

Registered number

03539586

Charity Registration number

1088823

Northern Roots

Report and Accounts

31 March 2025

Northern Roots
Report and accounts
Contents

	Page
Company information	1
Directors' report	2 - 9
Independent examiner's report on the accounts	10
Profit and loss account	11
Balance sheet	12
Notes to the accounts	13

Northern Roots

Company Information

Directors

K Dougherty

O Nuga (appointed 25/6/25)

R Mather

R Perdik

M Qureshi (appointed 25 June 2025)

T Ali (resigned 27 November 2024)

K Dubois

B Mamuini (resigned 21 April 2024)

S Eskias (appointed 27 November 2024)

L Naruse

Secretary

K Dougherty

Accountants

Bell Anderson Limited

Lindum

264-266 Durham Road

Gateshead

Tyne and Wear

NE8 4JR

Registered office

Office 44

63 High Bridge

Newcastle upon Tyne

Tyne and Wear

NE1 6BX

Registered number

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Charity registration number

1088823

Northern Roots

Registered number: 03539586

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and follow the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee. The company was established under the Memorandum of Association which established the objects and power of the charitable company and is governed under the Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the Charity is to foster and promote the arts in society for the benefit of the general public in the United Kingdom but in particular the North-East of England by developing public appreciation of the arts and by improving public access to the arts and the quality of the arts. The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission including that regarding public benefit in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Trustees

The following persons served as Trustees during the year:

K Dougherty
O Nuga (appointed 25 June 2025)
R Mather
R Perdik
M Qureshi (appointed 25 June 2025)
T Ali (resigned 27 November 2024)
K Dubois
B Mamuini (resigned 21 April 2024)
S Eskias (appointed 27 November 2024)
L Naruse

Achievements and performance

Introduction

This report is prepared by the Trustees of Northern Roots to accompany the annual accounts. It outlines our activities, achievements, challenges, and financial position during the reporting period

Programming

Overview of Activities

Northern Roots delivered a dynamic programme of development and performance throughout 2024–25. Highlights included:

- **Showcase Concerts:** Four concerts at Pilgrim, Newcastle, plus three large-scale MOBO Fringe events (two at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music and one at The Grove, Byker), featuring Northern Roots associate artists performing to new audiences and engaging sector leaders.
- **Education in Schools:** In partnership with the Newcastle Branch of the North East Music Hub, we delivered 17 sessions on the history of Black Music and creative songwriting to over 1,000 young people. Four trainee facilitators shadowed the lead facilitator, gaining valuable experience in education delivery.
- **Community Programmes:** Collaborations with Tyneside Cinema and GLOW Cultural Education Partnership brought screen, dance, and music projects to six community settings, led by four Black creatives.
- **Mentoring and Artist Development:** Ongoing support for young artists through mentoring relationships with Rob Rez (Only Grind Studios), Kema Kay, and Kay Greyson. Bi-weekly studio sessions provided progression routes into Loft Music Studios.

Programme Expansion: Liverpool

- We expanded our work into Liverpool, exploring the legacy of Black musicians from the 1960s and their influence on popular music culture. Led by Kema Kay, Adam Collerton and Georgia May, the project is capturing survivor testimonies through filmed interviews and portraits by Liverpool photographer Ean Flanders. These portraits, alongside short films created by emerging Black Liverpool filmmakers Zion Joshua and Ruben Landim, will form an exhibition which will show at the Victoria Gallery at Liverpool University. The programme is delivered in partnership with Toxteth community group Mandela8, ensuring strong local collaboration and impact. The programme epitomises Northern Roots dedication to raising the voices of Black and Minoritised artists, supporting high quality artistic expression and consistent high quality mentoring for emerging creatives.

Impact

- 50 artists employed across programmes.
- 1,150 young people engaged in workshops.
- Showcase concerts reached approximately 300 attendees.
- MOBO Fringe events attracted audiences of around 1,000.

