

Company registration no. 3685489

Music Illuminated

Registered charity no 1074016

Report and Accounts for the period ended 31 August 2022

Directors (at 31 August 2022):

Matthew Saunders
Fiona Cairney
Pui Wah Poon

Registered address:

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

Review of activities 2021–2022

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. 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 concert

This was the orchestra's first full season following the Covid-19 pandemic and began with our post Covid "Welcome Back" concert at St Andrew Holborn (our usual church, St John's Waterloo, was underdoing refurbishment). The programme included Schubert Symphony No. 5 and Rameau's Suite from Les Boreades as well as our 'Bring back the brass' dectet who played three pieces. The purpose of this part of the programme was to welcome back our lower brass players, many of whom had not been able to join us during Covid when we were playing smaller classical pieces.

All of the ERSO players were delighted to be back together playing together and our audience were warmly appreciative.

November Camden children's workshop

This was our first opportunity to work with Camden children following the restrictions caused by Covid-19. Many of the children had not been able to carry on with music lessons during lockdowns and their ensemble playing had been badly disrupted. We decided with Camden Music that an informal "Come and Play" afternoon workshop early in the season would boost the confidence of the young players in the Camden Training Orchestra, the most junior ensemble offered by the Camden Music Service. This entry level group is the children's first experience of regular weekend music-making at the Saturday Centre and provides a pathway for children to progress towards the higher levels of ensembles on offer from the Music Service. The Training Orchestra has approximately 30 members who range from beginners up to children who are around Grade 4, with the majority around grade 2 level. Members include Camden Music Trust and Mayor of London scholars (children from disadvantaged backgrounds who have been identified as having potential who are given subsidised music tuition).

We chose well-known pieces which had BBC 10-piece arrangements which enabled the Training Orchestra's conductor to select the most appropriate level of part for each child. ERSO also prepared a movement of the Bear by Haydn to inspire the children.

We were delighted to be joined by 28 young players who were all extremely excited to spend the afternoon working with ERSO. The afternoon was split into full orchestra sessions and sectionals which allowed the young players to learn in more detail from the ERSO players. The afternoon ended with a free, informal play through for the children's families and friends which was very positively received.

Parents said: *"loved the collaboration, overall liveliness and exciting energy, amazing sound and brilliant music", "so grateful for ERSO letting out TO kids play with such professional orchestra ", "amazing opportunity for the kids to play with experienced musicians", "so efficiently run".*

The children said they had a great time too and made lots of lovely comments

"I loved how fun it was, and I met new people". "I played with adults". "Getting to learn more about the pieces and having help". "Playing with a real orchestra that actually has instruments that we don't". "I got to play challenging music rather than something easy". "The ERSO players were helpful."

When asked what we should change for similar events in the future, again they said: *I think we should play more pieces and do it more frequently. I loved it! Make the concert earlier. Maybe make the music slightly harder. Longer sectionals.*

March 2022 90th Birthday Gala with the Camden Sinfonia

This concert was postponed from the original planned date of 2020 due to Covid-19 and took place on 6th March at the Royal Academy of Music.

We were delighted to be joined by 27 talented young musicians from the Camden Sinfonia, an ensemble offered by the Camden Music Service's busy and thriving senior Saturday Centre. The Camden Music Service provide a huge range of high-quality opportunities for children to be involved and progress with music, running two Saturday music centres, 35 youth ensembles and holiday courses. The Camden Sinfonia players were a big part of the concert and played alongside the ERSO musicians in four of the eight pieces. During the other pieces the children remained onstage amongst the adult musicians and were able to experience what it would like to be in a more advanced ensemble and to hear what their instruments could sound like as they progressed.

Our current Principal Conductor Christopher Stark was joined by two former esteemed principal conductors, Peter Stark and Howard Williams who are both Professors of Conducting at the Royal College of Music. We were delighted that our former conductors were able to join us for this special celebration and were especially pleased that the children had the chance to work with Howard as well as our conductor Chris. We were also delighted to be able to give Oliver Till, the young conductor of the Sinfonia, the chance to work with Chris and ERSO to help to develop his conducting and rehearsal management skills.

We designed the concert programme to give the young musicians exposure to a wide variety of music, from well-loved classics to world premieres. We were proud to introduce

a hugely talented young composer, Alex Papp, who was the winner of our competition for emerging composers. Alex created a stirring overture to open the concert and we asked him to make special parts for the young musicians based upon their varying levels of skill and experience. We also included an audience participation song based on Verdi's Triumphal March – a feature that was very popular in the original Ernest Read concerts for children – and former conductor Howard Williams also created tailored parts for the Sinfonia players.

To ensure that the children were well prepared and able to feel at ease on the concert day we created a rehearsal process which did not place too much of an extra demand on their families, but which allowed them to become familiar with the ERSO players and working with another conductor. We held a half day rehearsal in January where the whole Sinfonia joined ERSO to work on the four pieces and also selected key ERSO players to attend two extended Sinfonia rehearsals to enable the children to hear how the music sounded when all of the orchestra instruments were present (the Sinfonia does not include any horns, oboes, bassoons or basses and so when the Sinfonia rehearsed alone there were some gaps in the music). The children told us how much they appreciated the rehearsal process and one young player, an oboist, told us that she had never played in a group with other oboists which she found to be very beneficial and inspiring.

