

# CONNAUGHT OPERA

England & Wales · Charity number 1131004

## Details

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Other names	NO
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2009-08-07
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	Flat 111 Ruskin Park House Champion Hill London SE5 8TH
Phone	07833736278
Email	<a href="mailto:MARIA@MARIA-ARAKIE.COM">MARIA@MARIA-ARAKIE.COM</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.connaughtopera.com">www.connaughtopera.com</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM SICKNESS, POOR HEALTH AND OLD AGE LIVING IN GREATER LONDON AND BEYOND BY THE PROVISION OF MUSICAL CONCERTS FOR HOSPITALS, RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING HOMES, DAY CENTRES AND SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS.

**Activities:** Connaught opera raise funds in order to offer free concerts to older people in care in all the greater London Borough and beyond.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** GREATER LONDON AND BEYOND
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£45,806	£37,397	-	-
2024-03-31	£30,456	£51,104	-	-
2023-03-31	£53,550	£30,975	-	-
2022-03-31	£21,270	£30,358	-	-
2021-03-31	£15,850	£19,733	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
MARIA ARAKIE	Chair	
DOMENIC PINI		2024-05-09
Dr GLENN WILSON		
Dr WILLIAM ACKER Phd Cpsyc		
SABEED DAWOOD FBDO		

**CONNAUGHT OPERA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1131004

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# Accounts

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# CONNAUGHT OPERA

*57 Connaught Street, London W2 2BB*

(CHARITY NUMBER: 1131004)

## **REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

### **YEAR ENDING 31 March 2025**

The Chair Maria Arakie, reported to the Trustees at the AGM on 15/04/2025 Present were Wendy Mead (President), Dr Glenn Wilson (Treasurer), Dr Bill Acker (Secretary), Sabeed Dawood (Trustee/signatory), and Domenic Pini (Trustee).

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

We were deeply saddened to learn of the sudden death of our dearest Trustee and Secretary, Alan Steinfeld KC, whose continuous support and guiding light was valued, and appreciated, for the many years he helped to make Connaught Opera the solid and reliable Charity it has become. Rest in Peace kind and gentle friend and colleague, you will be sorely missed.

Dr Bill Acker, who has been one of our Trustees and a strong supporter of Connaught Opera has agreed to take on the role of Secretary.

Connaught Opera is an Unincorporated Association with a Constitution as its Governing Document. The Trustees were appointed by the Executive Committee, and as required by the Constitution, reappointed annually at the AGM. They have adopted the policies and procedures as supplied to them by the Charity Commission.

#### **CHARITABLE OBJECTS**

The objects of the Charity are to relieve the needs of people suffering from sickness, poor health and old age living in Greater London and beyond by the provision of musical concerts in hospitals, residential and nursing homes, day centres and similar institutions.

#### **CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

Connaught Opera raises funds to offer free concerts to older people in care in all the Greater London Boroughs and beyond. Our activities for the year ending March 2025 are detailed below.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibility for ensuring that the Charity's activities contribute to the public benefit. Having taken note of the Charity Commission's guidance on the subject, the Trustees believe that the Charity's activities do indeed contribute to the public benefit.

#### **TURNOVER**

Our heartfelt thanks go to our major new benefactor (who wishes to remain anonymous) and has made Connaught Opera their sole beneficiary of charitable giving. Any monies received from them will be used

solely for activities that further our charitable purposes for the benefit of older, vulnerable people throughout England, with particular emphasis on enriching the cultural heritage of elders, resident in the Greater London area. The grant will not be used for any other purpose. An additional benefit is the Gift Aid from HMRC that gives us funds for more concerts.

Income for this financial year to end March 2025 was a large increase, compared with that to March 2024 (£45,805.57).

Virtually all our grant income goes directly to support our charitable activities. We believe it is most important that the elderly population, who have suffered many funding cuts, as well as additional stress due to lockdown, continue to have access to quality cultural and heritage events. Fortunately, our funders and benefactors have been in general agreement and very supportive, requesting that when safe to do so, we take professional concerts to older people in care who would not otherwise be able to attend events in the community.

It is gratifying to learn that we are made so warmly welcomed by all the audiences we perform for when they can, once more, have live performances in their care settings and attend concerts in Heritage sites.

### **SILVER SUNDAY/AGE UK EVENTS.**



Connaught Opera have supported this fine organisation for many years, 2024 being no exception. We performed at the Hampton Hill Theatre for AGEUK in Richmond, and also Jean Stokes Centre in Islington for the AGEUK Islington branch.



