

JONAS FOUNDATION UK – Reg Charity No 114 84 14

7, Sydney Place, London, S.W.7 3NL

www.jonasfoundationuk.org

Trustees : Anita Buser, David Soro Russell, Christine Sigwart-Sartorius

The mission of the Jonas Foundation is :

- To promote social integration of young people through educational projects, namely through music and in the arts in general.
- - to promote trust and understanding among young people from different origin, religion, tradition and background.

The Jonas Foundation is founded on Christian ethics. It runs activities in schools, orphanages, community centres and churches. It welcomes students from any religion and origin.

The Jonas Foundation UK takes its origin in the « Rossignols de Soho », French Protestant Church London and in the « Swiss Church Music School ».

The Jonas Foundation (Switzerland – www.jonasfoundation.org) has strong ties to the Jonas Foundation UK (www.jonasfoundationuk.org)

In England, the Foundation supports :

- A Music Project in South London (since 2001)
- Music therapy at a residential special school for vulnerable children (Barnardos) (Since 2004)
- Holiday workshops, trips and camps

TRUSTEES' REPORT 2024

The projects of the Jonas Foundation UK have been running smoothly, The activities achieved their defined goals, promoting integration, friendship and mutual understanding through music and the arts.

In an enjoyable way, students have shown great enthusiasm, progressing in their musical and social skills.

The Jonas Foundation UK supported the following projects:

- 1) **Music therapy at a residential special school for vulnerable children (Meadows School, Barnardos)** – Start of the project: 2004
See the Annual Report 2024 (by Peter Rayner)

- 2) **The Jonas Foundation Music Project at St Mary's Newington Church,**
London, S.E.11 4JQ (Rector the Revd Stuart Labran

Coordinator of the project : Felix Buser, cello

Piano : Stuart Whatton ; Recorder and clarinet : Sue Klein ;

Flute : Yu-Wei Hu ; Children's Choir: Stephanie James (volunteer);

Violin and Music Theory: Franka Bonzel (volunteer);

Website: Isabela Bruna (volunteer)

In 2024, the Jonas Music project welcomed 25 pupils. They attended music lessons in piano, flute, recorder, cello, violon and in music theory. Singing with the choir is compulsory. It is a pleasure to hear the children. Even boys appear to enjoy singing !

The highlight of the year has been devising the musical „Jonah and the Whale“ (by Amy White). The workshop which took place during the Mid-Term Holidays in May 2024, showed how much the children, their Mums and teachers were delighted by creating a performance, which has been played in July, in front of a public, at the Hill House International School Founders' Hall, 2, Radnor Walk, London, S.W.3

Darcy Dixon, a member of our Alumni (student at the Royal Academy of Drama and the Arts, RADA) has been of great assistance to the children by bringing them to a higher level of expression (A huge „thank you!).

The performance has been a wonderful success!

A huge surprise came during Summer: An invitation from the « Kinder Akademie Fulda » to perform „Jonah and the Whale“ at the Children's Museum Fulda, on September 21st 2024.

To be invited to go abroad, to stay with host families, to make friends, to perform in front of an audience, that differed substantially from

what they had experienced, so far... has been, for the children, a moving and great experience!

During Summer 2024, a pupil, Erik, won a „choral scholarship“ (Rodolphus Foundation).

We congratulate all students who have passed their Exams, some of them with „Merit“ (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, ABRSM).

We had the pleasure of welcoming a volunteer, a student in Drama and Music (Birbeck College, London).

Franka came to England on an „Erasmus exchange“ (European Universities' program, offering students the opportunity to study a year abroad).

We thank Franka from the bottom of our hearts !

At the end of the School Year, we had to say „Good bye“ to an old friend and teacher, Sue Klein. Sue Klein has been teaching Recorder and Clarinet at the Jonas Foundation Music Project for fifteen years. She has been greatly appreciated for her invaluable teaching and her joyous spirit !

We thank Sue Klein immensely and are wishing her long years of happy retirement !

We thank Isabela very much for keeping a steady eye on our website. Her engagement is ever so precious.

The Christmas Carols Service at St Mary's Newington Church has been a great conclusion of the Year 2024 !

Revd Stuart Labran had invited children from local Primary Schools to join.

Prior to the Church Service, the Trustees have been asked to the Rectory, along with local school teachers, to enjoy a lovely Christmas Tea !

Revd Stuart Labran showed great enthusiasm for the work of the
« Jonas Foundation Music Project ».

What will the future bring.. ?

Father Stuart Labran would like to widen the horizon by inviting more
pupils from Southwark to the „Jonas“ Music Project.

Each year is a new adventure...

The vision remains the same.

Bridging youngsters from diverse backgrounds, promoting social
integration and hope through music and the arts.

We feel grateful for what has been achieved... !

Christine Sigwart-Sartorius

Trustee, Chair

17th September 2025