

Company registration no. 3685489

Music Illuminated

Registered charity no 1074016

Report and Accounts for the period ended 31 August 2020

Directors (at 31 August 2020):

Matthew Saunders
Fiona Cairney
Katherine Hattersley

Registered address:

20 Wimborne Close
Epsom
Surrey
KT17 4DP

Registered in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee without share capital.

Review of activities 2019–2020

The Ernest Read Symphony Orchestra (ERSO) was founded in 1931 by Ernest Read, the pioneer in the development of music education and youth orchestras.

The charity Music Illuminated was formed in 1998 by ERSO members in order to continue the running of the orchestra following the ending of this role by the Ernest Read Music Association.

ERSO takes great pride in working to a very high musical standard. Almost ninety years after the orchestra was founded, the community of musicians who make up ERSO strives to continue Ernest Read's legacy with our charitable work with emerging professional musicians and children together with our core symphonic concerts which aim to illuminate the music to our audiences.

October 2019 concert

The 2019-20 season began with our "Mozart and Mendelssohn" concert at St John's Church, Waterloo. Our audience clearly appreciated soloist Isabella Fleming's beautifully sensitive and accomplished performance of Mozart's 2nd Violin concerto. Bella was a Finalist in the 2019 ERSO Soloist of the Year competition and we were so impressed by her performance in the Final that we awarded her a solo opportunity.

The evening commenced with the striking Chavez arrangement of Buxtehude's Chaconne and concluded with a stirring performance of Mendelssohn's Reformation Symphony.

November 2019 "Firebird" Choral concert with the Camden School for Girls

We worked with the Music Department to design a concert which gave talented young singers and players from the school the chance to work closely with ERSO in a high quality, live performance. The school has many GCSE and A level music students, but limited funding and resources, and were very excited to work with ERSO on this project which was part of our wider programme "Supporting Camden Children's Musical Journeys".

The concert programme included ERSO performing Stravinsky's Firebird Suite, which was being studied by the school's A level students as part of their 20th century music module. The Music Department were extremely pleased to have the opportunity to allow the A level students to hear a live performance of one of their set works, particularly as many of the school's student come from disadvantaged backgrounds and may not have the financial resources to attend concert. Our performance of Firebird was prefaced by commentary from their Head of Music to highlight key aspects of the work.

We identified with the school that there were a number of talented young solo singers who would benefit from the chance to sing as a soloist accompanied by a real orchestra. Considerable care was taken to source arrangements of the chosen pieces in the best key for the young singers' voices and we dedicated rehearsal time in the week before the concert to working with the singers to allow them to become accustomed to singing with an orchestra.

Working with the school's music department we also identified at there were a number of very able orchestral players who would benefit from playing the with orchestra under the direction of our professional conductor. We dedicated a significant portion of our concert

day rehearsal to working with these young people on Mussorgsky's stirring Night on Bare Mountain. These pupils benefitted from sitting within the orchestra for the entire concert, giving them the chance to experience what it would be like to play with a more advanced ensemble and to hear what their instrument could sound like as they progress. We received positive feedback from the pupils: *"I really enjoyed sitting in the viola section for the Firebird"*.

The school's excellent chamber choir is made up of around 30 young singers, mainly aged around 14 or 15 years old, who had never sung with an orchestra before. The music department selected Charpentier's Messe de Minuit as an appropriately challenging piece which would suit their voices and also allow opportunities for some of the choir to sing solos. We designed our rehearsal process to ensure that there was time set aside in the week prior to the concert to work with the choir so that we could identify any problem areas and rectify these prior to the concert day.

As a result, we were able to make some changes to the concert day rehearsal session to ensure that there was increased time provided for the solo singers and choir to enable them to become truly confident in their performances with the orchestra.

The concert had a substantial audience which included families and friends of the young performers, members of the church's congregation and music students from the school. The concert was very successful - the children who performed with us and audience all gave extremely positive feedback as did the school's Music Department.