**Hosted by the Mercers' Livery Company in the stunning Mercers' Hall.**

**City Bridge Foundation (the Gold Standard of Funders)** provided our main support during 2024/202, when many of our regular sponsors were experiencing severe cutbacks due to the cost-of-living crisis. We are more than delighted that we have been awarded a third year of continuation funding from this very special and supportive funder. The Foundation have been having a massive overhaul of their funding programmes. We are extremely fortunate and grateful that we have received, in this funding year, a Cohort I grant of £9,945 which they have paid in one lump sum. We thought it wise to maximise the benefits of this grant by arranging many of the concerts in Heritage sites, thus enabling a much larger audience of elders to attend and benefit.

#### **LONDON BOROUGH'S' SUPPORT in24/25.**

**The CBF** grants allow us to continue our work in all the London boroughs, when other funders have had need to adjust their priorities.

#### **GUNNERSBURY HOUSE AND MUSEUM**

**The Rothschild Dining Room** was the glamorous venue for a fourth concert hosted by **Gunnersbury House and Museum**. Gunnersbury have requested a series of concerts following on the success of these, making a further 4 concerts before the end of 2025. The Museum commissioned a video of the March performance, which is featured on their website. This is also shared on the Connaught Opera website under videos.

**KNEBORTH HOUSE, Lord and Lady Cobbold** once again generously opened their home to residents in Quantum Care Homes, who funded this concert, in Hertfordshire. A short video is featured



on our website.

### The **Wizard of Oz** finale for Quantum Care Homes residents at Knebworth House

**ISLINGTON GIVING**, through their grants awarded by the panel, **Golden Grantmakers**, enabled us to perform 8 concerts in Islington, their area of benefit, during 2024.

Further. in December we were granted 4 concerts in Care Homes in Islington and a **'Make it Happen'**



grant was co-funded invited us to perform a Christmas concert.

by the **Vibast Centre** who



### SHUTTLEWORTH HOUSE

This marked the third concert held in this glamorous venue in Bedfordshire for the exclusive invited audience from Tibbs Dementia, supported by Wixamtree Trust.

### LEIGHTON HOUSE

Past residence of Frederic, Lord Leighton, whose imaginative and extravagant tastes created this exotic gem, set in the heart of London in Holland Park. Featuring Connaught in the studio in which our community concerts are hosted. We helped celebrate the birthday of Deputy Mayor of RBKC, Councillor Laura Burns.



A second concert “We’ll Gather Lilacs” at Leighton House, attended by The Deputy Mayor in March 2025.



*"It was as always, a joyful and uplifting occasion, full of laughter, singing along and so many enthusiastic and happy comments as guests departed. I can't quite put my finger on it but there was something particularly special in the air this time, I think :)"*

*My thanks also to everyone who contributed to the day, and particularly of course Maria, Glenn and Nick – you are such professionals, and you absolutely bring the pizzazz!!"  
Charlotte Villiers, Leighton House.*

## FUTURE PLANS

We will continue applying for funding in our rolling programme.

### ***Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity***

The Charity is Connaught Opera, Registration Number: 1131004. Address of the principal officer of the Charity is 57 Connaught Street, London W2 2BB, Phone 07833736278. President is Mrs Wendy Mead, OBE, past Chief Commoner. Current Trustees are: Ms Maria Arakie (Chair), Dr William Acker (Secretary), Dr Glenn Wilson (Treasurer), Mr. Sabeed Dawood (Trustee and cheque signatory). Mr Domenic Pini (Trustee). Independent Examiner: Mr P L Boielle. M Eng. MAAT (Retired Community Accountant).

The Chair handles all day-to-day management of the charity as delegated by the Trustees. There are no salaried positions, and no profit is sought. Performers are paid a small, set fee for their services, in accord with a Charity Commission provision that Connaught Executives/Trustees who receive payment are in a minority of the Committee that sets the fee. All are regular performers but none is irreplaceable. If one is unavailable or indisposed a talented replacement can be drafted. This has occasionally happened in the past, with the result that we have never in our history (dating from 2003) had to cancel a planned concert, with the exception of the COVID 19 circumstances.

*Structure, Governance and Management:* The Charity has a constitution as its governing document. It is an Unincorporated Association. *Objects of the Charity* To relieve the needs of people suffering from sickness, poor health and old age living in Greater London and beyond by the provision of musical concerts for hospitals, residential and nursing homes, day centres and similar institutions.

