



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **01/09/22** To **31/08/23**

Charity name: Fulham Symphony Orchestral Society

Charity registration number:1094899

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals; and for the general purposes of such charitable bodies or for such other purposes as shall be exclusively charitable as the Committee may from time to time decide.
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>Giving public concerts for the local community</p> <p>Offering opportunities for local children and families to experience orchestral music, including work with the local authority 'Tri-Borough Music Hub'.</p> <p>Nurturing young talent by working with soloists and composers at the start of their careers.</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 have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission 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>The orchestra performed three successful and well-attended concerts in the year, which were all at St John's Smith Square, partly due to Hammersmith Town Hall being unavailable due to ongoing renovations.</p> <p>The orchestra looked to reflect diversity in its programming over the year, including showcasing an all-female line-up of composers in its popular Family Concert in June 2023.</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	The charity was in a good financial position at the end of the period, having made a £1,096 surplus during the year and through holding reserves thanks to a legacy fund.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Our policy is to hold a reserve of £8,000 to cover financial failure of an event (for example, severely reduced audience numbers) or the withdrawal of sponsorship from Novotel who provide our rehearsal space. Any additional surplus is retained for use on future projects, the acquisition of assets or other expenditure which the trustees consider appropriate and in line with the society's objectives.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£133,007
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

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	Our principal sources of funds are orchestra members' subscriptions and concert ticket sales. We benefit from the sponsorship of the Novotel hotel chain, which provides us with free rehearsal space in Hammersmith as part of their corporate social responsibility programme.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The principal risks are that Novotel, Hammersmith withdraws its longstanding sponsorship, which is in the form of free rehearsal space and that the Government reduces the level of Orchestra Tax Relief.
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Association
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	Election by members Appointment by existing trustees

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Fulham Symphony Orchestral Society
Other name the charity uses	Fulham Symphony Orchestra
Registered charity number	1094899
Charity's principal address	35 Weymouth Avenue, London, W5 4SB

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	Gavin Compton			
2	Richard Stone	Treasurer		
3	Sharon Robinson	Chair		
4	Nicholas Pitt	Secretary	Appointed 23 Oct'23	Members
5	Grant Wilder		Appointed 23 Oct'23	Members
6	Juliette Morris		Appointed 23 Oct'23	Members
7	Michelle Taute		Appointed 23 Oct'23	Members
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20				

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	
Richard Stone		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	Shares in Fulham Symphony Orchestra Ltd ('FSO Ltd')
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	Signed Declaration of Trust. Monitoring of the activities and accounts of FSO Ltd

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)	Richard Stone	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	
Date	31 July 2024	

Fulham Symphony Orchestral Society

Registered Charity No. 1094899



Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The Society had a successful 12 months, with three exciting performances, including works from a wide range of composers. Financially, the Society made a surplus of £1,096 (£321 loss excluding interest from savings).

Income (excluding interest and 'Weekend Away' player contributions) increased by 29% from £17,699 to £22,881. The main increases were from concert takings (+40%) and higher Member subscriptions (+33%). All 3 concerts were performed at St John's Smith Square (SJSS), with the highest grossing being the November 2022 concert, containing Rachmaninoff's ever-popular Piano Concerto No. 2 (£3,044).

Costs (excluding the 'Weekend Away' and Orchestra Tax Relief) only increased by 6%, despite notable price inflation. While performing a third concert at SJSS contributed to increased hall hire and box office costs (+30% / £2,279 in total), there were savings from staging (-£464) and rehearsals (-£1,807). The savings in rehearsal costs were largely due to being invited back to rehearse at the Novotel, Hammersmith without charge, reducing the occasions on which we had to find alternative, more costly rehearsal spaces.

The Society benefits from a contribution to costs that its trading subsidiary, Fulham Symphony Orchestra Limited (FSO Ltd), is able to make through claiming Orchestra Tax Relief (OTR) on the costs of producing the main concerts on behalf of the Society. £7,924 was contributed, relating to the three concerts.

There was a cost to the Society of resurrecting the annual 'Weekend Away' in January 2023 after a 2-year break for COVID. This is an important event for the orchestra as it provides an opportunity to improve / maintain standards and to rehearse a wider repertoire of music, while also helping the players to bond. Costs were higher than budgeted, primarily due to paying for a stand-in leader and higher music hire charges.