This activity strengthened visibility for Black music in the North East and created pathways for emerging talent.

Innovation

Strategic partnerships enabled a holistic programme of mentoring, education, and outreach. By embedding trainee facilitators and community-led projects, Northern Roots ensured both sustainability and relevance.

Future Plans

- In 2025–26, Northern Roots will consolidate these achievements by:
- Sustaining supportive artistic spaces and mentoring relationships.
 - Building on the momentum of the MOBOs to further amplify Black music and musicians in the region.
 - Expanding education and outreach programmes to deepen community impact.

Jumpin' Hot Club Programming

In 2024–25 Jumpin' Hot Club (JHC) delivered a landmark programme that combined touring innovation with strong local activity.

- **Jumpin' Hot Revue Tour:** After six months of preparation, JHC launched its first small UK tour in September to mark the forthcoming 40th anniversary. The "Jumpin' Hot Revue" featured Martin Stephenson, Rob Heron, Errant Moose, Rupert Hughes, and Shipcote, performing both solo sets and collaborative ensembles across Sheffield, London, Warwickshire, Bath, Leamington Spa, Glasgow, Newcastle, and Durham. Venue fees covered all costs, and reviews praised the tour for "spreading joy and musical spirit far and wide."

- **Country Cantina Festival:** The 11th edition took place in Easington, Co. Durham, with 12 artists across two days. Despite poor weather, strong bar takings offset slower ticket sales. Highlights included Diana Jones' Appalachian folk resonating with local mining heritage, and Lady Nade's Nina Simone tribute.

- **Audience Growth:** Attendance increased following publication of Jumpin' Hot Club: Where Good Music Belongs, with all shows selling out in Jan/Feb 2025—a first in JHC's history.

• Venues and Residencies:

- o **Central Bar, Gateshead:** Six near-capacity shows, including Nat Myers, Amanda Ann Platt, and Peter Bruntnell.

- o **Gosforth Civic Theatre:** Ten shows, including Kathryn Williams' album launch, Errol Linton's Reggae Blues, The Delines' sell-out standing show, and Aurora Strings with Shipcote.

- o **Cluny2 & The Cluny:** Twenty-two gigs featuring Martha Spencer, Chuck Prophet, Otis Gibbs, Emily Barker, and Nora Brown & Stephanie Coleman.

- o **The Globe:** Hosted artists such as Jenny Connors, Angel Snow, Elaine Palmer, and Sam Lewis, though operational challenges led JHC to explore alternatives.

- o **Little Theatre, Gateshead:** Annual show with Boo Hewerdine and Heidi Talbot, supported by new chair Eddie.

Overall, JHC maintained and expanded its audience base post-Covid, delivering a varied, high-quality programme across multiple venues. The year demonstrated resilience, innovation, and strong community engagement, laying foundations for future projects and the 40th anniversary celebrations.

Fundraising

Income Generation

Northern Roots continues to build strong relationships with funders to deliver creative programmes that drive social change in partnership with our stakeholders. Despite operating in an increasingly precarious grassroots music environment, the trust and loyalty earned through nearly 40 years of programming has enabled us to sustain a vibrant programme of events, artist development, engagement, and leadership initiatives.

Major Funders and Supporters

We are grateful for the continued support of Lloyds Foundation, Youth Music, and the Community Foundation. Their investment ensures our programmes remain fit for purpose, impactful, and responsive to the needs of the communities and stakeholders we serve. This

support has created tangible change for participants, partners, and audiences, strengthening our role as a trusted organisation in the region.

Plans for Sustainability

Northern Roots is committed to long-term resilience. We regularly review our operations and embed efficiencies, working closely with partner venues, organisations, artists, and audiences to ensure our work remains relevant and financially sustainable. Our approach includes:

- Diversifying fundraising streams and strengthening donor relationships.
- Expanding reach and engagement through inclusive marketing, social media, and outreach.
- Collaborating with industry partners to ensure programming fills genuine gaps and meets community needs.
- Pooling resources with partners to deliver high-quality programmes cost-effectively.