*Activities of the Charity:* All activities are undertaken for the beneficiaries as described in grant proposals submitted to funders. The Charity keeps virtually no reserves other than restricted funds ear-marked for ongoing projects. Fees are allocated to professional artists only after concerts have been performed, as well as any allowance for administration and travel costs as outlined in grant applications.

Signed...*Maria Arakie*... Maria Arakie (Chair), 23/04/2025.



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
Connaught Opera

No. (if any)  
1131004

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01 April 2024	To	Period end date 31 March 2025
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Grants	-	26,259	-	26,259	13,258
Donations	-	15,000	-	15,000	9,600
Gift Aid	-	4,547	-	4,547	7,598
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	-	45,806	-	45,806	30,456
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	-	45,806	-	45,806	30,456
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Artistes Fees	-	29,700	-	29,700	43,860
Venue Hire	-	1,739	-	1,739	296
Video/Photo	-	1,650	-	1,650	1,750
ICT	-	1,413	-	1,413	837
Travel	-	1,231	-	1,231	1,860
Dry Cleaning	-	600	-	600	
Stationery	-	430	-	430	
Wardrobe	-	268	-	268	1,082
Insurance	-	243	-	243	235
Parking	-	72	-	72	
Refreshments	-	51	-	51	
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	1,088
Postage	-	-	-	-	96
<b>Sub total</b>	-	37,397	-	37,397	51,104
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	-	37,397	-	37,397	51,104
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	-	8,409	-	8,409	- 20,648
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	-	7,826	-	7,826	28,474
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	-	16,235	-	16,235	7,826

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Current Account	-	16,235	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	-	16,235	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Kawai ES7 digital piano	Restricted	595	-
	Kawai ES110 digital piano & case	Restricted	572	-
	ASUS Vivobook 15 OLED Laptop	Restricted	636	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		<i>Maria Arakie</i>	Maria Arakie	22/04/2025
		<i>Glenn Wilson</i>	Glenn Wilson	22/04/2025

### Notes

#### 1 GRANTS

City Bridge Foundation	£19,695.00
Cripplegate Foundation	£3,300.00
Wixamtree Trust	£2,314.00
Quantum Care	£750.00
Islington Council	£200.00
	£26,259.00

#### 2 DONATIONS

Domenic Pini	£12,000.00
Bruce Quarterman	£3,000.00
	£15,000.00

## Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Connaught Opera, Charity No. 1131004, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity 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.

### 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.

Signed: *P. L. Boïelle*

Name: **Paul Laurence Boïelle**

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): **MAAT**

Address: **71 Lonsdale Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. SG1 5DD**

Date: 24<sup>th</sup>. April 2025

**CONNAUGHT OPERA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1131004

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# Accounts

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# CONNAUGHT OPERA

*57 Connaught Street, London W2 2BB*

(CHARITY NUMBER: 1131004)

## **REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

### **YEAR ENDING 31 March 2024**

The Chair, Maria Arakie, reported to the Trustees at the AGM on 10/05/2024. Present were Wendy Mead (President) Dr Glenn Wilson (Treasurer), Alan Steinfeld (Secretary), Sabeed Dawood (Trustee/signatory) and Dr Bill Acker (Trustee). Domenic Pini (Trustee)

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

We are delighted to welcome a new Trustee Domenic Pini, a partner and co-founder of Pini Franco LLP. We know Domenic will be a valued asset to our board of Trustees.

Connaught Opera is an Unincorporated Association with a Constitution as its Governing Document. The Trustees were appointed by the Executive Committee, and as required by the Constitution, reappointed annually at the AGM. They have adopted the policies and procedures as supplied to them by the Charity Commission.

#### **CHARITABLE OBJECTS**

The objects of the Charity are to relieve the needs of people suffering from sickness, poor health and old age living in Greater London and beyond by the provision of musical concerts in hospitals, residential and nursing homes, day centres and similar institutions.

#### **CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

Connaught Opera raises funds to offer free concerts to older people in care in all the Greater London Boroughs and beyond. Our activities for the year ending March 2024 are detailed below.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibility for ensuring that the Charity's activities contribute to the public benefit. Having taken note of the Charity Commission's guidance on the subject, the Trustees believe that the Charity's activities do indeed contribute to the public benefit.

