gratitude must go to our sponsors and grant providers: RDS, Carmel Naughton, Speakerdale Ltd. and the Dept. of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. As I say every year, and which must be reiterated, Feis Ceoil would not exist without them.

2022 has been a great year, and, with your help, I look forward to making 2023 an even better one!

Laura Gilsenan,
CEO



Spotlight on... New Performances

St. Anne's Church, Dawson Street

St. Anne's is synonymous with music, so being offered three lunchtime recitals there not only provided us with the opportunity to give additional performance experience to some of the recent Feis Ceoil competitors, but to reach a potential new audience. Due to its city centre location and historical interest, St. Anne's is on many tourist 'must-visit' lists. Recitals last 50 minutes, fitting neatly into lunchtime for people who work locally, visitors and fortunate passers-by.

In our three recitals we had the pleasure of showcasing:

Maria Nasypanaya & Aidan Keane (piano duet) and Eimear McDonagh (Concert Harp); Shane Quinn & Clíodhan Regan (piano and voice), followed by Shane Quinn, Elizabeth Ní Mhaoláin, Elena Ryan & Doireann Ní Aodán (String Quartet); while our final recital featured the duo of Adam Joyce (cello) & Lucy Byrne (piano) and Rachel O'Hara (piano).



Farmleigh House

The stunning venue of the Farmleigh House ballroom was the setting for our next performance. In collaboration with the OPW, we held a relatively intimate concert and reception for members and friends of Feis Ceoil. In an attempt to treat our audience to a variety of styles and genres, our performers comprised a duo – Rohan Harron (violin) & Johanna Dietz (piano); a piano trio – Charlotte Croke (piano), Sarah Brazil (violin) and Elizabeth Troup (cello); and three soloists – Adam Buttimer (Tuba), Joe O'Grady (piano) and Laura Aherne (Soprano).

It was fitting that we should have a concert dedicated to Feis Ceoil members. For the two years of Covid, we were unable to offer them their usual membership benefits, but they bore with us and continued their valued support notwithstanding.

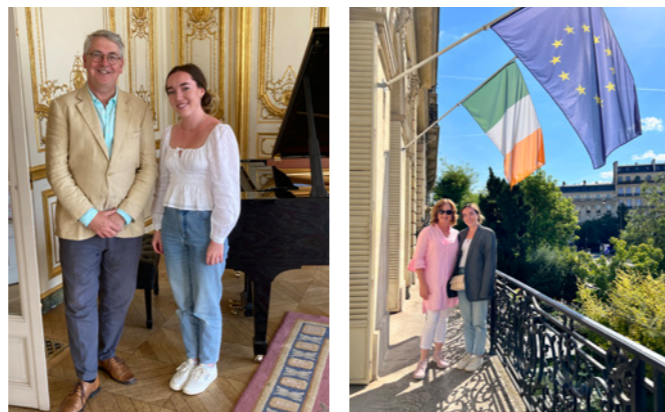


Centre Culturel Irlandais & Irish Embassy, Paris

As part of the 125th anniversary events, postponed since 2021, we chose to extend our reach beyond the borders of this island! The Centre Culturel in Paris invited us to participate in the activities around the 'Journées Nationales du Patrimoine' – similar to our Culture Night – which takes place over a weekend in September. Similarly, buildings which are not usually open to the public are opened, with guided tours, exhibitions and all manner of performances on offer.

Pianist Rachel O'Hara, winner of this year's Mabel Swainson Award at Feis Ceoil, performed six 20-minute recitals over Saturday and Sunday 17th and 18th September at the Centre Culturel. The recitals formed the culmination of guided visits around the beautiful building in which the Centre is housed on Rue des Irlandais and each of the six recitals was packed to capacity. Rachel performed Brahms, Messiaen and 'Intermezzo' a piece by contemporary Irish composer Conor Linehan which had been commissioned for the Dublin International Piano Competition in 2018.

We were also honoured to be invited to the Irish Embassy at 12 Avenue Foch where Rachel performed a shorter recital for two groups of visually impaired visitors to the Embassy. A guided sensory experience of the building had been specially designed for them, finishing in the stunning Salon de Musique, where they were treated to a performance of Brahms Intermezzo Op. 118 No. 2. Ambassador Niall Burgess said he 'wanted to re-create for the visitors the ambience of what the room was originally designed for when built in the late 19th century', hence the choice of the Brahms, which evoked the era perfectly.



