



Orchestra of the City

Registered charity 1106325

Registered address: 54 Anne of Cleves Road
Dartford
DA1 2BQ

Trustees' Annual Report & Accounts for the 2024-2025 season

Trustees

Peter Woods – chair

Jonathan Stoneman – treasurer

Antonia Stoneman – friends' scheme

Tom Miles - trustee

Rosy Henderson - trustee

Chris Hopkins – music director, ex-officio

Anna Hughes – orchestra manager, ex-officio

The board remained the same throughout the reporting period.

The orchestra operates under a constitution adopted on 20 July 2004 (and supplemental deed of 31 July 2004). It is an unincorporated association registered with the Charity Commission.

There are seven trustees, appointed as volunteers by general acclamation when vacancies occur.

Orchestra of the City's charitable purposes are stated as follows: "To advance the education of the public in the art and science of music by maintaining an orchestra to provide concerts, with a view to the training and development of amateur musicians in a common effort to bring high quality musical performances to members of the public".

To this end the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in planning and carrying out the charity's activities, and continue to organise a 5 concert season, in an established pattern, October, December, February/early March, April/May, early July. Over the season under review, playing numbers ranged from 55 to 82, depending on the requirements of the repertoire. There are around 50 core members who play in all the concerts.

Since the summer of 2023 all concerts take place at St Andrews church, Holborn. Attendance has been excellent, with the church pews full, or almost full, for every concert. Capacity downstairs is around 180, and can be expanded by opening the balcony seating, which requires liaison with the church and has to be planned in advance.

Feedback from audiences (informal) and players (annual survey) remains very positive. The audience is made up mainly of family and friends, and others who choose to support us by attending concerts regularly.

In 2024-25 membership of the Friends Scheme doubled to 16. The scheme is in effect a subscription which guarantees the member a “reserved” seat at all five concerts, in return for an annual fee.

The orchestra keeps costs low, rehearsing in a reasonably-priced church, and rarely needing to pay soloists. Broadly speaking, subscriptions from players cover the cost of rehearsal venue and music hire, and ticket sales for the concerts cover concert venue hire and extras including pianos, percussion instruments and other “on-the-day” players.

During the year, two trustees were reimbursed for expenses incurred on behalf of the charity – these were made at cost, and were properly authorized. No Trustee received payment for services to the charity.

The orchestra has generally broken even in most years, but in the season under review, increased attendance at concerts, coupled with the capacity to sell interval drinks and programmes has allowed the orchestra to make a small surplus of £3206.

The orchestra has the luxury of having an excellent music director who does not accept payment for his services. The same applies to its orchestra manager. The Trustees are aware that having to pay a future Music Director would upset the orchestra’s financial equilibrium; consequently the trustees are trying to build up the orchestra’s cash reserves and put a plan in place for such an eventuality.

The Trustees have no concerns as to the orchestra’s ability to remain a going concern.

During the time between end of the reporting year and deadline for filing this report, the trustees have taken steps to agree and adopt the following policies

- Financial reserves policy and procedures
- Internal charity financial controls policy and procedures
- Trustee conflicts of interest policy and procedures
- Trustee expenses policy and procedures

The orchestra has not claimed Gift Aid for several years following a change of collection method. It has been necessary to re-establish the correct contact for the orchestra with HMRC. At this point the trustees are collecting Gift Aid declarations and personal details from the players, and expect to begin receiving Gift Aid in the reporting year, 2026-2027. At the same time the Trustees have taken steps to make the orchestra eligible to receive Orchestral Tax Relief in future years. These funds will appear in future accounts. The aim is to build up reserves to a point where there is a minimum of £10000 available.



Peter Woods

Chair



Jonathan Stoneman

Treasurer

Appendices –

Concert programmes for season 2024-2025

Profit and Loss statement for reporting year 2024-2025

Balance Sheet for reporting year, 2024-2025

Summary of concerts in the 2024-2025 season.

