

Leeds Youth Opera

Charity number 1139608

A company limited by guarantee number 07302032

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 August 2020



West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

Leeds Youth Opera

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period ended 31 August 2020

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Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

Leeds Youth Opera

Trustees' report for the period ended 31 August 2020

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial period and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Malcolm Lynch	Chair	
Paul Staniland		Appointed 24 February 2020
Steve Limb		
Kevin Paynes		
Christine Limb		
Sarah Rushton		
David Ward		
David Rose		Resigned 7 October 2019
Richard Pascoe		Resigned 7 May 2019
Nicholas Wayne		Resigned 7 September 2020
Music Director and Conductor	John Lyon	Appointed August 2019
Artistic Director	Austin Gunn	Appointed August 2019
Patrons	Jim Holmes Paul Nilon	
Charity number	1139608	Registered in England and Wales
Company number	07302032	Registered in England and Wales
Registered and principal address	Bankers	
c/o Wrigleys Solicitors	The Co-operative Bank Plc	
19 Cookridge Street	PO Box 101	
Leeds	1 Balloon Street	
LS2 3AG	Manchester M60 4EP	
Independent examiner		
Claire Welling		
West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service		
Stringer House		
34 Lupton Street		
Leeds		
LS10 2QW		

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was formed on 1 July 2010. It is governed by a memorandum and articles of association as amended by special resolution on 15 December 2010. The liability of the members in the event of the company being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £10.

The trustees hold monthly board meetings. At these meetings the Trustees discuss and agree the strategy for the year and the programme of events in which the Charity will engage.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are also the directors for the purposes of company law and are appointed by the trustees of the charity.

The Trustees have a skills matrix and are currently seeking to add further marketing experience, administration and music education skill gaps among the trustees.

Leeds Youth Opera

Trustees' report (continued) for the period ended 31 August 2020

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects

The objects are specifically for the public benefit and restricted to the following:

To educate the public and in particular young people within the city of Leeds and elsewhere in the dramatic and operatic arts;

To further the development of public appreciation and taste in the said arts;

In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise

(a) to promote interest in and knowledge of opera repertoire and tradition,

(b) to promote the training of young people in opera craft,

(c) to promote the production of suitable works for young people, and

(d) to promote occasional participation with adult professional and amateur opera groups.

The charity's main activities

The objective of the Charity is to create a learning environment for young people in Leeds who are interested in vocal, dramatic and orchestral arts and to provide opportunities to learn theatre craft and musicianship through the medium of opera and associated genres.

The Charity draws its students, between the ages of 12 and 25 on joining, following auditions from singers in Leeds and surrounding areas and who wish to combine their love of singing and engage in drama through the dramatic art of opera. Its students come from schools, colleges and universities from across the region and are also drawn from people working in Leeds who wish to continue singing for pleasure at a semi-professional level as with Leeds Festival Chorus and Leeds Philharmonic Chorus. All principal parts are double cast to provide more opportunity and to rest the young voices of the company.

Its activities are therefore quite different from many open access youth song and drama groups in Leeds and surrounding areas.

It combines the talent of these young people with excellent young musicians, predominantly from Leeds, including members of Leeds Youth Orchestra, who audition to play in each operatic production. Younger orchestra members are led by seniors, many of whom are undergraduates or graduates from Leeds University, Royal Northern College of Music, Leeds Conservatoire or other music colleges. In this way university level students obtain experience of being section leaders mentoring the younger players. The Charity seeks to develop future conducting and artistic direction and production talent by providing opportunities for young people in the early stages of their careers to support the Music Director and Artistic Director as assistants or act as deputy stage managers, sound engineers, make-up or in other production roles for performances.