FINANCIAL REVIEW



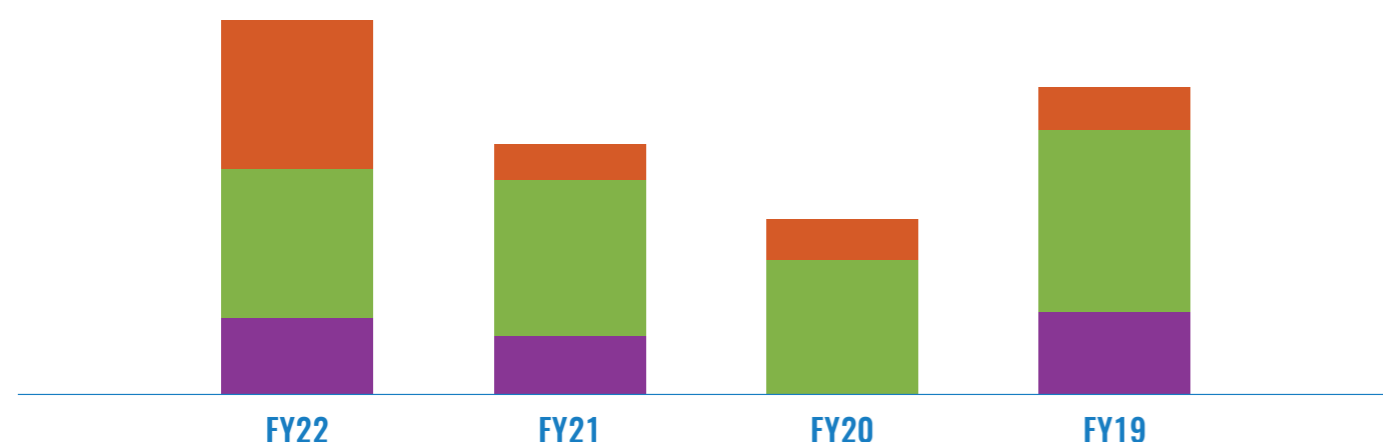
Financial Review

Significant events that have affected the financial performance and financial position of the charity during the reporting period included, in particular, a return to pre-COVID levels of activity and, furthermore, an expansion of performances, concerts and venues.

Year-on-year movements are analysed below to provide further context:

Income analysis (€'000)

■ ENTRY FEES ■ CORE FUNDING ■ OTHER INCOME



Key features

Entry fees

Prior to the 2020 Festival, the amount generated from entry fees was typically stable from one year to the next. Amounts have been increasing each year as social distancing requirements have abated and the organisation has been in a position to facilitate more competitions each year, thus increasing entry fees.

Core funding

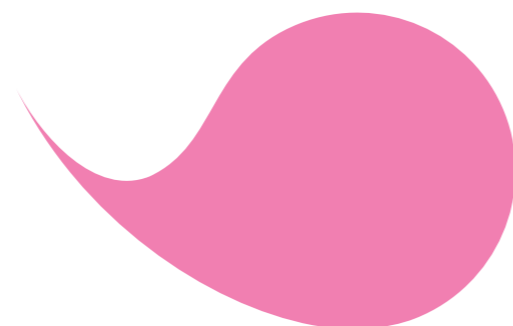
Core funding comprises:

- income received under the Company's grant agreement with RDS of €70,000 (2021: €70,000); and
- income from private donors of €61,000 (2021: €69,000).