This strategy ensures that Northern Roots can continue to deliver meaningful cultural work while maintaining financial stability in a challenging sector landscape.

Engagement and Outreach

Community Connections

In 2024–25 Northern Roots deepened partnerships with organisations including We Make Culture, Help Musicians, Sister Shack CIC, Cultural Freelancers CIC, and Pilgrim. We also strengthened ties with the North East Music Hubs, delivering partnership programmes across Newcastle schools as part of the MOBO Awards Fringe. As a lead partner in the Fringe, we ensured Black North East artists were central to programming and sector conversations.

Audience Development

Working with partner venues and their marketing teams, we maintained strong reach and visibility. By increasing content and collaborating directly with artists, we expanded audiences and engagement. Through leadership development, we supported Kema Kay and Kay Greyson to access industry spaces, advocate for themselves, and represent the wider community.

Advocacy and Visibility

Northern Roots remained active in regional and national policy discussions. Kay Greyson contributed to the Music City Advisory Board, while Leila d'Aronville engaged with the North East Combined Authority, the North East Music Hub advisory board, and the What Next? Leadership group. These roles ensured Northern Roots' voice was present in shaping cultural policy and practice.

Evaluation

Operating at both grassroots and strategic levels, Northern Roots continues to be agile within the industry while providing a safe, inclusive space for artists and audiences. Our work supports sector development with value, access, and equity at its core.

Leadership

Staff and Volunteers

In 2024–25, Kema Kay and Kay Greyson participated in the Hold the Door Open leadership

Safeguarding and Inclusivity

Strategic Direction

Challenges

- **Sector Pressures:** The grassroots music sector remains precarious, with rising costs, limited resources, and increasing demands on organisations to deliver more with less. Sustaining high-quality programming while maintaining financial stability requires constant adaptation and *e f f i c i e n c y*.

• **Response and Resilience:** These challenges underscore the importance of Northern Roots' work in building safe, inclusive spaces and fostering cohesion through culture. By centring Black and Global Majority artists and communities, we actively counter narratives of division and provide platforms for resilience, creativity, and solidarity.

Financial Position

Headline figures for income, expenditure, and reserves are provided in the accompanying accounts. As a small organisation, Northern Roots experiences natural fluctuations between periods of delivery and planning/consultation, which can result in uneven patterns of expenditure versus income. These cycles ensure that programmes remain well resourced and commitments to artists and young people are consistently met, even when outgoings temporarily exceed incoming funds.

Our financial model reflects the realities of grassroots cultural work, where funding receipts and delivery schedules do not always align. Despite this, we have maintained strong programme delivery and continued to prioritise investment in artists, young people, and community engagement.

Reserves

Policy

It is the charity's policy to maintain unrestricted reserves equivalent to three months' expenditure. Due to changes in funding sources and the timing of receipts, this has not always been achievable while pursuing our aims and objectives. Over the past year, fundraising and financial planning have focused on securing longer-term programme funding and building reserves to meet this target. Core costs have been carefully reviewed, with efficiencies achieved through remote working and scrutiny of non-salary expenditure. We continue to seek core funding and unrestricted income to strengthen resilience.

Future

Outlook

Our fundraising strategy will prioritise both core and project funding that supports Northern Roots' mission while enabling innovation in practice. Alongside business development support, this approach will underpin a more sustainable financial model, ensuring the organisation can continue to deliver meaningful cultural and social impact in a challenging sector environment.

Conclusion

The Trustees confirm that Northern Roots continues to deliver its charitable objectives, strengthen its impact, and remain committed to equity, inclusion, and community transformation

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board on 12 December 2025 and signed by its order.

R Perdik
Chairman

K Dougherty
Secretary

Northern Roots

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees, directors & members of Northern Roots on accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 Set out on pages 1 to 9 of the financial statements.

Charity no.: 1088823 Company no.: 03539586

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31/03/2024. As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act"). Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 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; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

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.