Some students with the charity have gone on to develop high profile careers in opera, musical theatre and music administration.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission's advice on Charities and Public Benefit. The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities. LYO's aims are to enhance musical and dramatic development of young people between the ages of 8 and 25 through the medium of opera and musical theatre. LYO's primary focus is on singing, dramatic and musical development of young people between the ages of 11 and 18 but in order to deliver rounded performances engages young people up to the age of 25 for more mature principal and music section positions. It also provides opportunities for undergraduates and graduates to engage in artistic and musical direction. There was participation from undergraduates from the Royal Northern College of Music, University of Huddersfield and Leeds College of Music. LYO has run a successful open access Summer School in 2019 which led young people into the main company.

Leeds Youth Opera

Trustees' report (continued) for the period ended 31 August 2020

Achievements and performance

The July 2019 production was a production of Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss under the Artistic Direction of Madeleine O'Reilly and with conductor Tom Newall.

The production for February 2020 was Mozart's Don Giovanni. This was the first assignment for a new conductor John Lyon together with a new artistic director Austin Gunn (also the Artistic Director for Rocket Opera) and assistant Rosie Kat. The opera Don Giovanni deals with adult themes as does much opera and Leeds Youth Opera takes especial care to ensure in rehearsals that such themes are developed with a proper understanding for the different age groups who make up the students.

The planned production for July 2020 was The Enchanted Pig by Jonathan Dove with conductor John Lyon and Artistic director Rosie Kat. However, Covid meant that after initial rehearsals it was necessary to cease meeting in person and the performances were cancelled. The 2020 Summer School was also cancelled.

The company has been particularly pleased with the larger engagement of BAME students in the company in this period.

Future Activities

The charity operates in an environment where the provision of music education in Leeds schools has declined and there are more organisations providing opportunities for musical theatre activities which are also attractive to many of the young cohort which LYO seeks to engage. Opera North also has in recent years developed extensive outreach to children in Leeds and students can be more mobile between the different companies depending on what is on offer.

The charity will have to review the location of performances because of increased venue costs. The removal of funding for a repetiteur by Leeds City Council on the retirement of the charity's long serving repetiteur in July 2019 has added significantly to expenditure and the charity has been grateful to funding from the Emerald Foundation for transition funding over three years towards the costs of the repetiteur.

The charity has been informed that its rehearsal space at Leeds Church Institute will no longer be available and new rehearsal space will be required. The charity is very grateful to the support which Leeds Church Institute has provided since Leeds City Council closed the major rehearsal space for amateur music organisations in Leeds.

The trustees were very pleased to have recruited an experienced new artistic director and opera singer in Austin Gunn and a dynamic young music director John Lyon for the season which started in September 2019 who share the trustees' focus on encouraging the education of the young people of Leeds through song and drama.

The charity has approached its fiftieth anniversary year by commissioning a new opera for young people composed by Lewis Murphy with a libretto by Laura Attridge around the theme of climate. It was originally intended that it would be performed in July 2021 but it is now the intention to perform it in July 2022. It is the intention of the trustees that alumni will be contacted in the course of the fiftieth year to celebrate the anniversary and be encouraged to donate to the charity.

Leeds Youth Opera

Trustees' report (continued) for the period ended 31 August 2020

Financial review

The net expenditure for the period was £8,286, including net expenditure of £8,619 on unrestricted funds and net income of £333 on restricted funds.

The charity has been affected by the restrictions required by the Covid pandemic. The charity refunded some membership fees for the March-July 2020 period owing to the cancellation of rehearsals and the production of the Enchanted Pig.

The artistic teams from the Autumn of 2018 have been less successful in engaging and retaining Leeds students in the company's activities which has had an impact on membership subscriptions and show income from the families attending performances and the cancellation of the Summer School in 2020 and the Covid pandemic has reduced the number of students engaged with Leeds Youth Opera. Going forward the Trustees are planning to raise additional funds from donors and are reviewing the trust's eligibility for Theatre Tax Relief. The end of period financial position has improved and the reserves are growing towards the reserves policy objective.

The Trustees will be seeking to re-engage students with a Summer School in 2021 and the 50th anniversary operatic commission.