Major refurbishment continues at Hammersmith Town Hall and St Johns Smith Square is also expected to be unavailable at some point in 2025 due to refurbishment, forcing the Society to explore other and potentially more expensive performing options. High inflation has seen like for like cost increases across all categories, including guest player fees and venue hire. Membership subscriptions were raised for the first time in a number of years to offset these, however a decision was taken not to increase ticket prices in the season, as the Society is keen to maintain these at a lower level than the majority of comparable orchestras to make our concerts accessible and inclusive. The financial strength of the Society, in combination with the legacy funds, should enable it to withstand these cost challenges and to make ambitious and exciting plans for the future.

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis, recognising income when it first becomes receivable and expenditure when a liability for that expenditure first arises.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FULHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with 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 the 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 material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 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.



J.D. Seddon
21 Southmoor Road
Oxford
OX2 6RF

Dated: 7th July 2024

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

	Designated Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Unrestricted Funds (£)	2022/23 Total (£)	DF (£)	RF (£)	UF (£)	2021/22 Total (£)
Concert income	-	-	7,632	7,632	-	-	5,462	5,462
Member subscriptions	-	-	11,823	11,823	-	-	8,865	8,865
Sponsorship, donations & 'Friends'	-	-	790	790	-	-	808	808
Advertising	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid	-	-	2,636	2,636	-	-	2,218	2,218
Interest	425	992	-	1,417	206	480	-	686
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	346	346
'Weekends Away (Jan '23)' deposits	-	-	7,495	7,495	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	425	992	30,376	31,793	206	480	17,699	18,385
Box office commission	-	-	1,573	1,573	-	-	807	807
Concert programmes, flyers and tickets	-	-	971	971	-	-	436	4361
Conductor & Leader	-	-	5,540	5,540	-	-	5,190	5,190
Hall hire	-	-	8,388	8,388	-	-	6,875	6,875
Instrument hire and transportation	-	-	1,974	1,974	-	-	1,844	1,844
Insurance and Making Music membership	-	-	1,140	1,140	-	-	795	795
Music hire and commissioning	-	-	1,972	1,972	-	-	2,013	2,013
Performing Rights Society fees	-	-	366	366	-	-	197	197
Rehearsals & Sectionals	-	-	3,129	3,129	-	-	4,936	4,936
Soloists & Guest Players	-	-	4,869	4,869	-	-	4,403	4,403
Staging hire	-	-	-	-	-	-	464	464
Sundry concert costs and other expenses	-	-	228	228	-	-	371	371
'Weekend Away (Jan '23)' costs	-	-	8,471	8,471	-	-	-	-
Expenditure absorbed by FSO Ltd	-	-	(7,924)	(7,924)	-	-	(6,646)	(6,646)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	-	-	30,697	30,697	-	-	21,867	21,867
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	425	992	(321)	1,096	206	480	(4,168)	(3,482)

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31st AUGUST 2023

	Designated Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Unrestricted Funds (£)	31 Aug 2022	Designated Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Unrestricted Funds (£)	31 Aug 2021
Cash at Bank	31,039	72,425	17,217	120,681	30,614	71,433	22,399	124,446
Accrued Revenue			150	150			3,952	3,952
Subscriptions Receivable ¹			1,117	1,117			195	195
Gift Aid Receivable ²			2,054	2,054			2,218	2,218
Prepaid Expenditure				-				-
Due from FSO Ltd			9,481	9,481			1,170	1,170
Fixed Assets ³				see below				see below
Total Assets	31,039	72,425	30,359	133,483	30,614	71,433	29,934	131,981
Accrued Expenses	-	-	476	476	-	-	70	70
Total Liabilities	-	-	476	476	-	-	70	70
NET ASSETS	31,039	72,425	29,543	133,007	30,614	71,433	29,864	131,911

¹ Member subscriptions owed for 2022/23 and paid by November 2023.

² Gift Aid is claimed from HMRC for the whole accounting year in arrears. This means that, at the end of each accounting year, Gift Aid is receivable on eligible subs and donations paid during the period (less an allowance for benefits gained by Members from tuition). At 31 Aug 2023, £2,054 of Gift Aid was receivable. This amount was claimed and received in Nov 2023.

³ The Society owns a library of music containing several items which are available for hire. Its historic cost (from 1990s, + £250 addition in 2010) is £5,311. It is difficult to obtain a current valuation for the library and, as such (and in line with Charities SORP guidance) no estimate has been made in the accounts. The Society also owns a set of music stands which have negligible monetary value and are treated as an expense in the year of acquisition.

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