Whilst we would have worked with the Sinfonia in some way for the Birthday concert had we not been awarded the grant; the additional funding enabled us to select the ideal programme for the Camden Sinfonia with great variety and a high level of difficulty because the grant helped us to afford the required number of rehearsals to deliver a high-quality performance. It also meant that we were able to keep ticket prices at extremely low levels to make it an affordable event for the children's families and friends.

The concert was very successful - the children who performed with us and their families gave extremely positive feedback, as did the senior team at the Camden Music Service. We always evaluate the success of each of our children's concert with all of the participants and our partners and ensure that the findings are applied to future projects.

Parents thanked us for the chance to hear their children perform in such a lovely venue and with adult musicians. The children's comments included:

I absolutely loved playing at the Royal Academy - it really added to the experience

I really enjoyed the pieces especially the Triumphal March and Crown Imperial as they are very powerful

The pieces we played together were amazing!

Very well organised, very friendly. Thanks!

Very fun experience

Thank you to the conductors who were very nice and helpful

There were a lot of loud pieces but then there were softer ones to balance them out. Having a young undiscovered composer was very good

When asked what we should change - "nothing, it was fantabulous!"

The Camden Music Service wrote:

The concert was a delight, and it was great to see such a large and enthusiastic audience. That was especially exciting for our students, who often perform to parents, but have less experience of performing to a more general audience. The programme was so carefully thought out and having all the different conductors was a treat.

We are so pleased to have ERSO as a hub partner and so grateful for the experiences you bring to children and young people in Camden.

Head of Music Service

The afternoon was a complete delight and almost stress free. I really enjoyed myself which really says so much about how it was organised. I know that the players and their parents thoroughly enjoyed themselves and especially the chance to perform in such a beautiful, iconic venue.

Director Saturday Music Centre

The concert achieved our anticipated outcomes:

- The concert gave the Sinfonia players the opportunity to be involved in a performance with a full-size symphony orchestra in front of a packed audience at a beautiful concert hall – an experience that is not readily available to young musicians and which helps to encourage the children to continue with extra-curricular music-making and to encourage parents to support them in this. We know from our work with our other Camden partner that “*offering these performing opportunities with inspiring adult players has led to improved attendance, group retention and recruitment.*”
- The experience helped to develop the children’s skills as orchestral musicians through preparation for the performance and from rehearsing and performing with the ERSO adult musicians and working with two hugely experienced professional conductors. They experienced a wide variety of music styles and had the chance to be part of a large and more advanced ensemble which we hope will inspire them to continue to progress with their music.

June concert

The final concert of the season was initially planned to be part of Waterloo Festival, but another venue had to be found as the refurbishment at St John’s over-ran. The concert took place at St Peter’s church in Acton.

Our soloist Izabela Stock was the winner of the 2022 ERSO Soloist of the Year competition who delighted the audience with her lyrical and virtuoso performance of the Brahms Violin. This was followed by a very well received performance of Brahms’ epic Fourth Symphony

expertly conducted by Christopher Stark, introduced with expert commentary and musical examples played by the orchestra.

ERSO Talent Programme

The ERSO Talent Programme was developed in 2017 to bring together all our work with young career musicians. The Help Musicians UK's 2017 Study into musicians' mental health identified precarious finances and work insecurity as top concerns, especially for those new to the profession. The Covid-19 pandemic has placed even greater strain upon young musicians at the start of their careers due to reduced training, development and work opportunities over the last few years. The 2019 report "Help Building Sustainable Careers in Classical Music" commissions by Help Musicians UK stated:

It is apparent that those first formative years of professional life can be the most challenging for musicians who must juggle auditions, developing networks, continuous practice, learning of repertoire and building up a wide range of non-music skills from project management to finance to marketing.

The ERSO Talent Programme's purpose 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.

In recent years the ERSO Talent Programme has provided opportunities for emerging orchestral musicians, soloist, conductors and composers. In the 2021-2 season the Talent Programme focused upon:

1) 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.

We selected 19-year-old Alexander Papp as our winner and his winning fanfare, "Eurythmia", was one of the central pieces in our 90th Birthday Gala concert. As part of Alex's prize, in 2021-22 he:

- received a £1,000 commission to create a piece for our 2020 ERSO Soloist of the Year, the hugely talented young tuba player Grady Hassan. The resulting virtuosic piece for tuba and orchestra - "*Flashes of Light in a Hall of Mirrors*" - was extremely well received by our packed audience.
- received ongoing mentoring and advice from Emma-Ruth Richards throughout the process
- was given the opportunity to spend a half day rehearsal working with ERSO to workshop the two pieces. We hired a full percussion section and harp for this workshop to enable Alex to hear the full sound of his compositions. This was a valuable learning opportunity and enabled Alex to make improvements to his work prior to their premiere.