Reserves policy

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were £2,491.

The trustees aim to maintain sufficient reserve funds to cover between 3 and 6 months operating expenditure.

Leeds Youth Opera

Trustees' report (continued) for the period ended 31 August 2020

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

- prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP (FRS102)), and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:

Signed: Malcolm Lynch (Trustee)

Name: Malcolm Lynch

Date: 21/5/21

Leeds Youth Opera

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Leeds Youth Opera

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the period ended 31 August 2020, which are set out on pages 8 to 13.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the charitable company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the charitable company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 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 company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- 4 the accounts 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 accounts 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 accounts to be reached.

Signed: C.Welling Name: Claire Welling

Date: 21/5/21

West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

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34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Leeds Youth Opera

Statement of Financial Activities

(including summary income and expenditure account)

for the period ended 31 August 2020

	Notes	17 month period			
		2020	2020	2020	2019
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds
		£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Grants and donations	(2)	4,555	23,000	27,555	22,185
Income from productions		5,246	-	5,246	15,830
Memberships and subscriptions		9,090	-	9,090	7,972
Summer school fees		1,004	-	1,004	1,820
Total income		19,895	23,000	42,895	47,807
Expenditure on:					
Artistic director		2,533	3,417	5,950	7,575
Musical director		120	4,450	4,570	7,788
Sound engineer		654	-	654	-
Orchestra		2,628	6,872	9,500	8,950
Costumes, props and scores		1,601	1,117	2,718	2,962
Theatre costs		6,285	3,691	9,976	14,483
Royalties and licences		4,011	-	4,011	(775)
Administrator		-	-	-	985
Facilitators and trainers		-	3,120	3,120	1,832
Insurance		1,196	-	1,196	825
Promotion		1,688	-	1,688	1,863
Memberships and subscriptions		1,749	-	1,749	4,370
Phone, internet and web hosting		2,301	-	2,301	144
Independent examination		475	-	475	462
Room hire		1,437	-	1,437	1,706
Other costs		449	-	449	283
Other production costs		1,387	-	1,387	883
Total expenditure		28,514	22,667	51,181	54,336
Net income / (expenditure)		(8,619)	333	(8,286)	(6,529)
Fund balances brought forward		11,615	4,000	15,615	22,144
Fund balances carried forward	(3)	2,996	4,333	7,329	15,615

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Leeds Youth Opera
Balance sheet
as at 31 August 2020

		2020	2020	2020	2019
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	(4)	505	-	505	-
Total fixed assets		<u>505</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>505</u>	<u>-</u>
Current assets					
Debtors and prepayments	(5)	656	-	656	11,715
Cash at bank and in hand	(6)	3,424	7,333	10,757	11,077
Total current assets		<u>4,080</u>	<u>7,333</u>	<u>11,413</u>	<u>22,792</u>
Current liabilities:					
amounts falling due within one year					
Creditors and accruals	(7)	1,589	-	1,589	7,177
Deferred income		-	3,000	3,000	-
Total current liabilities		<u>1,589</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>4,589</u>	<u>7,177</u>
Net assets		<u>2,996</u>	<u>4,333</u>	<u>7,329</u>	<u>15,615</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted funds		2,996	-	2,996	11,615
Restricted funds		-	4,333	4,333	4,000
Total funds		<u>2,996</u>	<u>4,333</u>	<u>7,329</u>	<u>15,615</u>

For the year ending 31 August 2020 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476. The trustees (who also the directors for the purposes of company law) 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 and with FRS 102 (effective January 2019).