All concerts held at St Andrew's, Holborn

Concert 1 - Friday 11th October

Mayer - Overture in D major

Rachmaninoff - Piano Concerto No. 4 (original version)

Tchaikovsky - Symphony No. 4

Piano - Dr. Christopher White

Conductor - Chris Hopkins

Concert 2 - Friday 20th December

Coleridge-Taylor - Christmas Overture

Respighi - Pines of Rome

Respighi - Fountains of Rome

Tchaikovsky - Nutcracker Suite

Leroy Anderson - Sleigh Ride

Helen Caddick - T R A C E S - tales from the anechoic chamber

Conductor - Chris Hopkins

Concert 3 - Friday 27th February

Stravinsky - Symphonies of Wind Instruments

Dvorak - Cello Concerto

Brahms orch. Schoenberg - Piano Quartet No. 1

Conductor - Chris Hopkins

Cello - Maxim Calver

Concert 4 - Friday 11th April

Svendsen - Romeo & Julia Op. 18

Mozart - Piano Concerto No. 23

Dvorak - Symphony No. 8

Conductor/soloist - Chris Hopkins

Concert 5 - Friday 11th July

Mahler - Symphony No. 9

Conductor - Chris Hopkins

Orchestra of the City – Profit & loss
Account for year ended 31 August 2025

prepared on a cash basis

Opening balance £11768, net income
£3206, closing balance £14794

Income	2025	2024
	£	£
<i>Donations</i>	350	536
<i>Friends' subscriptions</i>	1,600	600
<i>Other operating income</i>	156	300
<i>Refreshment sales - rehearsals</i>	128	-
<i>Refreshments - concert 1</i>	102	-
<i>Sales</i>	1,337	6,655
<i>Subs</i>	2,957	2,183
<i>Subs - annual</i>	225	-
<i>Subs concert 1</i>	1,405	1,485
<i>Subs concert 2</i>	1,805	1,244
<i>Subs concert 3</i>	1,520	1,520
<i>Subs concert 4</i>	1,050	938
<i>Subs concert 5</i>	1,680	2,555
<i>Subs May Playday</i>	-	105
<i>Ticket sales concert 1</i>	2,466	1,310
<i>Ticket sales concert 2</i>	3,966	1,555
<i>Ticket sales concert 3</i>	2,458	1,250
<i>Ticket sales concert 4</i>	2,408	1,330
<i>Ticket sales concert 5</i>	2,202	1,640
	27,815	25,207
	27,815	25,207

Expenses

<i>Bank charges</i>	-	(18)
<i>Concert expenses</i>	(729)	(468)
<i>Extras concert 1</i>	(195)	(115)
<i>Extras concert 2</i>	(452)	(1,112)
<i>Extras concert 3</i>	(125)	(370)
<i>Extras concert 4</i>	(15)	(284)
<i>Extras concert 5</i>	(214)	(910)
<i>Instrument hire</i>	-	(204)
<i>Music Hire</i>	(1,608)	(3,816)
<i>Other legal and prof</i>	(71)	-
<i>Percussion hire</i>	(4,022)	(2,005)
<i>Piano Hire</i>	(1,005)	-
<i>Postage</i>	(14)	-
<i>Printing</i>	(109)	(80)
<i>Professional fees</i>	(733)	(424)
<i>PRS</i>	(197)	(433)
<i>Rehearsal conductor</i>	(420)	(350)
<i>Rehearsal venue - King Solomo</i>	(1,145)	-
<i>Rehearsal venue hire</i>	(5,060)	(6,977)
<i>Soloist fee</i>	(400)	(300)
<i>Sundry</i>	(241)	(216)
<i>Venue Hire</i>	(7,853)	(6,933)
<i>Website</i>	-	(173)
	(24,610)	(25,188)
<i>Net profit</i>	3,206	19



**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name

Orchestra of the City

**On accounts for the
year ended**

31/08/2025

**Charity
no (if any)**

1106325

Set out on pages

6 & 7

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2025.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

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:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:



Date:

22/06/2026

Name:

Hilary Wood

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

11 Richardson Road

London

E15 3BB