Other income

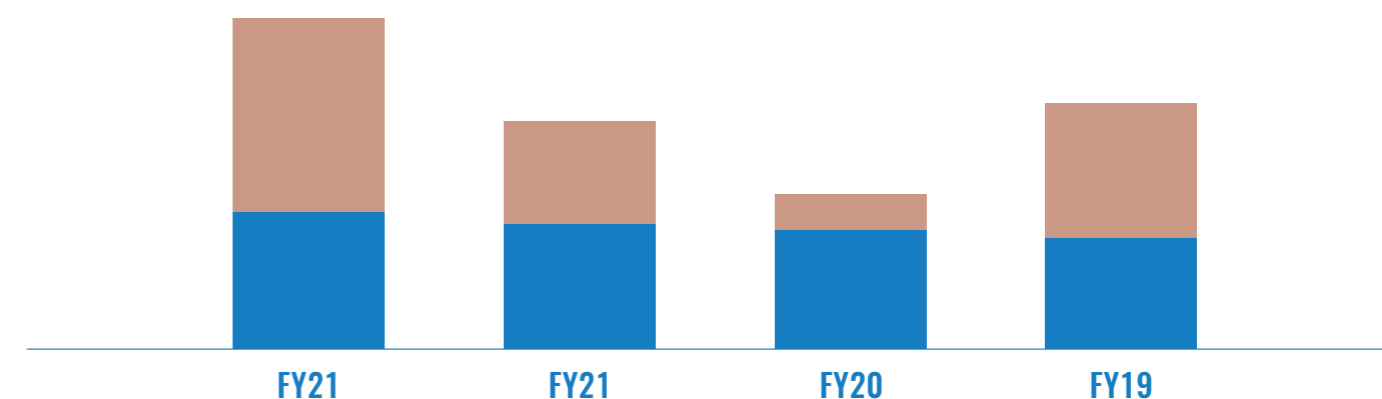
Other income comprises:

- Membership fees, Revenue rebates, festival and concert income of €33,000 (2021: €29,000); and
- €98,000 (2021: €Nil) of private donations. The organisation did not anticipate such collection of donations which were very gratefully received from long-time members and supporters of the organisation.



Expenditure analysis (€'000)

■ ESTABLISHMENT COSTS ■ FESTIVAL EXPENDITURE



Key features

Festival expenditure

Festival expenditure comprises amounts paid in respect of venue hire, adjudicators and accompanists, public relations and advertising, piano hire, printing, cups and medals.

The appropriate comparative for the cost of the festival is FY19 (owing to the COVID-related impacts on the FY20 and FY21 festivals), which are broadly consistent when considering the compound annual inflation in the intervening period.

Establishment costs

Establishment costs comprise all expenditure related to the ongoing activities of the Company including premises, utilities, employee-related and administrative expenditure. The three principal factors leading to the increase over prior year include (a) the discontinuation of COVID-related wage subsidies, (b) an increase in the organisation's rent expense owing to a change of premises, and (c) once off expenditure related to the office move.

Financial position

The Company's total asset position of €462,679 is principally comprised of cash (€237,774) and an investment in the Charities Regulatory Authority's common investment fund (€198,500).

The Company's investment policy is to make investment in funds issued by the Charities Regulatory Authority only. The common investment fund carries a medium overall level

of risk. It is not a cash fund, and is principally invested in Eurozone and global equities. It is invested with the intention of achieving income and capital growth

over the long term. In this regard the price of units held may go down as well as up and the Company may get back less than that invested. The Directors continually monitor the appropriateness of the Company's investment policy.

In addition, the Directors continue to monitor the appropriateness of the Company's reserves. As at 31 July 2022, the Company had €341,770 in unrestricted reserves and €95,000 in restricted reserves. There were no material commitments made at the reporting date in respect of the unrestricted reserves.

The Company has a reserves policy to hold adequate unrestricted reserves to host one more Feis Ceoil festival. Total direct costs for the year ended 31 July 2022 amounted to €204,278 and, on that basis, the Directors have assessed that the Company is carrying adequate reserves to fund future activities. The Company's reserves policy is also constantly under review by the Board of Directors.

The Directors have not identified any material uncertainties related to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. However, future financial risks currently under consideration by the Board include:

- Impacts on delivery related to the backdrop of an inflationary environment
- Security of future grant funding as the Company enters the latter half of its 5-year Grant Agreement with the RDS.

The Board seeks to mitigate these risks by adopting a proactive dialogue with key stakeholders, as well as creating an environment of sound financial control befitting of small organisation.

The Board and management extend their gratitude to the RDS, as Grant-providers, and private donors, whose continued support and generosity affords the Company the opportunity to continue our ambition to cultivate and advance the musical arts in Ireland.



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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



Feis Ceoil Association
Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements
for the financial year ended 31 July 2022

Feis Ceoil Association
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Feis Ceoil Association
REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Directors	Edith Forrest Joan Cowle David Mooney Ursula Gormley James Gleeson Deirdre Seaver Christopher O'Toole Ray Bates Christine Monk (Appointed 22 February 2022) Fiona Naughton (Resigned 7 December 2021)
Company Secretary	Christopher O'Toole
Charity Number	4430
Charities Regulatory Authority Number	20005771
Company Number	446869
Registered Office and Principal Address	Suite 34, Morrison Chambers 32 Nassau Street Dublin 2 Ireland
Auditors	KSi Faulkner Orr Limited Behan House 10 Lower Mount Street Dublin 2 Ireland
Bankers	AIB, 1 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2.
Solicitors	Linda Scales, Castleview House, Sandymount Green, Dublin 4.

