



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st August 2023 To 31st July 2024

Charity name: Sinfonia of Leeds

Charity registration number: 1021886

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	The objects of the Society shall be to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Presentation of four symphonic concerts during the year.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	In planning our activities for the year the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Sinfonia of Leeds 2023-2024 season was a varied, challenging and familiar programme for both members and audiences alike. The performance of Bluebeard's Castle (Bartók) was an exceptional undertaking for players and the orchestra committee - bringing a work of this nature to St Edmund's of Roundhay was an extraordinary opportunity for members and for our audience to experience the likes of Henry Waddington and Yvonne Howard at such close quarters and accessible ticket prices.</p> <p>Our first programme delivered Finnish nationalism and a Russian epic. Sibelius's Finlandia, both rousing and turbulent, is a stark contrast to the Adagio for Strings by Samuel Barber, a piece of sublime calm and beauty. Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2 was an enormous effort for players. To complete the programme was Dvorák's Slavonic Dance No. 8, a live performance of the orchestra's second online lockdown project, a moving experience revisiting a work that took us back to the depths of covid, reminding us all just how important the network of Sinfonia of Leeds is to all who are part of it.</p> <p>Our artistic director David Greed swapped baton for violin in January in a performance of Brahms' much loved Violin Concerto, alongside the composer's Symphony No. 2. It was an electrifying experience for the orchestra and our audience to experience David as a soloist, and this concert was all but sold out. Unfortunately, Tony Kraus fell ill just before the concert weekend and the committee and David worked hard to find a conductor who could step in at the last moment to conduct the concert with experience and understanding of the ability of an amateur orchestra. We were very fortunate that Peter Stark travelled from London to conduct the concert and the experience was incredible for us all to work with a conductor of his calibre, despite us all missing the beloved Tony Kraus.</p> <p>In March SOL embarked on one of the orchestra's most ambitious projects: Bartók's only work for the stage, Duke Bluebeard's Castle, sung in English. This intense psychodrama needs no opera house or set, as the orchestra vividly portrays the castle with its grandiose and grizzly secrets. We were extremely fortunate to be able to welcome international artists Yvonne Howard and Henry Waddington to perform with our orchestra, in an experience usually reserved for much higher ticket prices.</p> <p>As a season finale, Blair Sinclair (Principal Trombone, Opera North) played unfamiliar but brilliant works by Nino Rota and Leopold Mozart,</p>

