



Supporting WRE: further information

Thank you for taking the time to read further about how to sponsor us. This document gives more details of what it costs to run the group, some examples of projects either in progress or in the pipeline, and what our aims and aspirations are as a cutting-edge collective of today's and tomorrow's professional musicians, based in Sheffield.

Typical costs

To give you an idea, here are some of the kinds of costs we need to meet:

CONCERTS

- £150 - £500 to hire a venue in which to give a concert (we aim to give at least three concerts we ourselves devise per season)
- £300 per player to rehearse and perform in a concert

RECORDINGS

- £2000 in recording engineering costs to make a professional standard recording of music equivalent to the length of a CD, (plus paying players)

INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE / HIRE

- £70 to 200 for a set of instrument strings (violin, viola, cello)
- £20 for bow rosin and £80 for bow re-hairing
- c.£800 to hire a good, medium-sized grand piano for a concert
- c.£100 for one piano tuning for a concert

Development plan

Our ambition is to be able to support a core string quartet to rehearse twice per month, and pay the players to do this at an equitable MU-based rate of £150 per rehearsal (total: £1200/month). In addition we want to be in a position to pay for administrative and IT assistance to manage and enhance our activities, at £300/month. This would allow us to craft our sound and further develop the complex ecosystemic elements of intensive chamber music playing to the highest professional standards. IT and administrative assistance will allow us to be well organised, develop our visibility, and ensure that project execution is to the highest standard.

Specific projects in the pipeline

To give you a flavour of what we do, the following major projects are in progress or planning for 2025:

1. In-progress string quartet concert (February 22, 2025) of quartets by Beethoven, Dvořák, and Shostakovich, led by WRE apprentice performer, Maria Nikolaeva. Approximate cost: £2100-2300, supported by ticket sales and a crowdfunder campaign for £500.
2. A professional recording (video) of Tchaikovsky *Souvenir de Florence* and Shostakovich String Quartet no. 8, led by David Milsom and Maria Nikolaeva respectively, for publication on our YouTube channel, and also possible audio release on CD. The costs are likely to come to £3500, with £3000 already pledged in sponsorship donation.
3. A 'project day' for a WRE-led collection of professional and student players in an orchestral programme (September 2025) the centrepiece being the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor, with Maria Nikolaeva as soloist: this performance not only acts as Maria's solo concerto debut, but also foregrounds David Milsom's academic research into historical performance and educational work. Costs are likely to be around £3000 for necessary professional fees and venue hire.
4. A concert collaboration between St Marie's Cathedral, Sheffield, and West Riding Ensemble in a performance of Vaughan Williams Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis, Poulenc Organ Concerto (soloist St Marie's organist, Robert Webb), and the world premiere of a new concerto grosso written for WRE and dedicated to David Milsom and Maria Nikolaeva by Cambridge and Manchester-trained composer, Ian Crew. Costs (c.£4000) will be met by ticket sales and fundraising, with support from St Marie's Cathedral.

Further project plans

- recording of string quartets by Čiurlionis (given the academic expertise of WRE cellist, Dr George Kennaway)
- concert featuring music by northern composers such as Delius, Walton, Sterndale-Bennett et al
- nineteenth-century historical performance concert on period instruments of quartets by Czerny and Mendelssohn, given Kennaway's and Milsom's international reputations as scholars of nineteenth-century string performing practices, and building on Nikolaeva's pioneering experience, for her stage of life, in playing in this style and manner
- trip to Paris to perform music with WRE launch concert pianist, Alice Power.

All of these examples would be made all the more effective and far-reaching with funding for our Development Plan.

Sponsorship Packages

[SEE ALSO OUR 'BECOME A SUPPORTER' WEBPAGE](#)

- **PATREON** – for smaller monthly amounts, with graded benefits according to size of donation.
- **CROWDFUNDER** – to help raise funds for individual projects.
- **'FRIEND OF WRE' (LARGE DONOR)** – more substantial sponsorship (£50+ per month, or a large one-off donation) by individuals or organisations who buy into the bespoke, independent, innovative, and fresh vision of this group, and who want to realise the cultural and artistic benefits of being a more major benefactor.

Contributions of £50/month or more allow you or your organisation to become a 'Friend of WRE', with the following benefits/tokens of our appreciation:

- £50 per month or more: you will have access to our final, on-the-day rehearsal in the venue, and can watch the musicians working together to prepare the final concert. We will also provide space for a logo for publicity in our programme, as well as listing your name in our list of sponsors
- £100 per month or more: in addition to the above, 2 free tickets to each of our own (WRE promoted) concerts, plus a full-page advert in our programmes.
- £300 per month or more: in addition to the above, one free chamber music performance per year at a corporate event (for example, string quartet background music to a drinks reception), and up to two more at 50% of our normal rate, plus a full-page advert in our programmes.

To discuss how you might best support WRE, please get in touch at westridingensemble@gmail.com.