Feis Ceoil Association
DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT
for the financial year ended 31 July 2022

The directors present their Directors' Annual Report, combining the Directors' Report and Trustees' Report, and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 July 2022.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Directors' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Directors' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the directors of Feis Ceoil Association present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 2022.

The company is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014 and, although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102, the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

The company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

Mission, Objectives and Strategy

Mission Statement

The overarching charitable purpose of the Company is the advancement of the arts, culture and Irish heritage.

The primary objectives of the Company are:

- To promote the general cultivation and advancement of the musical arts in Ireland, especially among the young.
- To organise and promote an annual Music Festival or Feis Ceoil consisting of competitions and concerts, and by so doing to provide a forum of professional benchmarking, constructive criticism, and general encouragement to all who participate.
- To promote the study and cultivation of Irish Music
- To promote the creation of original music composition, especially among the young
- To organise lectures, concerts, recitals and musical performances in Ireland and abroad, so as to foster and awaken a consciousness and appreciation of the country's wealth of musical talent
- To do all such other lawful things as are necessary to the attainments of the objects of the Company.

Structure, Governance and Management

Structure

The name of the Association is Feis Ceoil Association ("the Association"). The Association is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered under Part 18 of the Companies Act 2014. Feis Ceoil is a Charity registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority of Ireland, Reg. Charity No: 20005771.

The company is governed by a Constitution and managed by a Board of Directors.

Governance

The Association shall have a minimum of five and a maximum of fifteen directors. Within this range, the Board may from time to time by ordinary resolution increase or reduce the number of directors.

The Directors shall comprise both elected directors and directors co-opted by the Board.

Up to eight directors (who shall be members of the Association) may be elected by the members of the Association, acting in general meeting. The Board shall also have the power at any time and from time to time to co-opt a person to be a director to fill a casual vacancy arising in the number of elected directors or for specific expertise which is deemed necessary to the effective functioning of the Board.

Directors shall not be remunerated for acting as such, but expenses may be reimbursed where claimed.

Feis Ceoil Association DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 July 2022

Review of Activities, Achievements and Performance

The Feis Ceoil competition was held live from 28 March to 8 April 2022. Additional non-competitive performances were held as follows:

Feis Ceoil Gala Concert - April 28th; St. Ann's Church Recital Series - May 5th, 12th and 19th;
Farmleigh House recital - 27 May;

Upcoming events include: NCH Young Platform Series September 6th and 13th
Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris September 17th and 18th.

Financial Review

The results for the financial year are set out on page 11 and additional notes are provided showing income and expenditure in greater detail.

Financial Results

At the end of the financial year the company has assets of €462,679 (2021 - €395,063) and liabilities of €25,909 (2021 - €70,674). The net assets of the company have increased by €112,381.

Reserves Position and Policy

The aggregate reserves of the Company, comprising unrestricted funding both held within the Charities Investment Fund and on deposit, are sufficient to maintain one full year of normal operations.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The directors consider that the following are the principal risk factors that could materially and adversely affect the Company's future operating profits or financial position:

- The key risk facing the viability of the Company is the availability of long-term sponsors and private donors. The Directors are committed to fostering existing funding relationships while continuing to identify potential additions to its funding portfolio.
- As a small and niche organisation, the Company is exposed to succession risk as it relies heavily on its CEO to carry out its operating activities and coordinate the hosting of the annual festival.
- The ongoing risk of COVID-19 may potentially expose the Company to an operational risk of being unable to host its annual festival, or to need to significantly modify it to an online format.
- The Company falls within the scope of many laws and regulations, particularly those that apply to the safeguarding of young people. The risk of non-compliance is therefore applicable to the Company.
- The resilience and prominence of the festival is attributed to the high quality of adjudicators, competitions, organisation and standards. The long-term viability of the festival is dependent on the ability to maintain this reputation for quality.

Future developments

The directors expect the general level of activity to continue for the foreseeable future but continue to look for new and innovative means of promoting the Company's charitable purpose, which include the continued investment into its digital and online presence and investigation of opportunities to promote young Irish musicians on an international level.

