



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 April 2023      Period start date  
To 31 March 2024      Period end date

**Charity name: Durham Sinfonia (aka Orchestra North East)**

**Charity registration number: 1081465**

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To promote and develop public education in and appreciation of music by the presentation of public orchestral concerts.
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	<p>The main activities of the Charity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) self-promotion of concerts in which the orchestra performs high quality programmes of classical music; and</li><li>(ii) engagement as a contracted orchestra in classical music concerts promoted by others.</li></ul> <p>The activities are all set within the geographical area of the North East of England. For each concert, the orchestra is assembled by invitation. The musicians are engaged on a volunteer basis for the self-promoted concerts and, usually, on a fee basis for the contracted engagements. To ensure the concerts are of the highest achievable standard guest professional conductors, soloists and a few of the principal orchestral musicians are engaged on a fee basis.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees do have regard to the Charity Commission guidance 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>Orchestra North East attracts players from a wide geographic area to play ambitious symphonic works, concertos, film music and more popular repertoire. It also seeks to perform and promote new works by living composers and work with other local musical societies and groups, including young performers.</p> <p>In the 2023-4 season the orchestra has rehearsed and performed three programmes of music involving professional conductors and concerto soloists, two at Newcastle Cathedral and one at Durham Gala Theatre. The orchestra was honoured to provide an extraordinarily talented teenage refugee from the Ukraine conflict the opportunity to perform a concerto in public.</p> <p>It has also collaborated with Newcastle Choral Society in a performance including a work by the contemporary composer Ole Gjeilo. All performances have been well received by appreciative audiences.</p>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	

Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
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	<p>The Charity has received concert income from its three independent concerts, donations, some with gift aid, and orchestra tax relief through the associated Orchestra North East Productions Ltd, a company set up to allow claiming this government benefit through HMRC.</p> <p>Expenditure has been on the three independent orchestral concerts, and maintaining insurance cover and membership of <i>Making Music</i>, an organisation that provides guidance and support to music groups. <i>Making Music</i> also assists with the claim of orchestra tax relief, for a fee of 10% plus VAT.</p> <p>Income from the choral concert was £4,000, covering the costs of performers and administration plus £480.</p> <p>The three independent orchestral concerts made a net loss of £12,104.61. (Orchestra tax relief, claimed for the 2023-4 financial year is £7,176.33, received in August 2024)</p> <p>We have been fortunate in receiving £11,000 in external donations from charitable trusts and individuals this year. This results in an overall improvement in our finances by £483 over the year.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Charity's policy on reserves is to maintain funds at a sufficient level to cover the costs of concert performances during a planned year ahead of operations.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£25,061 as of 31st March 2024
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	There are no funds materially in deficit.

Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	
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### 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	The principal sources of funds are: (i) concert ticket sales (ii) external hire fees (i.e. being paid to play for other societies) (iii) donations from the membership of the orchestra (iv) donations from other sources (v) sponsorship and grants (vi) Orchestra Tax Relief (claimed through a Production Company – Orchestra North East Productions Limited).
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	The Charity does not have any investments as such. Its only assets are the cash in hand at bank, on which a small amount of interest is earned each year through placing some money in investment or savings accounts.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The principal risk is loss of concert income, which is managed by the financial planning described above.
Other		Proportionate returns on pre-concert expenditure are now achieved through claims for Orchestra Tax Relief.

