

# **CONSERVATOIRES UK**

(a company limited by guarantee without share capital)

## **ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 AUGUST 2023 – 31 JULY 2024**

**Company Number:** 5005423

**Registered Charity Number:** 1108731  
(registered 24 March 2005)

**Company Registered:** 5 January 2004 in England and Wales

**Registered Office:** Woburn House  
20 Tavistock Square  
London  
WC1H 9HQ

**Directors:** Professor Anthony Bowne  
Professor Jonathan Freeman-Attwood CBE  
Josette Bushell-Mingo OBE  
Professor Helena Gaunt  
Professor Joe Wilson  
Professor Colin Lawson CBE  
Professor Linda Merrick CBE  
Stephen Maddock OBE  
Professor Mark O'Thomas  
Professor Jeffrey Sharkey  
Professor Jonathan Vaughan

**Chair:** Professor Linda Merrick CBE

**Secretary:** Nadine Patel

**Bankers:** Lloyds TSB  
31-32 Park Row  
Leeds LS1 5JD

**Solicitors:** Wrigleys Solicitors  
19 Cookridge Street  
Leeds LS2 3AG

# **CONSERVATOIRES UK**

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## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS for the period ended 31 JULY 2024**

### **Directors' Report**

The directors present their annual report and the financial statements covering the period from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024.

### **Constitution**

Conservatoires UK (CUK) was established as a company limited by guarantee on 5 January 2004 and was registered as a charity on 24 March 2005. The subscribing members are:

Guildhall School of Music & Drama  
London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art  
Leeds Conservatoire  
Royal Academy of Music  
Royal Birmingham City University on behalf of the Birmingham Conservatoire  
Royal Central School of Speech and Drama  
Royal College of Music  
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland  
Royal Northern College of Music  
Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama  
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

### **Objects**

The objects of the CUK are:

To advance and assist in the advancement of higher or further education in the United Kingdom in the fields of music and performing arts (in so far as such advancement and assistance shall be of an exclusively charitable nature) and in particular, but without prejudice to the foregoing, by providing and maintaining an organisation to facilitate applications for admission to such higher or further education establishments and to assist applicants in gaining access to such education establishments.

### **Directors and Trustees**

The Directors are *ex officio* the Principals/Directors of the member organisations; the holders of these positions throughout the period are listed below:

Guildhall School of Music & Drama  
London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art  
Leeds Conservatoire  
Royal Academy of Music  
Royal Birmingham Conservatoire  
Royal Central School of Speech and Drama  
Royal College of Music  
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland  
Royal Northern College of Music

Prof. Jonathan Vaughan  
Prof. Mark O'Thomas  
Prof. Joe Wilson  
Prof. Jonathan Freeman-Attwood  
Stephen Maddock  
Josette Bushell-Mingo  
Prof. Colin Lawson  
Prof. Jeffrey Sharkey  
Prof. Linda Merrick

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Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama  
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

Prof. Helena Gaunt  
Prof. Anthony Bowne

### Principal Activities and Review

The activities of CUK during this accounting period continued to be catalysed and expedited through a Service Level Agreement with Universities UK for the services of a Policy Researcher for two days per week, employed through Universities UK and based at Woburn House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9HQ. Activities included:

- A new CUK Strategic Plan was developed . This strategic plan sets out the aims and objectives of CUK for the period 2024-2029
- Following the success of the piloted CUK Leadership programme repeated the initiative in 2023-24 for a new cohort of staff.
- The operation of a number of fora covering a range of academic, professional and pedagogical matters relevant to the objects of CUK and its member organisations.
- Activities of the CUK Student Network (CUKSN) continued to be facilitated by a part-time chair/coordinator funded by CUK. The Network remains a valuable resource for SU presidents as a source of good practice across conservatoire student unions.
- The CUK Chair has increased the membership's lobbying and advocacy work in the lead up to a general election. They have held meetings and written to various key stakeholders to highlight the current challenges and issues facing conservatoires, this includes members of opposition parties, the Department for Education, Research England and the OfS
- CUK continued its joint subscription to ResearchConnect, a specialist research funding database which supports organisations to identify, communicate and share funding opportunities.
- Alignment with the Specialist Institutions' Forum of UUK has continued to bring cohesion in policy and access to data gathering and analysis in areas such higher education funding and regulation.
- Relationship building with the new UUK CEO and UUK President includes attendance of a SIF hosted event and the CEO's attendance of a CUK Board meeting.