Bell Anderson Limited
Chartered Accountants

Lindum
264-266 Durham Road
Gateshead
Tyne and Wear
NE8 4JR

12 December 2025

Northern Roots
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 £	2024 £
Income from					
Donations and legacies	3	-		-	72
Charitable activities	4	71,043	49,997	121,040	121,895
Other trading activities	5	48,605		48,605	33,759
Other operating income		-		-	-
		<u>119,648</u>	<u>49,997</u>	<u>169,645</u>	<u>155,726</u>
Expenditure on					
Raising funds	6	<u>58,241</u>		<u>58,241</u>	<u>52,749</u>
Charitable activities	7	<u>53,277</u>	<u>99,680</u>	<u>152,957</u>	<u>74,307</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>111,518</u>	<u>99,680</u>	<u>211,198</u>	<u>127,056</u>
Net (expenditure)/income before transfers		8,130	(49,683)	(41,553)	28,670
Net (Expenditure)/income for the year/Net movement in funds		8,130	(49,683)	(41,553)	28,670
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		670	94,691	95,361	114,001
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		<u>8,800</u>	<u>45,008</u>	<u>53,808</u>	<u>142,671</u>

Northern Roots**Registered number:** 03539586**Balance Sheet****as at 31 March 2025**

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	1,981	2,198
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		58,332	96,776
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(6,505)	(3,613)
Net current assets		51,827	93,163
Net assets		53,808	95,361
Funds			
Restricted funds		45,008	94,691
Unrestricted funds		8,800	670
Total funds		53,808	95,361

The Directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. The profit and loss account has not been delivered to the Registrar of Companies.

R Perdik

Chair

Approved by the board on 12 December 2025

Northern Roots
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (as applied to small entities by section 1A of the standard).

Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of discounts and value added taxes. Turnover includes revenue earned from the sale of goods and from the rendering of services. Turnover from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have transferred to the buyer. Turnover from the rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract. The stage of completion of a contract is measured by comparing the costs incurred for work performed to date to the total estimated contract costs.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulative depreciation and any accumulative impairment losses. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings, tools and equipment	20% reducing balance
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Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts. Loans and other financial assets are initially recognised at transaction price including any transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost determined using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price). Loans and other financial liabilities are initially recognised at transaction price net of any transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost determined using the effective interest method.

Provisions

Provisions (ie liabilities of uncertain timing or amount) are recognised when there is an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that economic benefit will be transferred to settle the obligation and the amount of the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Pensions

Contributions to defined contribution plans are expensed in the period to which they relate.

	Number	Number
Average number of persons employed by the company	3	3
Employment Costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	49,071	47,991
3 Donations and legacies	2025	2024
	£	£
Donations & gifts	-	72
	-	72
All donations for 2023 are unrestricted		
4 Charitable activities	2025	2024
	£	£
Restricted Funds		
Community Foundation	5,000	7,500
BFI	9,197	-
National Foundation Youth Music	13,500	37,320
Restricted Grants - NE Screen	5,600	-
Virgin	-	5,700
Core Projects	16,700	-
	49,997	50,520
	2025	2024
	£	£
Unrestricted Funds		
Unrestricted income - Merchandising etc	840	3,695
Unrestricted Core Grants	69,203	67,680
Unrestricted grants - Other Projects	1,000	-
	71,043	71,375
5 Other trading activities	2025	2024
	£	£
Ticket sales	48,605	33,759
	48,605	33,759

6 Raising funds	2025	2024
	£	£
Bank charges	226	203
Accountancy fees	4,089	3,600
Adverts	614	23
Artists	1,475	-
Depreciation	217	-
Insurance	508	-
Mentoring costs	1,200	-
Other legal and professional	34	65
Printing, postage and stationery	4	14
Rent	25	-
Subscriptions	288	288
Sundries	123	43
Software and IT	417	522
Travel and accommodation	(50)	-
Wages	49,071	47,991
	<u>58,241</u>	<u>52,749</u>