#### **TURNOVER**

Our heartfelt thanks go to our major new benefactor,(who wishes to remain anonymous), who has made Connaught Opera their sole beneficiary of charitable giving. Any monies received from them will be used solely for activities that further our charitable purposes for the benefit of older, vulnerable people throughout England, with particular emphasis on enriching the cultural heritage of elders, resident in the Greater London area. The grant will not be used for any other purpose.

Income for this financial year to end March 2024 was £30,455.91 a decrease, compared with that to March 2023 (£53,550). Apparent large loss for this year resulted from a grant from an anonymous benefactor for 42 concerts in care settings plus 9 in heritage sites, arriving just before the end of March last year. We naturally placed the next round of concerts, and after they were performed, paid fees, in 2023/2024. The total of gifted concerts was increased by the HMRC Gift Aid this year. Importantly, our end of year balance remains healthy.

Virtually all our grant income goes directly to support our charitable activities. We believe it is most important that the elderly population, who have suffered many funding cuts, as well as additional stress due to lockdown, continue to have access to quality cultural and heritage events. Fortunately, our funders have been in general agreement and very supportive, requesting that when safe to do so, we take professional concerts to older people in care who would not otherwise be able to attend events in the community.

It is gratifying to learn that we are made so warmly welcomed by all the audiences we perform for when they can, once more, have live performances in their care settings and attend concerts in Heritage sites.

We make no apologies for quoting in full, this letter from **Sarah Russell, CEO Tibbs Dementia.**



***“Thank you for another wonderful afternoon in the magnificent surroundings of Shuttleworth House. Your annual concert for Tibbs Dementia Foundation has become a highlight of the year for many within our community who look forward to the concert for weeks in advance. Having the opportunity to experience, relax and enjoy a concert of the calibre you always produce is so important to and valued by our community.*”**

***For those with caring responsibilities day to day life can be stressful, isolating and a succession of tasks that become ever more challenging. Many of our carers can become isolated, exhausted, and sometimes experience depressive thought. An occasion such as this gives such a boost, an hour of escapism, joy, laughter and fun, a chance to connect with friends within the Tibbs community and to relax with tea and cake in beautiful surroundings has a profoundly restorative effect. The fact that the concerts are so accessible, free to attend and within an understanding environment is also so valued in a world which can often feel filled with barriers and constraint.***

***For those with dementia the concerts are always pure joy. The relaxed 'non anxious' atmosphere where people can 'just be themselves' helps those with dementia to fully engage. The surroundings, the warm welcome and the chance to 'meet the stars' after the show a real treat and confidence boost. The music of course has a great immediate impact with memories triggered and mood lifted, and Maria's costume changes are always a delightful visual boost too. Members of community enjoy the style of the show as well, relaxed, and interactive with Maria engaging so well with the audience tempered with Glenn and his tales and jokes. We were grateful to Dominic Barlow for stepping in at the last minute and playing so wonderfully, encouraging us to dance during his Glenn Miller set and waltzes. We do of course miss Nick and wish him a speedy recovery.***

***As a charity we so value this partnership, Maria your energy, enthusiasm, vision, and mission never changes. You work so hard to raise funds, organise and liaise with the venue, keeping us updated throughout as well as planning a professional show that's always so appropriate to our audience, relaxed and fun. We are grateful to the Wixamtree Charitable Trust for their support and ensuring the concert is accessible to all members of our community, and I'm delighted that 68 members of the Tibbs community were able to join us, a full house. Thank you too to the team at Shuttleworth House for making us feel so***





welcome and looking

after us so well and thoughtfully.

*I think the pictures say it all, but it really was a very special afternoon, an afternoon where reality was suspended, and we were transported to a happy, harmonious beautiful world”.*

## **GUNNERSBURY HOUSE AND MUSEUM**



**The Rothschild**

**Dining Room** was the glamorous venue for a third concert hosted by **Gunnersbury House and Museum**. Gunnersbury have requested a series of concerts following on the success of these shows during 2024. (This concert supported by **Barchester Charitable Foundation**). We are working hard to secure funding for a further 4 concerts before the end of 2024. The Museum commissioned a video of the March performance, which is featured on their website. This will also be shared on the Connaught Opera website under videos.

**KNEBWORTH HOUSE, Lord and Lady Cobbold** once again generously opened their home to residents in Quantum Care Homes in Hertfordshire. A short video is featured on our website.