Directors and Secretary

The directors who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

Edith Forrest
Joan Cowle
David Mooney
Ursula Gormley
James Gleeson
Deirdre Seaver
Christopher O'Toole
Ray Bates
Christine Monk (Appointed 22 February 2022)
Fiona Naughton (Resigned 7 December 2021)

The secretary who served throughout the financial year was Christopher O'Toole.

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The company engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. Feis Ceoil Association subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Companies Act 2014
- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)

Feis Ceoil Association DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 July 2022

Auditors

The auditors, KSi Faulkner Orr Limited have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

Accounting Records

To ensure that adequate accounting records are kept in accordance with Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, the directors have employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The accounting records are located at the company's office at Suite 34, Morrison Chambers, 32 Nassau Street, Dublin 2.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 6th December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

James Gleeson
Director

Christopher O'Toole
Director

Feis Ceoil Association DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 July 2022

The directors are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the net income or expenditure of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

The directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and net income or expenditure of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and the Directors' Annual Report comply with Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditor in connection with preparing the auditor's report) of which the company's auditor is unaware, and
- the directors have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 6th December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

James Gleeson
Director

Christopher O'Toole
Director

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT to the Members of Feis Ceoil Association

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the company financial statements of Feis Ceoil Association for the financial year ended 31 July 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 July 2022 and of its surplus for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014 and having regard to the Charities SORP; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and the Provisions Available for Audits of Small Entities, in the circumstances set out in note 3 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the Directors' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT to the Members of Feis Ceoil Association

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Directors' Annual Report. The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not complied with by the company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 7, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT to the Members of Feis Ceoil Association

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

John Kelly
for and on behalf of
KSI FAULKNER ORR LIMITED
Statutory Auditors
Behan House
10 Lower Mount Street
Dublin 2
Ireland

6th December 2022

Feis Ceoil Association
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)
for the financial year ended 31 July 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2022 €	Restricted Funds 2022 €	Total 2022 €	Unrestricted Funds 2021 €	Total 2021 €
Income						
Donations and legacies	4.1	133,110	100,000	233,110	70,062	70,062
Charitable activities						
- Grants and prize fund income	4.2	178,427	19,525	197,952	150,610	150,610
Other income	4.3	10,622	-	10,622	8,369	8,369
Total income		322,159	119,525	441,684	229,041	229,041
Expenditure						
Charitable activities	5.1	289,457	37,575	327,032	214,043	214,043
Net gains/(losses) on investments	8	(2,271)	-	(2,271)	22,711	22,711
Net income/(expenditure)		30,431	81,950	112,381	37,709	37,709
Transfers between funds		(13,050)	13,050	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the financial year		17,381	95,000	112,381	37,709	37,709
Reconciliation of funds						
Balances brought forward at 1 August 2021	12	324,389	-	324,389	286,680	286,680
Balances carried forward at 31 July 2022		341,770	95,000	436,770	324,389	324,389

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the financial year. All income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 6th December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

James Gleeson
Director

Christopher O'Toole
Director

Feis Ceoil Association
BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 July 2022

	Notes	2022 €	2021 €
Fixed Assets			
Investments	8	198,500	200,771
Current Assets			
Debtors	9	26,405	41,937
Cash at bank and in hand		237,774	152,355
		264,179	194,292
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10	(25,909)	(70,674)
Net Current Assets		238,270	123,618
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		436,770	324,389
Funds			
Restricted trust funds		95,000	-
General fund (unrestricted)		341,770	324,389
Total funds	12	436,770	324,389

Approved by the Board of Directors on 6th December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

James Gleeson
Director

Christopher O'Toole
Director

Feis Ceoil Association
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the financial year ended 31 July 2022

	Notes	2022 €	2021 €
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net movement in funds		112,381	37,709
Adjustments for:			
Loss on investments		2,271	(22,711)
Interest receivable and similar income		(5,179)	(4,845)
		<u>109,473</u>	<u>10,153</u>
Movements in working capital:			
Movement in debtors		15,532	(9,996)
Movement in creditors		(44,765)	26,006
		<u>80,240</u>	<u>26,163</u>
Cash generated from operations			
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		5,179	4,845
		<u>85,419</u>	<u>31,008</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		152,355	121,347
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 August 2021			
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 July 2022	13	<u><u>237,774</u></u>	<u><u>152,355</u></u>

Feis Ceoil Association
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 July 2022

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Feis Ceoil Association is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the Republic of Ireland. The registered office of the company is Suite 34, Morrison Chambers, 32 Nassau Street, Dublin 2, Ireland which is also the principal place of business of the company. The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the company. The company registration number is 446869.

