

Company registration number 06770652 (England and Wales)

Charity registration number 1127392 (England and Wales)

THE MERRY OPERA COMPANY LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

THE MERRY OPERA COMPANY LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Laura Booty Michael De Styrcea Josephine Glover Angela Hill	(Appointed 20 June 2025)
Secretary	Matthew Quirk	
Country of incorporation	United Kingdom (England and Wales)	06770652
Charity registration	England and Wales	1127392
Registered office	Vexour Farm Chiddingstone Edenbridge Kent TN8 7BB	
Independent examiner	Cadence Accounting Limited Suite 3 157 Station Road East Oxted Surrey RH8 0QE	
Accountants	Cadence Accounting Limited Suite 3 157 Station Road East Oxted Surrey RH8 0QE	

THE MERRY OPERA COMPANY LIMITED

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THE MERRY OPERA COMPANY LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)".

Objectives and 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.

Public benefit

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

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

In 2025 we toured three productions across England: 17 performances of Fledermaus in England in January, February and March, 8 performances of the dramatized Messiah in November and December and 2 performances of Hansel and Gretel in December. We also held two gala performances, one of them in Northern Ireland.

In 2026 we will be touring a production of Cosi fan tutte with 18 performances in the Spring and Summer and will be reviving the Messiah production to tour across southern England in November and December. We are looking also at reviving the Hansel and Gretel production.

Financial review

The result for the year was a net deficit of £14,404 (2024: income of £25,812) and the funds carried forward amounted to £967 (2024: £15,371)

Reserves policy

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 three and six month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is 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 and management

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.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Laura Booty

Michael De Styrcea

Josephine Glover

Angela Hill

Helena Woodhouse

(Appointed 20 June 2025)

(Resigned 20 June 2025)

THE MERRY OPERA COMPANY LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



Angela Hill
Trustee

Date: 19/May/2026

THE MERRY OPERA COMPANY LIMITED

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE MERRY OPERA COMPANY LIMITED

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Merry Opera Company Limited (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.



Ryan Evans

Cadence Accounting Limited

Suite 3

157 Station Road East

Oxted

Surrey

RH8 0QE

Date: 20 May 2026.....

THE MERRY OPERA COMPANY LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	3	54,118	61,325
Charitable activities	4	99,608	108,163
Other income	5	24,547	-
Total income		<u>178,273</u>	<u>169,488</u>
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	6	182,196	131,234
Charitable activities	7	10,481	12,442
Total expenditure		<u>192,677</u>	<u>143,676</u>
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		(14,404)	25,812
Reconciliation of funds:			
Fund balances at 1 January 2025		15,371	(10,441)
Fund balances at 31 December 2025		<u>967</u>	<u>15,371</u>

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

THE MERRY OPERA COMPANY LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Current assets					
Debtors	12	537		9,065	
Cash at bank and in hand		5,761		26,296	
		<u>6,298</u>		<u>35,361</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(5,331)		(19,990)	
Net current assets			<u>967</u>		<u>15,371</u>
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	14		967		15,371
			<u>967</u>		<u>15,371</u>

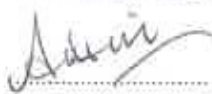
The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 December 2025.

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

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on



 Angela Hill
 Trustee

THE MERRY OPERA COMPANY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Merry Opera Company Limited is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Vexour Farm, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 7BB. Each member gives a guarantee to contribute a sum not exceeding £1, to the company should it be wound up.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a statement of cash flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

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. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

THE MERRY OPERA COMPANY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.7 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

THE MERRY OPERA COMPANY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts	6,418	39,536
Grants	47,700	21,789
	<u>54,118</u>	<u>61,325</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Charitable activities		
Theatre productions	<u>99,608</u>	<u>108,163</u>

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Other income	<u>24,547</u>	<u>-</u>

THE MERRY OPERA COMPANY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

6 Expenditure of raised funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Cost of productions		
Productions	174,409	126,261
Advertising	7,787	4,973
	<u>182,196</u>	<u>131,234</u>

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Charitable activities 2025 £	Charitable activities 2024 £
Direct costs		
Travel	2,130	1,818
General admin expenses	588	473
Resources expended	1,238	4,075
Accountancy	5,289	5,186
Bank charges	150	8
Computer costs	335	161
Insurance	751	721
	<u>10,481</u>	<u>12,442</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	<u>10,481</u>	<u>12,442</u>

8 Net movement in funds

	2025 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,700</u>

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

THE MERRY OPERA COMPANY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Total	-	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

12 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other debtors	537	9,065

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Borrowings		5,331	(6,040)
Deferred income		-	26,030
		5,331	19,990

14 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 January 2025 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 December 2025 £
General funds	15,371	178,273	(192,677)	967
Previous year:	At 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 December 2024 £
General funds	(10,441)	169,488	(143,676)	15,371

THE MERRY OPERA COMPANY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025*

15 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).