Feedback from parents included: *"Amazing! SO inspiring and SO good!"*, *"A fantastic opportunity for the students to sing with an orchestra"*, *"Great mixture of repertoire - stretching the young musicians but still really enjoyable"*, *"A fantastic collaboration. Long may it continue"*, *"Wonderful opportunity for our daughter to be introduced to such diverse repertoire - thank you so much!"*, *"Wonderfully ambitious programme and incredible showcase for the talented students of CSG."*

Feedback from the pupils performing included: *"Wide variety of music. Fantastic concert!"*, *"I especially enjoyed the varying genres of music because they kept my interest and suited everyone in the audience"*, *"Please do another concert next year! I loved singing in the church"*.

February 2020 concert

In February we returned to St John's for our "Brahms and Debussy" concert. Soloist Chu Yu Yang, a 2019 finalist in the ERSO Soloist of the Year competition, gave a lyrical and immensely accomplished performance of the Lark Ascending. Conductor Chris illuminated La Mer to our audience using some well-chosen musical examples followed by the full work and the evening ended with a stirring performance of Brahms' 1st Symphony which was warmly applauded by our audience.

March 2020 Sibelius workshop and concert with the Camden Sinfonia

The aim of this all-day workshop and concert was to encourage the young musicians from the Camden Sinfonia to continue with their music-making by offering them the opportunity

to rehearse and perform with ERSO at an early stage in their musical journey. Members of the Sinfonia are aged 12–18, ranging from grade 5 to 8.

Working with the Camden Music Service, we designed an event to give the young Camden Sinfonia players an opportunity to spend a day working with ERSO on a well-known piece that would be appropriately challenging for the young musicians. By working with the children to deliver a performance of something stretching that they could be really proud of, we hoped to create a very special day which would encourage them to carry on with music into adulthood.

The Karelia Suite was selected as an appropriate piece following meetings with Camden Music. There was considerable debate about the best piece to select, taking into account factors such as: the stronger sections in the Sinfonia; which instruments were not present within Sinfonia; the level of difficulty of the parts; how well-known and appealing the piece would be to the young players. Some parts in the Karelia Suite were not in appropriate keys for the young players and were transposed by our conductor and we reviewed all of the parts to ensure that we did not need to make any simplifications for the children. The detailed plans included sectional sessions to allow the Sinfonia players to work in depth on tricky areas coached by our young professional section leaders.

The concert programme was designed around the Karelia Suite to include ERSO playing the beautiful 7th Symphony by Sibelius. We also included Danse Macabre by Saint Saens - a piece which otherwise would not be practical for the Sinfonia to perform as it requires instruments that they did not have or were short of and which could be provided by ERSO (oboes, bassoons, violas and double bass).

Safeguarding was a key part of the planning process for the project and we were careful to ensure that we observed the Camden Music Service's safeguarding policies and planned the sectionals to ensure that we had at least 2 players with enhanced DBS checks in each sectional plus others as back-ups.

Sadly, it was not possible to achieve our planned outcomes. After many meetings and two full days of ERSO rehearsals working on Sibelius 7 and the Karelia Suite, the UK government advised against non-essential gatherings due to the coronavirus. Following this announcement, we felt that we had no choice but to cancel the event to protect the health of the young players, their families and our members.

We have built the workshop with the Sinfonia players into our plans for next season so that the children are able to have the opportunity that we had planned to give them.

June 2020 concert

The final concert of the season was planned to take place as part of the successful Waterloo Festival, featuring the winner of the 2020 ERSO Soloist of the Year and a performance of Copland's stirring 3rd Symphony. The national lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic meant that, sadly, this concert was not able to take place.

The ERSO Talent Programme

During the season we also carried out activities related to the ERSO Talent Programme. The purpose of the Talent Programme is to help young musicians to bridge the gap between

formal training and a musical career through the provision of valuable professional experience and mentoring which will boost their CVs. In 2019 – 2020 the Talent programme provided opportunities to emerging composers, soloists and orchestral musicians.

