

Company registration No. 02864170 (England and Wales)
Charity registration No. 1035615

KENTISH OPERA

(A company limited by guarantee)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

KENTISH OPERA

Reference and Administrative Details

Secretary Philip Wallace

Principal Office Beech Hill
69 Kippington Road
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 2LN

Registered office Beech Hill
69 Kippington Road
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 2LN

The charity is incorporated in England & Wales

Solicitors Thackray Williams
Kings House
32-40 Widmore Road
Bromley
Kent
BR1 1RY

Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd	HSBC Sevenoaks
	25 Kings Hill Avenue	69 High Street
	West Malling	Sevenoaks
	Kent	Kent
	ME19 4JQ	TN13 1LB

Independent Examiner Harrison Hill Castle & Co - Chartered Accountants
Melbury House
34 Southborough Road
Bickley
Kent
BR1 2EB

KENTISH OPERA

Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Trustees

Ian Alexander, Chairman
Gillian Bishop (appointed 17/7/23)
Alice Blogg
Nicola Blogg
Richard Broadley (resigned 10/1/23)
Raymond Harsant (resigned 16/2/23)
Rita McKay
Jacquelyn Moore (resigned 17/7/23)
Edward Palmer
Robert Skone James, Hon Treasurer
Philip Wallace, Secretary
Peter Whiston

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The Company is a registered Charity number 1035615 and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. It is run by a Council of Management (who are the Trustees) which must consist of a minimum of three persons. There is no maximum number. The members of the Company comprise a mixture of acting and non-acting members and also voluntary helpers who subscribe to the objects of the Company.

The Company's main objects, as stated in the Memorandum are:

"To educate the public in the operatic arts and to further the development of public appreciation and taste in the said arts".

To achieve the above objects, the Company performs up to two full-scale grand operas in English each year. The Company also performs from time to time smaller operetta and concerts at local venues in Bromley, Croydon and North Kent and Central London locations.

The Council and members strongly believe that it is important to produce operas to the highest professional standards and in a basically traditional manner so that the public attending performances is able to appreciate the operas performed as the composers conceived them.

Current Year

In the 2022-2023 season we put on two shows. These were a series of performances of Yeomen of the Guard by Gilbert and Sullivan in April at the Stag Theatre Sevenoaks, and two performances of an opera Gala at Chiddingstone Castle.

The audience level for Yeomen was significantly higher than for Tales of Hoffmann in 2021-2022 which is pleasing although this represented 60% occupancy and we would like to increase that number in future years. By controlling scenery and costume costs and as a result of a generous donation, losses were much less than those budgeted and were manageable within our reserves.

Attendance at the Gala was similar to that in 2021-2022 but given the increase in aircraft noise over that for the previous two years we plan an alternative venue in Summer 2024.

We ended the season with a healthy surplus, partly due to a substantial Theatre Tax Relief payment, which puts us in a good position going in to 2023-2024 but knowing we must continue to control costs carefully and strive to increase audience levels still further.

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Trustees' Report (Continued)

For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Risk Management

Expenditure is carefully budgeted and much reduced by the significant use of volunteers in many areas, e.g. own box office, front of house, assisting in building sets, assisting in making and altering costumes, chorus and general administration.

The major risk area is the box office which is unpredictable. The choice of opera, however, is the key factor since there is generally resistance from our suburban audience to attend in the required numbers to operas they are not familiar with. Nevertheless, one of the objectives of Kentish Opera is to produce from time to time less popular operas in order to educate and broaden our audience's taste. This can only be done if either reserves are at a comfortable level or additional income through sponsorship is achieved.