		<p>while the orchestra completed the programme with Wagner, Ravel and Tchaikovsky.</p> <p>Concert 1: 11 November 2023 Sibelius - Finlandia Barber - Adagio Dvorak - Slavonic Dance No. 8 Rachmaninov - Symphony No. 2 Conductor David Greed</p> <p>Concert 2: Saturday 20 January 2024 Brahms - Violin Concerto Brahms - Symphony No. 2 Soloist David Greed Conductor Peter Stark (replacement for Tony Kraus who was unwell)</p> <p>Concert 3: Saturday 23 March 2024 Haydn - Symphony No. 90 Bartók - Duke Bluebeard's Castle Soloists Henry Waddington & Yvonne Howard Conductor Tony Kraus</p> <p>Concert 4: Saturday 22 June 2024 Wagner - Overture 'Rienzi' Ravel - Pavane pour une Infante défunte Leopold Mozart - Trombone Concerto Nino Rota - Trombone Concerto Tchaikovsky - The Nutcracker Act 1 (highlights) Soloist Blair Sinclair Conductor David Greed</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	<p>The 23/24 programme was ambitious and varied and took the skill and ability of both the orchestra and the committee to new levels, especially in regards to the performance of Bluebeard's Castle. A last minute illness of conductor Tony Kraus in the second programme of the year saw us bring in an external professional conductor. The entire orchestra was saddened to miss working with Tony Kraus to complete his Brahms symphony cycle but everyone got so much out of professional conductor Peter Stark coming to take rehearsals at the last minute and rallied together in the final rehearsal before the performance with a new conductor.</p>
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Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	<p>Our 23/24 box office target was £8780 and we brought in £10184 - the first two concerts we sold almost 163% and 148% respectively of our target, the second two came in under at 71% and 89% of forecast.</p> <p>The regular and committed membership base accounted for a third of our income, and in the 2023/2024 financial year we received £11129.</p> <p>We saw an increase in the amount of donations in our 'patrons' scheme, which brought us £2660, an increase on the projected £1800 (NB two of the patron payments reported in the 23/24 financial year were for the 24/25 season).</p> <p>In this financial year, we have received payments for two years of Gift Aid returns: £5504.36 (22/23) and £3286.48 (23/24), totalling £8790.84 received this financial year.</p> <p>Likewise, we received a Orchestra Tax Relief return for both the 22/23 and 23/24 seasons within this financial year. This accounts for £16445 of our income (£7767 for 22/23 and £8678 for 23/24 respectively).</p>
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	At the end of the 2023/24 season, the orchestra has built up to have almost a year's operating costs in the bank. This is due to catching up with gift aid and orchestra tax relief returns after covid, a small raise in membership fees and ticket prices (ticket prices were raised for the first time in almost 12 years to help reflect the artistic quality of concerts presented, in particular soloists and conductors).
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>Reserves are held at the discretion of the treasurers in consultation with the whole committee and with the Sinfonia of Leeds Ltd. directors.</p> <p>Due to receiving two years' worth of returns of both gift aid and orchestra tax relief in the 2023/24 financial year, in addition to a noticeable increase in box office attendance, we built to have roughly a year's operations costs in cash reserves. The committee is committed to not go beyond this and has begun to use these funds to invest back into assets (e.g. purchasing of a new suite of stands), programming (larger works with more extras, percussion, expensive music hire costs) and a sensible increase of artist fees.</p> <p>Looking beyond the 25/26 season Sinfonia of Leeds will see a change in artistic leadership and more frequent guest conductors who may require investment into travel and other subsistence, something which the orchestra has not had to consider in recent years due to the locality and agreements made with the current permanent conductors. The illness of Tony Kraus in our second concert of the year highlighted the need to have sensible reserves in our bank account so the committee can appropriately respond to emergency needs in replacing conductors or soloists at short notice with those who are professional and experienced enough to do so, which often come with higher fees. Ensuring there are funds to cover last minute artistic illness is sensible and responsible.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Balance of funds at the end of the 23/24 financial year was £33,729.09
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>There are 4 sources of funding - this year saw a higher than usual income owing to receiving two years' worth of returns for both gift aid and OTR. See below for details.</p> <p><u>Box Office - 20% of income</u> The 23/24 box office target was £8780 and we received £10184.</p> <p><u>Subscriptions - 22% of income</u> There were 72 paying members in 2023/24. Subscriptions totalled £11129.</p> <p><u>Patrons/Donation - 5% of income</u></p>
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		<p>Patron donations totalled £2660. NB two of the payments received in the 23/24 financial year were for the 24/25 season.</p> <p><u>Gift Aid - 17% of income</u> In this financial year, SOL received the payments for two years: £5504.36 (22/23), £3286.48 (23/24), totalling £8790.84.</p> <p><u>OTR - 32% of income</u> We received a Orchestra Tax Relief return for both the 22/23 and 23/24 seasons within this financial year. This accounts for £16445 of our income (£7767 and £8678 respectively).</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>Loss of Income The main identifiable risk is the changing cost of living and ability of audience members to attend a concert (or ideally regular concerts) of Sinfonia of Leeds</p> <p>Increasing Costs Our venue's current fee structure is the foundation of our budget. There aren't other venues of the size of our performance venue which are easily comparable in facility and cost. Likewise our rehearsal venue which is unavailable to us during 2025/2026 due to building renovation forcing us to search elsewhere for a comparable facility with a comparable cost.</p>
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Trust
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Volunteers who are elected by the orchestra membership at AGM

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Sinfonia of Leeds
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1021886
Charity's principal address	C/O The Treasurer 62 Oxford Avenue Guiseley LS20 9BX

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

		Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
	1	ALISON GILCHRIST	n/a		
	2	VALERIE STYGALL	SECRETARY		
	3	EMMA BARNETT	TREASURER		
	4	LESLIE BROADHEAD	CHAIR PERSON		
	5	ADRIAN STYGALL	n/a		
	6				
	7				
	8				
	9				
	10				
	11				
	12				
	13				
	14				
	15				
	16				
	17				
	18				
	19				
	20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

	Type of adviser	Name	Address
	Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)		

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A


Other optional information

N/A

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

	Signature(s)		
	Full name(s)	Emma Anne Barnett	
	Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	
	Date	27/05/2025	



Charity Name Sinfonia of Leeds	No (if any) 1021886
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Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date 1/8/2023	To	Period end date 31/7/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Generated Funds	40,180	-	-	40,180	24,457
Charitable Activities	10,518	-	-	10,518	7,829
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	50,698	-	-	50,698	32,286

A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
None	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	50,698	-	-	50,698	32,286

A3 Payments

Charitable Activities	31,571	-	-	31,571	29,762
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	31,571	-	-	31,571	29,762

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
None	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	

Total payments	31,571	-	-	31,571	29,762
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Net of receipts/(payments)	19,127	-	-	19,127	2,524
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	14,733	-	-	14,733	12,209
Cash funds this year end	33,860	-	-	33,860	14,733

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank and in hand	33,860	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Total cash funds	33,860	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account (s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

B5 Liabilities


Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

	Emma Barnett	27/05/2025

FR Michel

Date: 22/05/25

PHILIP MICHEL

CIMA

62 OXFORD AVENUE

GUISELEY

LS20 9BX



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

JINFONIA OF LEEDS

On accounts for the year
ended

Charity no
(if any)

Set out on pages

(Remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

PR Michel

Date:

22/05/25

Name:

PHILIP MICHEL

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

CIMA

Address:

62 OXFORD AVENUE
GUISELEY
LS20 9BX