### Results

CUK had a surplus of £85 for the year which increases the general reserves.

### Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the Trustees to maintain reserves at a level which is at least equivalent to a 3-month operating period. These restricted funds will be set aside for:

- SLA with UUK (£4,416)
- CUK Student Network (£937)

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- Financial Auditor (£1,000)

Total of **£5,353**

The reserves set aside provide financial stability and the means for the development of our principal activity.

All other reserves can only be used by consensus of the CUK Membership and approved by the Board.

The Board will annually review the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil our continuing obligations.

### **Risk management**

The Directors and Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

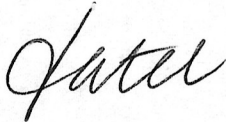
### **Statement of Directors' Responsibilities**

Law applicable to incorporated charities in England and Wales requires the directors of the company, to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the period and of its financial activities during the period then ended. In preparing those accounts, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and the apply them consistently;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 1985. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the Directors and Trustees



Nadine Patel

Company Secretary



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**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Conservatoires UK**

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 July 2024, which are set out on pages 6 to 8.

**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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act. Basis of independent examiner's report.

**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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

Miss Julie Hardy (FCCA)  
Fellow of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants  
13 Wyndale Drive  
Failsworth  
Manchester  
M35 0PY

03/03/2025

# CONSERVATOIRES UK

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## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(including Income and Expenditure Account)

For the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024

|   | 31-Jul-24<br>£ | 31-Jul-23<br>£ |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| <b><u>Incoming Resources</u></b>                                  |                |                |
| Member Subscriptions  | 80,071         | 76,257         |
| Research Connect  | 16,092         | 15,240         |
| Leadership Programme  | 11,412         | -              |
|   | <u>107,575</u> | <u>91,497</u>  |
| <b><u>Resources Expended</u></b>                                  |                |                |
| Events and Marketing  | 2,441          | 290            |
| Consultancy   | 57,900         | 55,140         |
| Research Connect  | 19,062         | 17,640         |
| Leadership Programme  | 18,965         | -              |
| CUKSN   | 5,329          | 4,426          |
| Administration  | 3,657          | 3,701          |
| Miscellaneous   | 136            | 65             |
|   | <u>107,490</u> | <u>81,262</u>  |
| Net (outgoing)/incoming<br>resources for the period<br>at 31 July | <u>85</u>      | <u>10,235</u>  |

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the net incoming resources for the period. All of the company's activities are classed as continuing.

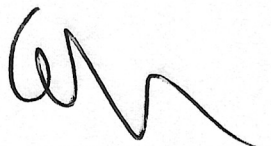
## CONSERVATOIRES UK

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### BALANCE SHEET as at 31 July 2024

|  | 31-Jul-24      | 31-Jul-23      |
|--|----------------|----------------|
|  | £              | £              |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>  |                |                |
| Debtors  | 46,568         | 16,665         |
| Accrued Income   | 16,092         | 15,240         |
| Cash at Bank and in Hand                                       | 136,346        | 140,788        |
|  | <u>199,006</u> | <u>172,693</u> |
| <b>CREDITORS - amounts<br/>falling<br/>due within one year</b> |                |                |
| Creditors  | 107,490        | 81,262         |
|  | <u>107,490</u> | <u>81,262</u>  |
| <b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>                                      | <u>91,516</u>  | <u>91,431</u>  |
| <b>FUNDED BY</b>   |                |                |
| Unrestricted General<br>Fund                                   | <u>91,516</u>  | <u>91,431</u>  |

These accounts were approved by the board of directors on 26/03/2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



Professor Linda Merrick  
Chair



Professor Anthony Bowne  
Director

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
For the period ended 31 July 2024

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the period ended 31 July 2024**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**1. Accounting Policies**

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's accounts.

a) **Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008), the Companies Act 1985 and follow the recommendations in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2000 and revised 2005.

b) **Income and Expenditure**

Income and expenditure are recognised on an accruals basis.

c) **Cashflow Statement**

The company is exempt from the requirement of Financial Reporting Standard No 1 to prepare a cashflow statement on the grounds of its size.

**2. Staff Costs and Board of Directors**

The Directors of the Board do not receive any remuneration for their services and no members of staff are employed directly by the Company.

The position of Policy Researcher was employed through a Service Level Agreement with Universities UK on a two-day per week basis throughout the period, based at Woburn House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9HQ.