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are members, or within one financial year thereafter, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members, and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding € 1.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102".

The company has applied the Charities SORP on a voluntary basis as its application is not a requirement of the current regulations for charities registered in the Republic of Ireland. As permitted by the Companies Act 2014, the company has varied the standard formats in that act for the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet. Departures from the standard formats, as outlined in the Companies Act 2014, are to comply with the requirements of the Charities SORP and are in compliance with section 4.7, 10.6 and 15.2 of that SORP.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2021 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102".

Fund accounting

The following are the categories of funds maintained:

Restricted funds

Restricted funds represent income received which can only be used for particular purposes, as specified by the donors. Such purposes are within the overall objectives of the company.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds consist of General funds.

- General funds represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the board, in furtherance of the objectives of the company.

Feis Ceoil Association
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 July 2022

continued

Income

Title sponsorship is accounted for on an accruals basis; supporting sponsorship is accounted for when received. All other income is accounted for when received, except interest income from The Common Investment Fund and deposit accounts which is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Income from charitable activities

Income from charitable activities include income earned from the supply of services under contractual arrangements and from performance related grants which have conditions that specify the provision of particular services to be provided by the company. Income from government and other co-funders is recognised when the company is legally entitled to the income because it is fulfilling the conditions contained in the related funding agreements. Where a grant is received in advance, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, it is accrued in debtors.

Grants from governments and other co-funders typically include one of the following types of conditions:

- Performance based conditions: whereby the company is contractually entitled to funding only to the extent that the core objectives of the grant agreement are achieved. Where the company is meeting the core objectives of a grant agreement, it recognises the related expenditure, to the extent that it is reimbursable by the donor, as income.

-Time based conditions: whereby the company is contractually entitled to funding on the condition that it is utilised in a particular period. In these cases the company recognises the income to the extent it is utilised within the period specified in the agreement.

In the absence of such conditions, assuming that receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured, grant income is recognised once the company is notified of entitlement.

Grants received towards capital expenditure are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when received or receivable, whichever is earlier.

Expenditure

Expenditure is analysed between costs of charitable activities and raising funds. The costs of each activity are separately accumulated and disclosed, and analysed according to their major components. Expenditure is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, a transfer of economic benefits is required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be reliably measured. Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the company but cannot be attributed to one activity. Such costs are allocated to activities in proportion to staff time spent or other suitable measure for each activity.

Investments

The Company's interest in The Common Investment Fund is considered to be an Other Financial Instrument not meeting the definition of Basic Financial Instruments, and is therefore recognised initially at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition other financial instruments are measured at fair value with changes recognised in profit or loss.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Income recognised by the company from government agencies and other co-funders, but not yet received at financial year end, is included in debtors.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand comprises cash on deposit at banks requiring less than three months notice of withdrawal.

Taxation and deferred taxation

No current or deferred taxation arises as the company has been granted charitable exemption. Irrecoverable valued added tax is expensed as incurred.

3. PROVISIONS AVAILABLE FOR AUDITS OF SMALL ENTITIES

In common with many other charities of our size and nature, we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

Feis Ceoil Association
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 July 2022

continued

4. INCOME		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
4.1 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES		€	€	€	€
	Philanthropic donations	127,875	100,000	227,875	68,782
	Membership donations	5,235	-	5,235	1,280
		<u>133,110</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>233,110</u>	<u>70,062</u>
4.2 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
		€	€	€	€
	RDS grant	70,000	-	70,000	70,000
	Other grant income	20,000	-	20,000	-
	Programme sales	2,557	-	2,557	100
	Advertising	4,750	-	4,750	2,850
	Prize fund income	-	19,525	19,525	10,725
	Membership fees	12,804	-	12,804	11,175
	Entry fees	68,316	-	68,316	55,760
		<u>178,427</u>	<u>19,525</u>	<u>197,952</u>	<u>150,610</u>
4.3 OTHER INCOME		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022	2021
		€	€	€	€
	Other income	10,622	-	10,622	8,369
		<u>10,622</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,622</u>	<u>8,369</u>
5. EXPENDITURE					
5.1 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		Direct Costs	Other Costs	Support Costs	2022
		€	€	€	€
	Expenditure on charitable activities	204,278	-	122,754	327,032
		<u>204,278</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>122,754</u>	<u>327,032</u>
5.2 SUPPORT COSTS			Charitable Activities	2022	2021
			€	€	€
	Wages and salaries		65,525	65,525	53,239
	Rent and Rates		17,542	17,542	8,100
	Professional services		22,900	22,900	22,526
	Other operating and administrative expenditure		16,787	16,787	44,743
			<u>122,754</u>	<u>122,754</u>	<u>128,608</u>