Report [The 2023 Connaught Opera Performance at Knebworth House - National Care Forum](#)



## **LEIGHTON HOUSE**

Past residence of Frederic, Lord Leighton, whose imaginative and extravagant tastes created this exotic gem, set in the heart of London. Featuring Connaught in the studio in which our community concerts are hosted.



**City Bridge Trust (the Gold Standard of Funders)** provided our main support during 2022/2023 when many of our ‘regular’ sponsors were experiencing severe cutbacks due to making provision for the cost-of-living crisis. We are more than delighted that we have been awarded a third year of continuation funding from this very special and supportive funder – now called **City Bridge Foundation**.

**LONDON BOROUGH’S SUPPORT in 2023 2024** The **CBF** grants allow us to continue our work in all the London boroughs, when other funders have had need to adjust their priorities.

**ISLINGTON GIVING**, through their grants awarded by the panel, **Golden Grantmakers**, enabled us to perform 8 concerts in Islington, their area of benefit, during 2024.



**Hampton Hill Theatre.**

Age UK Richmond (Marie-Therese Keegan), organised groups from across the Borough to attend this concert “Glamorous Night”.

## FUTURE PLANS

We will continue applying for funding in our rolling programme.

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Signed...*Maria Arakie*... Maria Arakie (Chair), 10/05/2024.



**Receipts and payments accounts**

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01 April 2023	To	Period end date 31 March 2024
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**Section A Receipts and payments**

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Grants	-	13,258	-	13,258	22,300
Donations	-	9,600	-	9,600	31,250
Gift Aid	-	7,598	-	7,598	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	-	30,456	-	30,456	53,550
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	-	30,456	-	30,456	53,550
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Artistes Fees	-	43,860	-	43,860	25,350
Travel	-	1,860	-	1,860	1,386
Video/Photo	-	1,750	-	1,750	1,000
Other Expenses	-	1,088	-	1,088	41
Wardrobe	-	1,082	-	1,082	1,025
ICT	-	837	-	837	1,404
Venue Hire	-	296	-	296	285
Insurance	-	235	-	235	227
Postage, etc.	-	96	-	96	57
Refreshments	-	-	-	-	200
<b>Sub total</b>	-	51,104	-	51,104	30,975
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	-	51,104	-	51,104	30,975
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	-	20,648	-	20,648	22,575
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	-	28,474	-	28,474	5,899
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	-	7,826	-	7,826	28,474

**Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period**

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Current Account	-	7,826	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	-	7,826	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Kawai ES7 digital piano	Restricted	595	-
	Kawai ES110 digital piano & case	Restricted	572	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		Maria Arakie Glenn Wilson	Maria Arakie Glenn Wilson	24/04/2024 24/04/2024 8

## Notes

### 1 GRANTS

Islington Giving Golden Grantmakers	£5,150.00
City Bridge Trust	£5,000.00
Wixamtree Trust	£2,208.00
Barchester Charitable Fund	£900.00
	<hr/>
	£13,258.00

### 2 DONATIONS

Domenic Pini	£6,000.00
Bruce Quarterman	£3,000.00
Quantum Care	£500.00
Richmond Good Neighbours	£100.00
	<hr/>
	£9,600.00

### 3 DEFICIT

Connaught Opera received a substantial gift aided donation in the last quarter of 2022/2023 to fund 42 concerts in care settings plus 9 in heritage sites. These concerts took place during 2023/2024, with the result that there was a deficit of £20,648 on the year. However, at the year end, Connaught Opera still had reserves of £7,826, which will be sufficient to fund 2024/2025 activities until the 2024/2025 grants and donations come on stream.

## Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Connaught Opera, Charity No. 1131004,

for the year ended 31 March 2024.

## **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the trustees of the charity 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.

## **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.

Signed: *P. L. Boïelle*

Name: **Paul Laurence Boïelle**

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): **MAAT**

Address: **71 Lonsdale Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. SG1 5DD**

Date: 24<sup>th</sup>. April 2024

**CONNAUGHT OPERA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1131004

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# Accounts

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# CONNAUGHT OPERA

*57 Connaught Street, London W2 2BB*

(CHARITY NUMBER: 1131004)

## **REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

### **YEAR ENDING 31 March 2023**

The Chair, Maria Arakie, reported to the Trustees at the AGM on 10/05/2023. Present were Wendy Mead (President) Dr Glenn Wilson (Treasurer), Alan Steinfeld (Secretary), Sabeed Dawood (Trustee/signatory) and Dr Bill Acker (Trustee).