Opportunities for Emerging Composers

In 2019 we launched a competition for emerging composers aged 16 – 30, asking them to create a short, inspiring orchestral Fanfare for our 90th Birthday Gala Concert which will take place at the Royal Academy in the prestigious Duke's Hall in November 2021. The prize included a £1,000 commission to create a new piece for soloist and orchestra in partnership with the winner of the 2020 ERSO Soloist of the Year. This new solo piece will also be performed in our Birthday Gala concert.

We received 26 extremely high quality submissions which were assessed initially by acclaimed British composer Emma-Ruth Richards, who is much in demand in the UK and across the globe, and then by our assessment panel which included Emma-Ruth Richards, our conductor Chris Stark and our professional Leader John Crawford (Professor at Trinity Laban). The five most promising submissions were invited to workshop their pieces with ERSO.

"This is a fantastic project that grants young composers the wonderful and rare opportunity to explore and develop their musical creativity in an orchestral setting. In a challenging time where commissioned work is rare, opportunities like this are essential in championing new music and creating a platform where composers can develop their careers." Emma-Ruth Richards

Each of the composers was given extremely detailed feedback from Emma-Ruth Richards, our leader and conductor and a summary of the feedback from all of the players.

"It was fantastically exciting to hear my fanfare brought to life and I really enjoyed getting the chance to hear the other four pieces too! It was a wonderful afternoon. I really, really appreciate that all of us get a recording of the final play through of our piece - that's so valuable - and it was also really fantastic of you to print all the parts and scores; I've been in finals of other competitions where I had to bring all the parts to the workshop and it was a definite load off my mind not to have to worry about that this time. It was really heartening to have so many wonderful musicians taking our new pieces seriously and really caring about all the little details. Plus, ERSO were so friendly and good-humoured, which made the whole afternoon very enjoyable!" Sarah Cattley, one of the composers selected for the workshop.



The five finalists with composer Emma-Ruth Richards & conductor Chris Stark

We selected 19-year old Alexander Papp as our winner and, because the standard of the fanfares was so high, we also selected Jared Destro as a runner-up and his piece will also feature in our 90th birthday concert. Alex Papp's winning Fanfare will be

one of the central pieces in our 90th Birthday Gala concert and he will be invited to ERSO rehearsals to fine-tune the composition, a valuable learning opportunity, and will be asked to create some simpler parts for children who will join us in performing the Fanfare at the Gala Concert. Alex will also be commissioned to create a new piece for soloist and orchestra in partnership with the winner of the 2020 ERSO Soloist of the Year. This new solo piece will also be performed in our Birthday Gala concert, providing an exciting solo opportunity for the 2020 ERSO Soloist of the Year. Emma-Ruth Richards will provide mentoring and advice for the Alex on the fanfare revisions, children's parts and the soloist piece.

"Thanks so much, this is amazing!! It was an incredible experience to have my fanfare workshopped, so I can't thank you enough! From winning this competition, not only do I get superb mentoring during the process, but I will also have the opportunity to have one of my pieces seriously worked on by the ERSO and to work closely with a soloist - something I've never done before. It gives me the opportunity to inspire younger children via outreach and creating simpler parts so they can play and finally to have many people listen to my music and hopefully be inspired."

Winner, Alexander Papp

Our winning composer Alex and runner-up Jared will benefit hugely from the exposure of having their work performed at a prestigious concert hall in front of a large audience, which will be a significant addition to their CV at the start of their career. The concert will be recorded, and they will be able to use the recordings as an invaluable part of their portfolios in demonstrating their work when they are seeking further opportunities.