- received a video of the premiere of his pieces which we commissioned the Royal Academy of Music to create. This video will be an invaluable part of his portfolio in demonstrating his work when seeking further opportunities.

"From winning this competition, not only did I get superb mentoring during the process, but I also had the opportunity to have my pieces seriously worked on by ERSO and to work closely with a soloist - something I've never done before. It gave me the opportunity to inspire younger children via outreach and creating simpler parts. Having two pieces premiered in the birthday concert supplied me with a brilliant recording I could use to submit for applications and other schemes which has massively helped, also the experience of working collaboratively with a lot of rehearsal with a big orchestra has been a massive experience and I learnt so much from it!"

Winner, Alexander Papp

2) ERSO Soloist of the Year 2022

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 panel selected four Finalists who shared a half day of rehearsal time with ERSO and Chris Stark after the orchestra had spent a half day rehearsing each of their chosen concerti. This was a huge opportunity as the young soloists were given the chance to work on a movement of their concerto with a full orchestra and receive valuable advice and insights from our professional conductor and leader which will help them to develop their performances in the future. The winner, Izabela Stocka, was awarded the invaluable opportunity of performing her concerto with ERSO in our June concert and also a £150 fee. Winning the competition and gaining this concerto experience is an extremely valuable to the winner's CV.

Reaching the Final of the competition also makes a significant difference to the young musicians – in the four years of the competition to date, over two thirds of the finalists have been engaged as soloists by ERSO which has helped to boost their CVs and led to extra work.

We ask participants for feedback about the competition and learnings are incorporated into the plans for future years.

3) Paid Section Leader roles

The Paid Section Leader scheme began in 2016 with the aim of supporting emerging orchestral players. These two-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.

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 give valuable arts administration experience through being a member of ERSO's Committee, helping to manage the running of the orchestra and contributing to the future plans for the orchestra including helping to plan and deliver our ERSO Talent Programme and education projects with children.

The Section Leaders are appointed through a rigorous process every 2 years on a rolling basis to preserve continuity of the team and enable new section leaders to learn from more experienced role holders. 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 provide valuable, paid experience to emerging professional musicians at the very beginning of their careers and makes a significant contribution to their prospects by boosting their CVs. To date we have worked with 12 Section Leaders and are recruiting for a new Principal 2nd violin and Brass Leader in Autumn 2022.

At the end of the season two of our Section Leader team came to the end of their contracts with ERSO. Principal Cello Henry and Deputy Leader Penny played a huge part in ERSO's recent years and in helping us keep the orchestra going through covid. Penny is now living in Scotland and is excited to be working with Live Music Now Scotland which gives outstanding young artists the opportunity of performing at the start of their careers and enables high-quality live music to reach people throughout the Scottish communities, especially those who wouldn't normally have access to it. Henry is currently on trial for jobs at the London Symphony Orchestra, Ulster Symphony Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Welsh National Opera.

We were delighted, following auditions and interviews, to appoint 2 new section leaders, Chloe and Jenny.

Other

During lockdown we initiated the project to be able to start claiming Orchestra Tax Relief – a significant project to help us boost our income sources – and we were delighted to receive our first payment from HMRC towards the end of the season. The orchestra Committee was also strengthened and re-organised to create new roles to improve our ways of working: Concert Manager and Membership Secretary. Following the work we undertook during Covid to explore forgotten voices, the committee agreed our commitment to programme more works by female and BAME composers.

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. Donations and grants totalling £10,708 relating to projects in the 2021/22 season were received before the start of the year.

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. 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.

4. 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 5 of the accounts.

Directors

Matthew Saunders and Fiona Cairney served as directors throughout the year. Katherine Hattersley resigned on 1 October 2021. Pui Wah Poon was appointed on 15 October 2021.

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 Kathryn Ellis, ACA.

Director's signature



Matthew J Saunders

Income and expenditure for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022

	£
<u>Turnover</u>	
Income from musical activities	2,392.21
Direct expenses	<u>-39,995.56</u>
Net deficit from musical activities	<u>-37,603.35</u>
Bank charges	-
Deficit before other income	<u>-37,603.35</u>
<u>Other income</u>	
Donations	32,720.70
Interest	-
Gift Aid	<u>485.27</u>
	<u>33,205.97</u>
Profit for year	<u><u>-4,397.38</u></u>

Balance sheet as at 31 August 2022

	£
<u>Current assets</u>	
Cash at bank	27,058.92
Cash/cheques in hand	-
Debtors	-
	<u>27,058.92</u>
<u>Fixed assets</u>	
Tangible assets	2,000.00
<u>Current liabilities</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	-
Donations and grants received in advance	-
Net assets	<u><u>29,058.92</u></u>
Funded by: accumulated funds	33,456.30
Profit for period	<u>-4,397.38</u>
	<u><u>29,058.92</u></u>

Audit Exemption Statement

For the period ending 31 August 2022 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