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Connaught Opera is an Unincorporated Association with a Constitution as its Governing Document. The Trustees were appointed by the Executive Committee, and as required by the Constitution, reappointed annually at the AGM. They have adopted the policies and procedures as supplied to them by the Charity Commission.

#### **CHARITABLE OBJECTS**

The objects of the Charity are to relieve the needs of people suffering from sickness, poor health and old age living in Greater London and beyond by the provision of musical concerts in hospitals, residential and nursing homes, day centres and similar institutions.

#### **CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

Connaught Opera raises funds in order to offer free concerts to older people in care in all the Greater London Boroughs and beyond. Our activities for the year ending March 2023 are detailed below.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibility for ensuring that the Charity's activities contribute to the public benefit. Having taken note of the Charity Commission's guidance on the subject, the Trustees believe that the Charity's activities do indeed contribute to the public benefit.

#### **TURNOVER**

Our heartfelt thanks go to our major new benefactor, who has made Connaught Opera their sole beneficiary of charitable giving. Any monies received from them will be used solely for activities that further our charitable purposes for the benefit of older, vulnerable people throughout England, with particular emphasis on enriching the cultural heritage of elders resident in the Greater London area. The grant will not be used for any other purpose.

Notes :Gifts to charities attract tax relief in a special way that can benefit both the charity and the donor. Most donations are in the form of cash gifts, although relief can also apply to gifts of assets.

For every 80p donated to Connaught Opera the Government will top it up with a further 20p, so long as you can certify on a 'Gift Aid Declaration' that you will pay enough UK tax to cover that 20p. The charity gets £1.

If you pay tax at the higher rates of 40% or 45%, the good news is that you can make a further personal claim to tax relief via your PAYE code or Self-Assessment tax return - of 20p or 25p for every 80p donated.

So, for example, a gift of £80 will generate £100 in benefit to Connaught Opera after gift aid has been claimed), but also attracts personal tax relief of £20 or £25 (depending on your tax band) thus reducing your net outlay to £60 or even £55.

Income for this financial year to end March 2023 was £53,550 an increase, compared with that to March 2022 (£21,270). Last year concerts were suddenly curtailed when care centres and nursing homes were understandably closed to public visits and their clients were unable to attend live concerts on heritage sites. This year (2022/ 2023) presented us with major challenges, since our work is with the elderly and vulnerable but as freelance performers we are ready to adapt to problems as they arise.

Virtually all our grant income goes directly to support our charitable activities. We believe it is most important that the elderly population, who have suffered many funding cuts, as well as additional stress due to lockdown, continue to have access to quality cultural and heritage events. Fortunately, our funders have been in general agreement and very supportive, requesting that when safe to do so, we take professional concerts to older people in care who would not otherwise be able to attend events in the community.

It is gratifying to learn that we are made so warmly welcomed by all the audiences we perform for when they can, once more, have live performances in their care settings.



The Royal Greenwich Community Fund enabled us to present 10 concerts in care home settings across the Borough.



Athlone House, Westminster with a group of patients. "I just want to say a big thanks from all the residents at Athlone house Nursing for the lovely performance on the Glamorous night." Cynthia Grant.

**City Bridge Trust provided our main support during 2022/2023 when many of our 'regular' sponsors were experiencing severe cutbacks due to making provision for the cost of living crisis.**

Some CBT FEEDBACK 2023:

Dear Maria, Glenn, Nicholas and everyone at The City Bridge Trust, Such a huge thank you for the fabulous concert on Wednesday 22nd February! As always it was such a wonderful afternoon with The Connaught Opera. We are so lucky that we get to experience a concert of such an incredible standard and feel very grateful for the experience! We absolutely loved all the music, which included so many of our favourites. The residents are always so excited to see The Connaught Opera perform. I love to see how the residents respond so positively to your warmth and kindness. Maria, your outfits were all gorgeous, we love the costume changes and all the effort that the three of you put into always making your visits a special occasion. Activities like this have such a positive impact on our resident's well-being. We are hugely grateful to the City Bridge Trust for making it all possible. Maria, Glenn and Nicholas, we really hope you can come and see us again soon! Sarah (Dalemead, Richmond)

Hi Maria. Thank you for providing the pictures that I will pass on. I must say you all were brilliant, I truly enjoyed it and from the feedback from our tenants they had a lovely

time. Look forward to seeing you again soon Kind regards Sylvia (Francis/Coborn) Peabody,  
Darwin Court, Southwark



Haynes Dementia Centre, Haringey.