The ERSO Soloist of the Year Competition

The ERSO Soloist of the Year competition began in 2018 and is an annual event which provides emerging soloists with the valuable and rare opportunity to rehearse and perform a concerto with a full symphony orchestra. The competition is open to players who have played in at least one concert with ERSO during the season, widening the eligibility to many

music students, post-graduates and professional musicians at the start of their careers. Candidates audition for a panel of Committee members, our professional leader and conductor. All candidates are given feedback upon their auditions.

The winner is awarded the invaluable opportunity of performing their concerto with ERSO as well as a £100 prize. Of the eight Finalists in 2018 and 2019, seven were of such a high standard that they were engaged as soloists with ERSO in subsequent concerts. We ask participants for feedback about the competition and learnings are incorporated into the plans for future years.

In 2020 we had a record number of applicants of an exceptional standard. After four wonderful performances from all four finalists, we were delighted to announce that the winner was ERSO's hugely talented brass leader and tuba player Grady Hassan. Grady will be the soloist in June 2021's Waterloo Festival Concert, performing the Vaughan Williams Tuba concerto and will premiere an exciting new piece for tuba created by ERSO's winning composer.

"I am so excited to be performing the Vaughan Williams Tuba Concerto with the Ernest Read Symphony Orchestra. I chose this piece as it beautifully showcases some of the lesser heard qualities that the tuba has to offer. With its virtuosic cadenzas, lyrical passages and playful gestures, Vaughan William's tuba concerto is really something special. I can't wait!"

Opportunities for emerging professional orchestral players - Paid Section Leader Scheme:

The Paid Section Leader scheme began in 2016 with the aim of supporting emerging orchestral players. These 2-year developmental positions (Deputy Leader, Principal 2nd Violin, Principal Cello and Brass Leader) have proved to be extremely successful and beneficial to the role holders and in 2021 we will appoint our third group of section leaders.

The roles provide aspiring professional musicians with valuable experience of leading, coaching and managing their sections and they benefit from mentoring from our professional leader and conductor. The roles also include being a member of ERSO's Committee, helping to manage the running of the orchestra, planning future seasons and helping to plan and deliver our ERSO Talent Programme and education projects with children.

The Section Leaders are appointed every 2 years and in 2022 we will be selecting our third team of Section Leaders using the rigorous process that we have developed. We ask the leading London conservatoires for recommendations as well as advertising and reaching out to our wide network of contacts. Shortlisted candidates are invited to auditions, designed to be similar to those for professional orchestras, which include prepared orchestral excerpts,



sight-reading together with an interview to assess the candidates' suitability to undertake the organisation and coaching elements so integral to these roles. Each candidate is given formal feedback to help with their preparations for future auditions in their professional lives. As with all our projects, we continuously monitor the success of these roles through feedback from conductors, our Leader and the role holders.

The ERSO Section Leader roles aims to provide valuable, paid experience to emerging professional musicians at the very beginning of their careers and to make a significant contribution to their prospects by boosting their CVs.

"I am delighted that ERSO is recruiting paid principal players. It is an invaluable experience for the young professionals". Dr Peter Stark - Conductor Emeritus (HonDMus, HonFTCL, HonARAM, GRSM, ARCM)

"Through becoming principal cello of ERSO I have had the opportunity to develop my playing, organisational and administrative skills. Having this experience whilst studying has really helped me get ready for professional life." Henry, current Principal Cello

"Having the role of Principal 2nd Violin at ERSO is a fantastic opportunity to gain professional experience, which will serve me well for my future career. I am also thrilled to be part of an ensemble which places music education at the forefront of its values." Lucy, current Principal 2nd Violin

"ERSO has given me the opportunity to play some of the best orchestral repertoire around, with an amazing orchestra of like-minded and very talented musicians. As an aspiring professional orchestral musician, the role of Brass Section leader gives me hugely valuable experience - whilst playing regularly as a principal trumpet, I also manage the rest of the brass section and ensure that the section works well as a team and plays to the highest standard possible."

