

Registered number: 06770652  
Charity number: 1127392

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**The Merry Opera Company Ltd**

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**UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/2023**

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**Prepared By:**  
Cadence Accounting Ltd  
Chartered Accountants  
Suite 3  
157 Station Road East  
Oxted  
Surrey  
RH8 0QE

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**The Merry Opera Company Ltd**

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/2023**

**TRUSTEES**

Mr M. E. D. de Styrcea  
Mrs A. F. Hill  
Mr C. Besley  
Ms L. Booty  
Mrs H. Woodhouse

**SECRETARY**

Matthew Quirk

**REGISTERED OFFICE**

Vexour Farm  
Hampkins Hill Road  
Chiddingstone Edenbridge  
Kent  
TN8 7BB

**COMPANY NUMBER**

06770652

**CHARITY NUMBER**

1127392

**ACCOUNTANTS**

Cadence Accounting Ltd  
Chartered Accountants  
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**The Merry Opera Company Ltd**

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**ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/2023**

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**The Merry Opera Company Ltd**

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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/2023  
TRUSTEES' REPORT**

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31/12/2023.

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES**

The principal activity of the charity in the year under review was to advance the education and to promote the appreciation and enjoyment of the public in music, theatre and the performing arts with particular but not exclusive attention to opera.

**STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Public Benefit:**

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

**Achievements & Performance:**

In 2023, we created 'Cinderella23', a production based upon the various versions of the fairy-tale and written and directed for us by John Ramster. We planned to tour this to 10 venues with 11 performances but had to cancel two performances owing to bouts of Covid in the cast. Nevertheless, we delighted audiences, who clearly enjoyed the unusual and comic takes on the well-known story set to a clever mix of music from Handel to Jerome Kern. Our singers were pleased, too, for the staging, the different genres of music, the dialogue and the dancing all helped them develop their talents and build their CVs.

After a Covid induced break of 3 years, we revived our staged production of Handel's Messiah, with 19 performances spread across the Spring and Winter. Once again this production proved its worth to both audiences and singers, and we plan further tours in 2024 and beyond. We are grateful to the Foyle Foundation for their support.

We created a programme based on our 2021/22 Mikado production and took it in January to a school in Corby for five workshops and a stage performance in the town's theatre. It proved a success with the students and the school, although the students were disheartened that, despite much publicity, not many of their friends and family (in some cases none) attended the showcase performance.

In 2024 we will be touring a production of the Magic Flute with just seven singers. We also have some gala shows booked and are working on taking the Messiah abroad in the winter.

**Financial review:**

The result for the year was a deficit in unrestricted funds of £11,996 (2021: deficit of £1,744) and the deficit carried forward amounted to £10,441.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between 3 and 6 months' expenditure. The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, if there is a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration be given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure that appropriate controls are in place providing reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

**Structure & Governance:**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of Trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

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**The Merry Opera Company Ltd**

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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/2023  
TRUSTEES' REPORT**

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

Mr M. E. D. de Styrcea

Mrs A. F. Hill

Mrs H. C. Woodhouse (appointed 17th May 2022)

Ms L. Booty (appointed 17th May 2022)

Mr C. G. Besley (appointed 17th May 2022)

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The report was prepared in accordance with the special provisions within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 11/3/24...



Mrs. A F Hill  
Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/2023**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE MERRY OPERA COMPANY LTD**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31/12/2023 .

**RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER**

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS 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 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.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

*Cadence Accounting*

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Date:

Cadence Accounting Ltd  
Chartered Accountants  
Suite 3  
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Surrey RH8 0QE

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**The Merry Opera Company Ltd**

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**Statement of Financial Activities  
for the year ended 31/12/2023**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
Income from generated funds				
Income from charitable activities	-	-	131,875	70,403
<b>Total Income and endowments</b>	-	-	<u>131,875</u>	<u>70,403</u>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Costs of generating funds				
Expenditure on Raised funds	-	-	127,268	74,706
Expenditure on Charitable activities	-	-	12,867	7,693
<b>Total Expenses</b>	-	-	<u>140,135</u>	<u>82,399</u>
<b>Net gains on investments</b>				
<b>Net Income</b>	-	-	(8,260)	(11,996)
<b>Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets</b>				
<b>Net movement in funds:</b>				
<b>Net income for the year</b>	-	-	(8,260)	(11,996)
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	-	-	(2,181)	9,815
<b>Net funds carried forward</b>	-	-	<u>(10,441)</u>	<u>(2,181)</u>

This statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

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The Merry Opera Company Ltd

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**BALANCE SHEET AT 31/12/2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors (amounts falling due within one year)	3	-	53
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>8,220</u>	<u>23,704</u>
		8,220	23,757
<b>CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	4	<u>18,661</u>	<u>25,938</u>
<b>NET CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>(10,441)</u>	<u>(2,181)</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>(10,441)</u>	<u>(2,181)</u>
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>			
Unrestricted funds	6		
Unrestricted funds		<u>(10,441)</u>	<u>(2,181)</u>
		<u>(10,441)</u>	<u>(2,181)</u>

For the year ending 31/12/2023 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the board of trustees on and signed on their behalf by

11/3/2024

Date:

Mrs. A F Hill  
Trustee





**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/12/2023**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**1h. Basis Of Accounting**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRS102 - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

**1b. Incoming Resources**

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

**1c. Resources Expended**

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**1d. Allocation And Apportionment Of Costs**

All costs relate to the single activity of the charitable company and are recognised accordingly.

**1e. Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for the specific future purposes or projects.

**1f. Turnover**

Turnover represents the invoiced value of goods and services supplied by the company, net of value added tax and trade discounts.

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**The Merry Opera Company Ltd**

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**2. EMPLOYEES**

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Average number of employees	-	1

**3. DEBTORS**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	-	53
	<u>-</u>	<u>53</u>

**4. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts	9,640	8,000
Trade creditors	6,464	7,868
Taxation and social security	307	-
Other creditors	<u>2,250</u>	<u>10,070</u>
	<u>18,661</u>	<u>25,938</u>

**5. LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have share capital. Each member gives a guarantee to contribute a sum not exceeding £1, to the company should it be wound up. At 31/12/2023 there were 6 members.

**6. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**

Brought Forward	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Carried Forward
£	£	£	£	£
(2,181)	131,875	(140,109)	-	(10,441)
(2,181)	131,875	(140,109)	-	(10,441)

**7. RESTRICTED FUNDS**

There were no restricted funds in the year.

**8. GOING CONCERN**

The loss in the year of £11,996 (2021: £1,744) has led to negative funds carried forward of £2,181 (2021: positive funds carried forward of £9,815).

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and at least 12 months from the date of these accounts by means of financial support.

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**The Merry Opera Company Ltd**

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**Incoming Resources  
for the year ended 31/12/2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>		
<b>Charitable Activity</b>		
From Charitable Activities	17,723	248
Charitable activities	63,888	38,074
Grants	<u>37,046</u>	<u>26,180</u>
	<b>118,657</b>	<b>64,502</b>
	<u><b>131,875</b></u>	<u><b>70,403</b></u>
	<u><b>131,875</b></u>	<u><b>70,403</b></u>

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**The Merry Opera Company Ltd**

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**Expenses  
for the year ended 31/12/2023**

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>		
<b>Fundraising Trading Costs</b>		
Performers and other fees	123,817	71,856
Other production costs	<u>3,451</u>	<u>2,850</u>
	<u>127,268</u>	<u>74,706</u>
	<u>127,268</u>	<u>74,706</u>
<b>Charitable Activities</b>		
<b>Performers and other fees</b>		
Resources Expended Charitable Activities	5,740	3,602
Computer costs	719	1,017
Motor and travelling	1,651	-
Insurance	624	692
Stationery & office supplies	584	808
Bank charges	<u>6</u>	<u>(99)</u>
	<u>9,324</u>	<u>6,020</u>
<b>Governance Costs</b>		
Independent examination	1,200	1,200
Accountancy	<u>2,343</u>	<u>473</u>
	<u>3,543</u>	<u>1,673</u>
	<u>140,135</u>	<u>82,399</u>