“ So happy to welcome the wonderful Connaught Opera team to Penfold , great joyous singing and music , made everyone feel so cheerful as our Extra Care Residents and Community joined in singing to tunes from My Fair Lady and lots more. ” Denis Kane



Caroline said: “was brilliant thank you so much, they really enjoyed it!” (Neighbours in Poplar. Birchfield Community Centre).



Thank you so much for yesterday's show at Lynde House, Richmond. You left all my residents very happy Residents enjoyed it very much. Thank you and your team so much and I'm looking forward to hearing from you soon (Gitana Norvaisiene).

Thank you so much for the lovely show yesterday. As always our customers enjoyed the show. Please book us in for another show whenever you are available. **Many thanks Jessie B .J. Melech, Senior Support Worker. Adults and Health, 200 Chargeable Lane, Plaistow, London. E13 8DW**



**The Octagon, Orleans House Museum, Twickenham was the stunning setting for “Songs for Elizabeth”**

A Tribute to our late beloved queen. (Images: Scarlett Poppy Clark Photographer)

“Thank you, Glenn and the pianist for a wonderful performance yesterday. You all looked so perfect in the Octagon room too. ...Your wardrobe was fabulous as was your repertoire. Thank you so much for inviting our clients - they loved the concert. “

Warm wishes, Marie Therese Keegan, Well-Being Services Coordinator. AgeUK Richmond upon Thames.

The audience were invited by AGEUK Richmond who shared the concert with Whitton Network members (sponsored by Richmond Parish Lands Charity and Hampton Fund).

We also really enjoyed the **Rothschild Rooms at Gunnersbury House Museum and Park in Ealing**. With our host Jennal Amin “You all were fabulous and brought so much joy to all the residents yesterday 😊”. (A short video is on the Filmed Concerts page)



### ***Connaught Opera in the news:***

Recent Articles on our website are ‘clickable’ to view through the following links:

['Songs for Elizabeth': A Royal performance for Age UK Richmond in honour of The Queen \(swlondoner.co.uk\)](http://swlondoner.co.uk)

<https://www.islingtontribune.co.uk/article/well-sing-again-special-concert-to-honour-late-monarch>

[Toto, we're not in Kansas any more? | Islington Tribune](#)

[Filmed Concerts – Connaught Opera](#)

## STATELY HOMES



At **Knebworth House**, with Lady Cobbold our lovely Host for another wonderful year at her magical house, and Trish Washer, Operations Manager (left).

A concert sponsored by **Arnold Clark Community Fund** and **Quantum Care Homes**.

A short video from the concert for some 80 residents from Quantum Care Homes across Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire is here, on our website: [Filmed Concerts – Connaught Opera](#)





Increasingly we have developed concerts that encompass a specific theme. These have proven most popular with our audiences. They have reacted favourably to the content, costumes, and historical links provided by Glenn Wilson that add to an entertaining and educational experience. The theme in 2020 was “*A Forties Fantasia*” inspired by both the deliciously melodious and familiar music of Disney’s classic film, and the abundant, overflowing joy that swept the country at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. Now that we are able to provide our concerts once more, the specially themed concerts should prove a very uplifting morale boost. In 2022 “*With A Song in My Heart*”. Later in 2022, we were able to present concerts for Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee. “*Vivat Regina*”.

With a generous donation from Arnold Clark, we were hosted in September at Fairytale Knebworth House for residents from Quantum Care Homes.

The Wixamtree Trust once more supported a concert in Bedford at Shuttleworth House, for Tibbs Dementia. Short film is featured on the website: [Filmed Concerts – Connaught Opera](#)

“We’re busily planning our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations due to start next month. A whole year of reflection, celebration, gratitude and hopeful planning for the future. We would love one of these events to include yourselves, you’ve become such friends over the years and



“your annual concert is a real highlight for so many of us.” Sarah Russell.



For our audiences in Islington. Supported by the Cripplegate Foundation who manage funds from Islington's Community Chest, this concert below, for International Women's Day was held on March 10 at the Jean Stokes Community Centre. A packed audience were encouraged by an article in the Islington Community online: Islington Life blog.

[Islington Life - Leading ladies](#)



We pride ourselves on maintaining the same standards musically, and with lavish costumes both in the Stately Homes and the care centres, to enable all our audiences to enjoy the same high quality of performances. We are fully aware, as are our helpful funders, that events relating to the pandemic, and the ensuing cost of living crisis, may force further date changes.