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on

Date: 21/5/21

Signed: Malcolm Lynch

(Trustee)

Name: Malcolm Lynch

Leeds Youth Opera

Notes to the accounts

for the period ended 31 August 2020

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and with the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Going concern

The trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Where grants are related to performance and specific deliverables, they are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Gifted assets are shown at the value to the charity on receipt. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

Leeds Youth Opera

Notes to the accounts continued

for the period ended 31 August 2020

2 Grants and donations	2020 Unrestricted funds £	2020 Restricted funds £	2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
Leeds Music Education Partnership (LMEP)	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Friends of Leeds Youth Opera	2,305	-	2,305	-
Leeds Community Foundation	2,250	-	2,250	-
Harewood Trust	-	-	-	1,000
Hitachi Capital (UK)	-	-	-	435
Emerald Foundation	-	3,000	3,000	-
Other donations	-	-	-	750
	<u>4,555</u>	<u>23,000</u>	<u>27,555</u>	<u>22,185</u>

3 Restricted funds	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
LCC LMEP	4,000	20,000	19,667	-	4,333
Emerald Foundation	-	3,000	3,000	-	-
	<u>4,000</u>	<u>23,000</u>	<u>22,667</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,333</u>

Fund name

Purpose of restriction

LCC LMEP	Funding from the LMEP to provide young people up to the age of 18 with the opportunity to learn singing and drama.
Emerald Foundation	Towards the costs of the repetiteur

4 Tangible assets

Cost

	Musical equipment £	Total £
At 1 April 2019	-	-
Additions	<u>505</u>	<u>505</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>505</u>	<u>505</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>505</u>	<u>505</u>
At 31 March 2019	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

5 Debtors and prepayments

	2020 £	2019 £
Debtors	-	11,651
Prepayments	<u>656</u>	<u>64</u>
	<u>656</u>	<u>11,715</u>

6 Cash at bank and in hand

	2020 £	2019 £
The Co-operative Bank account	10,412	11,077
Cash in hand	<u>345</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>10,757</u>	<u>11,077</u>

Leeds Youth Opera
Notes to the accounts continued
for the period ended 31 August 2020

7 Creditors and accruals	2020	2019
	£	£
Creditors	1,114	325
Accruals	475	6,852
	<u>1,589</u>	<u>7,177</u>

8 Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

9 Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

Leeds Youth Opera

Statement of Financial Activities including comparatives for all funds (including summary income and expenditure account) for the period ended 31 August 2020

	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Grants and donations	4,555	2,185	23,000	20,000	27,555	22,185
Income from productions	5,246	15,830	-	-	5,246	15,830
Memberships and subscriptions	9,090	7,972	-	-	9,090	7,972
Summer school fees	1,004	1,820	-	-	1,004	1,820
Total income	19,895	27,807	23,000	20,000	42,895	47,807
Expenditure						
Artistic director	2,533	1,000	3,417	6,575	5,950	7,575
Musical director	120	-	4,450	7,788	4,570	7,788
Sound engineer	654	-	-	-	654	-
Orchestra	2,628	8,950	6,872	-	9,500	8,950
Costumes, props and scores	1,601	2,173	1,117	789	2,718	2,962
Theatre costs	6,285	14,483	3,691	-	9,976	14,483
Royalties and licences	4,011	(775)	-	-	4,011	(775)
Administrator	-	-	-	985	-	985
Facilitators and trainers	-	-	3,120	1,832	3,120	1,832
Insurance	1,196	-	-	825	1,196	825
Promotion	1,688	1,863	-	-	1,688	1,863
Memberships and subscriptions	1,749	4,363	-	7	1,749	4,370
Phone, internet and web hosting	2,301	-	-	144	2,301	144
Independent examination	475	462	-	-	475	462
Room hire	1,437	706	-	1,000	1,437	1,706
Other costs	449	228	-	55	449	283
Other production costs	1,387	883	-	-	1,387	883
Total expenditure	28,514	34,336	22,667	20,000	51,181	54,336
Net income / (expenditure)	(8,619)	(6,529)	333	-	(8,286)	(6,529)
Fund balances brought forward	11,615	18,144	4,000	4,000	15,615	22,144
Fund balances carried forward	2,996	11,615	4,333	4,000	7,329	15,615