Feis Ceoil Association
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 July 2022

continued

7. EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION

Number of employees

The average number of persons employed (including executive directors) during the financial year was as follows:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Administrator	1	1
The staff costs comprise:	2022 €	2021 €
Wages and salaries	50,000	49,049
Social security costs	5,525	4,190
Pension costs	10,000	-
	65,525	53,239

8. INVESTMENTS

	Other investments €	Total €
Investments		
At 1 August 2021	200,771	200,771
Revaluations	(2,271)	1,529
At 31 July 2022	198,500	202,300
Revaluation		
At 31 July 2022	198,500	202,300
At 31 July 2021	200,771	200,771

The Charities Regulator held, on behalf of the company, 36,950 units of a common investment fund, administered by AIB Investment Managers Ltd. The value per unit as at 30 June 2022 was €5.42 (30 June 2021: €5.48 unit), the latest written valuation available. The value basis for this investment is fair value.

Included in Investments is Prize Bonds of €38.00

Unrecognised investments held in trust

The Company holds a further 9,832 units of the same common investment fund in trust on behalf of certain donors. Income generated from these investments is held in bank accounts administered by the Company, for which an offsetting liability has been recognised to pay these amounts in prizes and bursaries at the company's discretion.

Edith Best Scholarship €12,673
Mairin Ni She Bursary €7,604
Arthur Caterall Cup €32,951
Gertrude Morris-Grant Bursary €1,774
Total €55,003

Feis Ceoil Association
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 July 2022

continued

9. DEBTORS

	2022 €	2021 €
Prepayments	10,130	5,662
Grant income receivable	16,275	36,275
	26,405	41,937

10. CREDITORS
Amounts falling due within one year

	2022 €	2021 €
Trade creditors	1,871	-
Taxation and social security costs	1,902	2,316
Trust fund liabilities (note 17)	17,214	15,838
Accruals	4,922	4,920
Deferred Income	-	47,600
	25,909	70,674

11. RESERVES

	2022 €	2021 €
At 1 August 2021	324,389	286,680
Surplus for the financial year	112,381	37,709
At 31 July 2022	436,770	324,389

12. FUNDS
12.1 RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	Total Funds €
At 1 August 2020	286,680	-	286,680
Movement during the financial year	37,709	-	37,709
At 31 July 2021	324,389	-	324,389
Movement during the financial year	17,381	95,000	112,381
At 31 July 2022	341,770	95,000	436,770

12.2 ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON FUNDS

	Balance 1 August 2021 €	Income €	Expenditure €	Transfers between funds €	Balance 31 July 2022 €
Restricted funds					
Restricted	-	119,525	37,575	13,050	95,000
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted General	324,389	322,159	291,728	(13,050)	341,770
Total funds	324,389	441,684	329,303	-	436,770

Feis Ceoil Association
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

continued

for the financial year ended 31 July 2022

12.3 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Financial fixed assets	Current assets	Current liabilities	Total
	€	€	€	€
Restricted trust funds	-	164,223	(17,214)	147,009
Unrestricted general funds	198,500	99,956	(8,695)	289,761
	202,300	264,179	(25,909)	436,770

13. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2022	2021
	€	€
Cash and bank balances	73,551	128,344
Cash equivalents	164,223	24,011
	237,774	152,355

14. POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since the financial year-end.

15. Trust Funds

	2022	2021
	€	€
Edith Best Scholarship	8,644	8,318
Gertrude Morris - Grant Bursary	3,148	2,295
Mairin Ní She Bursary	5,422	5,225
	17,214	15,838

16. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on **6th December 2022**



Feis Ceoil

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Feis Ceoil is a Charity registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority of Ireland,
Registered Charity No: 20005771