## **LONDON BOROUGH'S' SUPPORT in 2022 2023**

### **CITY BRIDGE TRUST**

We are delighted that the City Bridge Trust have chosen to support 10 concerts in Inner London Boroughs. We are thrilled that this support continues for another two years (an increase to 20 concerts in 2023 across London).

### **FUTURE PLANS**

We will continue applying for funding in our rolling programme.

### ***Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity***

The Charity is Connaught Opera, Registration Number: 1131004. Address of the principal officer of the Charity is 57 Connaught Street, London W2 2BB, Phone 07833736278. President is Mrs Wendy Mead, OBE, past Chief Commoner. Current Trustees are. Ms Maria Arakie (Chair), Alan Steinfeld KC (Secretary), Dr Glenn Wilson (Treasurer), Dr William Acker (Trustee), and Mr. Sabeed Dawood (Trustee and cheque signatory). Independent Examiner: Mr P L Boielle. M Eng. MAAT (Retired Community Accountant).

The Chair handles all day to day management of the charity as delegated by the Trustees. There are no salaried positions and no profit is sought. Performers are paid a small, set fee for their services, in accord with a Charity Commission provision that Connaught Executives/Trustees who receive payment are in a minority of the Committee that sets the fee. Two are regular performers but neither is irreplaceable. If one is unavailable or indisposed a talented replacement can be drafted. This has occasionally happened in the past, with the result that we have never in our history (dating from 2003) had to cancel a planned concert, with the exception of the COVID 19 circumstances.

*Structure, Governance and Management:* The Charity has a constitution as its governing document. It is an Unincorporated Association. *Objects of the Charity* To relieve the needs of people suffering from sickness, poor health and old age living in Greater London and beyond by the provision of musical concerts for hospitals, residential and nursing homes, day centres and similar institutions.

*Activities of the Charity:* All activities are undertaken for the beneficiaries as described in grant proposals submitted to funders. The Charity keeps virtually no reserves other than restricted funds ear-marked for ongoing projects. Fees are allocated to professional artists only after concerts have been performed, as well as any allowance for administration and travel costs as outlined in grant applications.

Signed...*Maria Arakie*... Maria Arakie (Chair), 10/05/2023



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
**Connaught Opera**

No (if any)  
**1131004**

**CC16a**

**Receipts and payments accounts**

For the period from **01-Apr-22** To **31-Mar-23**

**Section A Receipts and payments**

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Donations	-	31,250	-	31,250	1000
Grants	-	22,300	-	22,300	20270
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	-	<b>53,550</b>	-	<b>53,550</b>	<b>21,270</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	-	<b>53,550</b>	-	<b>53,550</b>	<b>21,270</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Artistes Fees	-	25,350	-	25,350	24,525
ICT	-	1,404	-	1,404	1,273
Travel	-	1,386	-	1,386	1,370
Wardrobe	-	1,025	-	1,025	1,200
video & film	-	1,000	-	1,000	750
Room Hire	-	285	-	285	
Insurance	-	227	-	227	205
Refreshments	-	200	-	200	46
Other Expenses	-	98	-	98	200
Stationary	-		-		414
Accoun'cy & Ind. Exam.	-		-		375
<b>Sub total</b>	-	<b>30,975</b>	-	<b>30,975</b>	<b>30,358</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	-	<b>30,975</b>	-	<b>30,975</b>	<b>30,358</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	-	<b>22,575</b>	-	<b>22,575</b>	<b>9,088</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	5,899	-	5,899	14986
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	-	<b>28,474</b>	-	<b>28,474</b>	<b>5,899</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Current Account	-	28,474	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,474</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

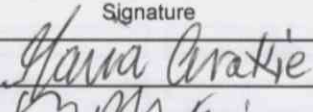
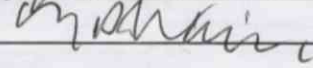
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Kawai ES7 digital piano	Restricted	595	-
	Kawai ES110 digital piano & case	Restricted	572	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Maria Arakie	6/5/23
	Glenn Wilson	6/5/23

## Independent Examiner's Report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Connaught Opera, Charity No. 1131004, for the year ended 31 March 2023.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity 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.

### 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.

Signed: *P. L. Boiëlle*

Name: **Paul Laurence Boiëlle**

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any): **MAAT**

Address: **71 Lonsdale Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire. SG1 5DD**

Date: **6<sup>th</sup>. May 2023**