Reserves and Outlook

The steps we took in 2022-2023 to mitigate the losses of the previous season have worked and we ended the season with healthy reserves of £66,634 (2022: £55,482). In 2023-2024 we intend to continue our efforts to control expenditure and reduce losses. In parallel though we will continue to seek grants, increase the number of Friends, and look for other sources of income.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

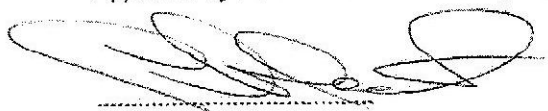
The trustees (who are also the directors of Kentish Opera for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on the 5 January 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Ian Alexander, Chairman
Trustee

KENTISH OPERA

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Kentish Opera

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023 which are set out on pages 6 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

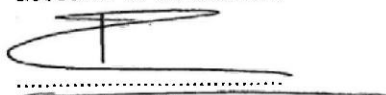
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention;

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


PR Castle FCA

Harrison Hill Castle & Co
Melbury House
34 Southborough Road
Bickley
Bromley
Kent
BR1 2EB
5 January 2024

KENTISH OPERA

Statement of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

		Unrestricted funds	
	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Donations and legacies	3	9,360	10,248
Charitable activities	4	56,769	42,256
Investment income	5	94	29
Total income		<u>66,223</u>	<u>52,533</u>
Charitable activities	6	55,071	99,903
Interest payable and similar expenses		<u>55,071</u>	<u>99,903</u>
Net income		11,152	(47,370)
Total funds brought forward		55,482	102,852
Total funds carried forward	14	<u><u>66,634</u></u>	<u><u>55,482</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the two periods. The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 14.

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Balance Sheet

As at 31 August 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9		-		-
Currents assets					
Debtors	10	3,541		3,237	
Cash at bank and in hand		64,523		53,625	
		<u>68,064</u>		<u>56,862</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(1,089)</u>		<u>(1,380)</u>	
Net current assets			66,975		55,482
Net assets			<u>66,975</u>		<u>55,482</u>
Funds of the charity					
Unrestricted income funds			66,975		55,482
Total funds	12		<u>66,975</u>		<u>55,482</u>

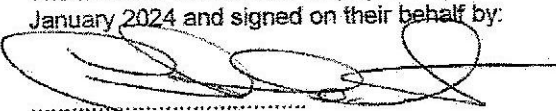
For the financial year ending 31 August 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

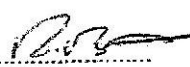
Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements on pages 6 to 16 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 5 January 2024 and signed on their behalf by:


Ian Alexander, Chairman
Trustee


Robert Skone James, Hon Treasurer
Trustee

KENTISH OPERA

Notes to the financial statements

For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

1 Charity status

The charity is a charity limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £Nil towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Kentish Opera meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

Box Office receipts are taken up in the year in which the productions are performed. Membership fees are included on a received basis.

Donations and legacies

Donations, unless allocated for a specific production, are accounted for in the year in which they are received. Legacies are accounted for in the year in which they are received.

Grants receivable

Grants, unless allocated for a specific production, are accounted for in the year in which they are received. These are included in the income derived from charitable activities.

KENTISH OPERA

Notes to the financial statements (Continued)

For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

Charitable activities

Kentish Opera's charitable activities consist of the putting-on of operas and other related classical music events consistent with the main objects of the company being "to educate the public in the operatic arts and to further the development of public appreciation and taste in the said arts".

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, and, most particularly, the independent examiner's fee.

Government grants

Grants can be received from Sevenoaks District Arts Council. Theatre Tax Relief is also received.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment are depreciated over the estimated useful life of the asset. Expenditure on costumes and scenery is charged in the production account of the year in question.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life.

Asset class

Furniture & equipment

Depreciation method and rate

25% on cost

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

KENTISH OPERA

Notes to the financial statements (Continued)

For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

3 Income from donations and legacies

	2023 £	2022 £
Donations from individuals	9,360	5,248
Legacies	-	5,000
	<u>9,360</u>	<u>10,248</u>

4 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Box office receipts & performance fees	31,295	36,078
Membership subscriptions & fees	1,225	3,404
Programme sales & advertising	1,067	-
Grants & sundry income	778	-
Hire of costumes, scenery, events & sundry income	286	-
Gift aid tax relief	1,792	1,877
Theatre tax relief	20,326	897
	<u>56,769</u>	<u>42,256</u>

5 Investment income

	2023 £	2022 £
Interest receivable and similar income	<u>94</u>	<u>29</u>

6 Charitable activities

		2023 £	2022 £
Opera Company (note 7)	7	54,231	99,103
Governance costs		840	800
		<u>55,071</u>	<u>99,903</u>

Governance costs represent fees paid to the Independent examiner to complete the examination of the financial statements.