7 Charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Unrestricted activities		
Artists, Support fees & Riders - JHC	42,050	22,831
Advertising - JHC	1,738	4,908
Mentoring costs - JHC	236	-
Travel and subsistence - JHC	3,996	3,482
Travel and subsistence - BFI	678	-
Venue Hire - JHC	2,328	3,272
Video & Sound Engineering - JHC	1,150	1,300
Motor Expenses - JHC	684	-
Postage - JHC	39	-
Sundry - JHC	30	-
Bank charges - JHC	8	-
Software - JHC	340	-
	<u>53,277</u>	<u>35,793</u>

7 Charitable Activities (continued)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Restricted activities		
Mentoring Costs - Community	200	5,040
Mentoring Costs - BFI	1,070	-
Mentoring Costs - Youth Music	43,090	17,800

Mentoring Costs - Other Projects	7,895	5,000
Mentoring Costs - Wellbank	-	900
Mentoring costs - Schools work	2,550	-
Mentoring Costs- Sadlers Wells	-	400
Artists,Support fees & Riders - BFI	2,030	-
Artists,Support fees & Riders - Community foundation	700	1,020
Artists,Support fees & Riders - Wellbank	-	530
Artists,Support fees & Riders - Youth Music	6,365	1,020
Artists,Support fees & Riders - Other	6,446	637
Artists, Support fees & Riders - JHC	2,385	-
Artists, Support fees & Riders - NE Screen	500	-
Advertising - JHC	2,307	-
Advertsiing - Other projects	178	1,236
Venue Hire - Youth Music	1,267	-
Venue Hire - Other projects	1,049	40
Video & Sound Engineering - Youth Music	2,100	1,830
Video & Sound Engineering - BFI	4,371	-
Video & Sound Engineering - Community Foundation	-	335
Video & Sound Engineering - Shears	-	1,080
Video & Sound Engineering - Other projects	240	358
Video & Sound Engineering - JHC	120	-
Video & Sound Engineering - MLK	600	-
Video & Sound Engineering - NE Screen	600	-
Consultancy - Community Foundation	-	300
Consultancy - Other Projects	4,875	-
Consultancy fees - Youth Music	-	700
Software - BFI	66	-
Sundry - Youth Music	57	52
Sundry - BFI	231	-
Postage - Other	-	186
Subscriptions - Other	-	50
Travel - BFI	1,429	-
Travel - Youth Music	1,425	-
Travel - NE Screen	112	-
Travel - Other Projects	422	-
Wages and salaries - Community Foundation	5,000	-
	<hr/> 99,680	<hr/> 38,514

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings
	£
Cost	
At 1 April 2024	12,031
At 31 March 2025	<hr/> 12,031 <hr/>
Depreciation	

At 1 April 2024	9,833
Charge for the year	217
At 31 March 2025	<u>10,050</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,981</u>
At 31 March 2024	2,198

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,532	1,041
Taxation and social security costs	3,644	2,966
Other creditors	329	(394)
	<u>6,505</u>	<u>3,613</u>

10 Restricted funds	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Balance 31 March 2025
Community Foundation	28,596	5,000	900	32,696
BFI		9,197	9,197	-
Other Projects	19,105	16,700	29,067	6,738
The Shears Foundation		-		-
NE Screen		5,600	1,212	4,388
National Foundation Youth Music	46,990	13,500	54,304	6,186
	<u>94,691</u>	<u>49,997</u>	<u>94,680</u>	<u>50,008</u>

11 Other information

Northern Roots is a private company limited by guarantee without share capital and incorporated in England. Its registered office is:

Office 44
63 High Bridge
Newcastle upon Tyne
Tyne and Wear
NE1 6BX

This document was delivered using electronic communications and authenticated in accordance with the registrar's rules relating to electronic form, authentication and manner of delivery under section 1072 of the Companies Act 2006.