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document ( <a href="#">trust deed</a> , <a href="#">royal charter</a> )	Para 1.25	Constitution.
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. <a href="#">unincorporated association</a> , <a href="#">CIO</a> )	Para 1.25	Unincorporated association or society.
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	Elected by 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		The Society is run in accordance with the rules contained within its Constitution and the membership of the Society is those
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	Para 1.51	<p>currently playing in the orchestra at the time of the AGM.</p> <p>The management of the Society is placed in the hands of a Committee consisting of the following Officers: Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and not less than four other members. The Officers and the other Committee members are elected by and out of the Society's members at AGM. Provided they are willing, the Officers and members of the Committee are appointed as Trustees of the Charity. Before and on appointment, they are encouraged to study the guidance for Trustees on the Charity Commission website.</p>
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	<p>Please see above. A Production Company has also been set up (Orchestra North East Productions Limited, Company number 11280090), the directors of which (two Trustees of the Charity) act under the terms of a Trust Deed in accordance with the wishes and interests of the Charity in dealing with the pre-concert production arrangements for Orchestra North East concerts. This allows the Charity to secure the benefits of Orchestra Tax relief in relation to eligible pre-concert production expenses. The Charity is a member of <i>Making Music</i>, the main UK association for voluntary music.</p>
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	<p>Please see above (re the Production Company).</p>
Other		

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Durham Sinfonia
Other name the charity uses	Orchestra North East
Registered charity number	1081465
Charity's principal address	4 Caseton Close, WHITLEY BAY NE25 9PL

**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	Michael BORTHWICK	Chairman		At AGM (by orchestra membership)
2	Peter CHESTER			At AGM
3	Michael CAVE			At AGM
4	Roger JAY	Treasurer	From December 2022	At AGM
5	Miranda Splitt	Secretary	From November 2023	At AGM
6				
7				
8				

**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**

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

**Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others**

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	None
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	None

**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)

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## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information

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## 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)	Michael BORTHWICK	Roger JAY
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	Treasurer
Date	September 2024	

**Durham Sinfonia (t/a Orchestra North East)**  
**Charity no. 1081465**

**Receipts and Payments Accounts**

	Year ended 31 March <u>2023 (£)</u>	Year ended 31 March <u>2024 (£)</u>
<u>Receipts</u>		
Concerts	17,973	15,640
Donations - members	1,202	394
Donations - misc.	13,600	10,000
Other income (Gift Aid / Orchestra Tax Relief)	1,530	4,944
Interest	32	403
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b><u>34,337</u></b>	<b><u>31,381</u></b>
<u>Payments</u>		
Concerts: direct payments by Orchestra North East	(7,489)	(3,841)
Concerts: loans to Production Company	(16,105)	(26,304)
Other costs	(407)	(753)
<b>Total payments</b>	<b><u>(24,001)</u></b>	<b><u>(30,898)</u></b>
<b>Movement in funds</b>	<b><u>10,336</u></b>	<b><u>483</u></b>
Opening cash balance	14,242	24,578
Movement in funds	10,336	483
<b>Closing cash balance</b>	<b><u>24,578</u></b>	<b><u>25,061</u></b>

**Statement of assets and liabilities**

	<u>2023 (£)</u>	<u>2024 (£)</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash balances	24,578	25,061
<b>Total assets</b>	<b><u>24,578</u></b>	<b><u>25,061</u></b>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Other liabilities	0	0
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b><u>24,578</u></b>	<b><u>25,061</u></b>



R Jay, Treasurer



M A Borthwick, Chairman

Date: 7 September 2024



9 Archery Rise  
Durham  
DH1 4LA

7 September 2024

The Trustees of Durham Sinfonia  
c/o Dr Roger Jay  
Honorary Treasurer  
4 Caseton Close  
Whitley Bay  
Tyne And Wear  
NE25 9PL

Dear Roger,

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Durham Sinfonia, operating under the working name Orchestra North East, Charity no. 1081465, on the receipts and payments accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024**

*Responsibilities and basis of independent examiner's report*

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

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.

My examination did not include the accounts of Orchestra North East Productions Limited (registered number: 11280090).

*Independent examiner's statement*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Simon Newitt', written in a cursive style.

Simon Newitt  
FCA, MA, BA (Hons.)

7 September 2024

9 Archery Rise  
Durham  
DH1 4LA

**Durham Sinfonia (t/a Orchestra North East)**  
**Charity no. 1081465**

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R Jay, Treasurer



M A Borthwick, Chairman

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