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Notes to the financial statements (Continued)

For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

7	Opera Company	2023 £	2022 £
	Production directors' fees	5,800	8,950
	Principals' fees	8,850	18,600
	Theatre/venue rent & expenses	9,000	17,654
	Orchestra & related costs	8,707	12,590
	Scenery	90	16,036
	Scores	161	250
	Rehearsal halls	1,778	2,743
	Rehearsal pianists/repertoire	58	651
	Publicity & printing	3,804	6,174
	Programmes (net)	1,106	(347)
	Costumes & wigs	5,131	7,697
	Lighting	-	1,141
	Production sundries	280	830
	Insurance	2,235	2,341
	Printing, postage & stationery	341	48
	Sundry admin expenses	612	97
	Scenery & costume storage	3,188	3,096
	Professional fees	3,000	132
	Donations	90	-
	Depreciation re new trailer	-	420
		<u>54,231</u>	<u>99,103</u>

For both years, all of the above expenditure was attributable to unrestricted funds.

8 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, the Trustees (Members of the Council of Management) were reimbursed for expenditure totalling £2,407 (2022 - £4,261) incurred on behalf of the Company. The majority of this expenditure related to publicity, advertising, programme production costs and sundry production expenses.

Apart from performance fees of £1,030 paid to one trustee and family member, no other trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

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Notes to the financial statements (Continued)

For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

9	Tangible fixed assets		£
			Furniture & equipment
	Cost		
	At 1 September 2022		6,938
	Additions		-
	Eliminated in respect of disposals		-
			<u>6,938</u>
	At 31 August 2023		
	Depreciation and impairment		
	At 1 September 2022		6,938
	Depreciation charged in the year		-
	Eliminated in respect of disposals		-
			<u>6,938</u>
	At 31 August 2023		
	Net book value		
	At 31 August 2023		<u>-</u>
	At 31 August 2022		<u>-</u>
10	Debtors	2023	2022
		£	£
		3,541	3,237
		<u></u>	<u></u>
11	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
		£	£
		1,089	1,380
		<u></u>	<u></u>

KENTISH OPERA

Notes to the financial statements (Continued)

For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

12 Funds

	Balance 01-Sep-22 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance 31-Aug-23 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	15,197	66,223	(55,071)	4,130	30,479
Designated (note 15 & 16)	40,285	341	-	(4,130)	36,496
Total funds	<u>55,482</u>	<u>66,564</u>	<u>(55,071)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>66,975</u>

13 Analysis of net funds

	Balance 01-Sep-22 £	Cash flow £	Balance 31-Aug-23 £
Cash at bank	53,625	10,898	64,523
Net funds	<u>53,625</u>	<u>10,898</u>	<u>64,523</u>

14 Analysis of net funds

There were no related party transactions in the year.

15 Pearl Clements fund

	2023 £	2022 £
Balance brought forward	4,128	9,028
Payment from the estate of Mr A Clements	-	5,000
Expended in year	-	(9,902)
Transfer to General fund	(4,130)	
Interest received	2	2
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,128</u>

The Designated Unrestricted Fund No 1 is the Pearl Clements Fund, which was established by Mr Alan Clements in 1995 in memory of his late wife, Pearl Clements, with the intention that these funds would assist Kentish Opera to mount concerts and to support the engagement of promising young singers in its opera productions. Mr Clements later agreed that Kentish Opera can use these funds generally and so they are no longer "Restricted". Mr Clements has passed away but Kentish Opera continues to receive generous donations from his estate.

The Pearl Clements Fund has now been transferred into our general reserves.

KENTISH OPERA

Notes to the financial statements (Continued)

For the Year Ended 31 August 2023

16	John Cass fund	2023 £	2022 £
	Balance brought forward	36,157	60,664
	Received form the John Cass estate	-	-
	Expended in year	-	(24,507)
	Interest received	339	-
		<u>36,496</u>	<u>36,157</u>

The Designated Unrestricted Fund No 2 is the John Cass Fund, which was established by a legacy from the estate of John Cass in 2019. This is a general legacy and will assist Kentish Opera to mount opera and concerts and to support the engagement of promising young singers in its opera productions