Jonathan, former Brass Section Leader

"It's a great opportunity for a young professional or postgraduate student. A musician's life is never about just playing the instrument, so getting experience as a fixer and helping to run an orchestra is crucial. I would recommend this position to all string players as I learnt a lot from it. Holding this position has been invaluable to my orchestral CV."

Jaga, former ERSO Deputy Leader

"For a young professional at the start of a career, this is an amazing first step into the professional world of orchestral playing, leadership responsibilities and management. The orchestra and members provide a very positive and encouraging learning environment. I have been offered various other opportunities due to knowledge, skills and experience gained through the Talent Programme. I consider myself very lucky to be a part of this experience and I sincerely hope that the programme will continue its good work providing opportunities for young musicians."

Barbara, former ERSO Principal Cello.

Notes to the financial statements

1. Constitution of the scheme

Music Illuminated is a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Acts and is also registered as a charity. Accordingly, there is no share capital.

Music Illuminated is governed by a Memorandum and Articles incorporated on 17 December 1998, as amended by Special Resolution registered at Companies House on 20 May 2016.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

2.2. Income and expenditure

Direct income from musical activities, in the form of ticket and other sales and subscriptions, is included and accrued in the accounting period to which it relates.

Donations and grants are also accounted for in the period to which they relate. During 2019/20, donations and grants totalling £7,207.95 were received relating to projects in the 2020/21 season; these grants are included under current liabilities.

Payments representing basic rate tax reclaimed from HM Revenue & Customs under the Gift Aid scheme are accounted for in the period during which they were received.

Ticket sales and related expenditure in respect of the season starting after 31 August are carried forward to the following accounting period.

2.3 Donations by waived charges

The orchestra receives the benefit of much unpaid assistance, reduced charging rates and other benefits in kind. These benefits are not reflected in the accounts.

3. Year end

This accounting period was extended, to end on 31 August 2020 (instead of 30 June 2020).

4. Tangible fixed assets.

During 2011/12, two violins with a value of approximately £2,000 were donated to the orchestra by a member. Opportunities will be sought to loan these instruments to talented young players.

5. Taxation

No charge to direct taxation arises, because Music Illuminated is a registered charity and therefore exempt from corporation tax.

Report

Principal activities and review of activities

The principal activity of Music Illuminated is the provision of concerts and to provide a training orchestra of a high standard.

A summary of the results for the year is given on page 10 of the accounts.

Directors

Matthew Saunders, Fiona Cairney and Katherine Hattersley served as directors throughout the year. Caroline Ardron resigned as a director on 15 August 2020.

Audit

Due to Music Illuminated's status as a small company, exemption from audit is requested. Voluntary audit may be sought in future years.

Independent Review

These accounts have been reviewed by Kate Munn.

Director's signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M J Saunders', written in a cursive style.

Matthew J Saunders

Income and expenditure for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 August 2020

£

<u>Turnover</u>	
Income from musical activities	1,825.50
Direct expenses	<u>-26,723.67</u>
Net deficit from musical activities	<u>-24,898.17</u>
Bank charges	-
Deficit before other income	<u>-24,898.17</u>
<u>Other income</u>	
Donations	31,994.32
Interest	-
Gift Aid	<u>659.79</u>
	<u>32,654.11</u>
Profit for year	<u><u>7,755.94</u></u>

Balance sheet as at 31 August 2020

£

<u>Current assets</u>	
Cash at bank	37,807.39
Cash/cheques in hand	-
Debtors	<u>250.00</u>
	<u>38,057.39</u>
<u>Fixed assets</u>	
Tangible assets	2,000.00
<u>Current liabilities</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	-22.45
Donations and grants received in advance	<u>-7,207.95</u>
Net assets	<u><u>32,826.99</u></u>
Funded by: accumulated funds	25,071.05
Profit for period	<u>7,755.94</u>
	<u><u>32,826.99</u></u>

Audit Exemption Statement

For the period ending 31 August 2020 the company 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 company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- ☑ 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 micro-entity provisions and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Director's signature



Matthew J Saunders