

# midsummer music

Charity Number 1145873

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the period

01 January 2024 - 31 December 2024

Charity's principal address:  
56 Severalls Avenue  
Buckinghamshire  
Chesham  
HP5 3EL

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56 Severalls Avenue  
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HP5 3EL

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity:

Sir Jeremy Dixon - Chair  
Mrs Bjørg Lewis - Artistic Director  
Mr Christopher Aldren

Name of senior member of staff:

Mrs Madeleine Lister (Mattar) - Festival Director

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Midsummer Music's governing document is a Trust Deed, which was executed on 21 December 2011. The objects of the charity as set out in its governing document are: "To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art of music through the presentation of public concerts and recitals, and for such other purposes as shall be exclusively charitable, as the trustees may from time to time decide."

The Charitable Trust is administered by three trustees. The trustees are appointed or re-appointed by the existing trustees. At the forefront of the trustees' decision-making, is a commitment to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. In 2023, the three trustees all gave their time voluntarily and received no remuneration or other benefits in the period.

The main focus of Midsummer Music's work is to produce an annual chamber music festival. This led by two Artistic Directors: the pianist, Paul Lewis and the cellist, Bjørg Lewis (also a trustee), both of whom are internationally-renowned concert musicians and award-winning recording artists. The Artistic Directors received no remuneration or other benefit in the period - either for their work in planning the festival, or as fees for performing at the festival.

The Festival Director, Madeleine Lister (Mattar) is self-employed. The Festival Director's responsibilities include all administration, charitable compliance, fund-raising, financial management, marketing, ticket sales, festival production and general management.

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## Midsummer Music in 2024

2024 was a significant year for Midsummer Music: its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the production of its 15<sup>th</sup> International Chamber Music Festival.

The Midsummer Music Launch Concert was the first event of the year. It was held on 12 April at St. Mary's Church in Old Amersham. This is the venue the festival itself has been held in for the past six years. It was particularly nice to be able to bring this event back to its local setting and the audience which sustains it from year to year. It was also heartening to reach many new audience members and give them to a taste of what happens in June at the festival itself. The concerts opened with Artistic Director and cellist Bjørg Lewis together with Madeleine Mattar at the piano. They played a selection of Schubert songs: *Im Frühling*, *Auf dem Wasser zu Singen*, *Gretchen am Spinnrade* and *Ständchen*. Then, the Artistic Director and world-renowned pianist Paul Lewis played two major Schubert Sonatas: D784 in A minor and D959 in A major. The evening ended with a reception at which the audience and artists could mingle. It is the first opportunity of the year to connect with loyal audience members and those discovering Midsummer Music for the first time. It encourages valuable donations and raises the profile of the festival yet to happen in June.

Midsummer Music's June festival was held from Thursday 6 to Saturday 8 June. It was the 15<sup>th</sup> edition and had something of a celebratory feel to it. Ticket prices were held for a further year at £30 and £20 with £6 tickets for those aged 18 and under. It has always been the intention to keep Midsummer Music as affordable as possible so that it is accessible to all.

An accomplished team of musicians of the highest stature were chosen by Paul and Bjørg Lewis and assembled to participate in the festival and share the concerts. The 15<sup>th</sup> edition seemed like the perfect moment to invite back some of the artists who had played at Midsummer Music many times before such as Imogen Cooper, Mark Padmore, Leon Bosch and Vertavo String Quartet, as well as several new artists. Here is the complete list of musicians:

Leon Bosch *double bass*  
Imogen Cooper *piano*  
Kenny Keppel *clarinet*  
Juliana Koch *oboe*  
Bjørg Lewis *cello*  
Paul Lewis *piano*  
Mark Padmore *tenor*  
Élisabeth Pion *piano*  
Julie Price *bassoon*  
Alexei Watkins *horn*  
Vertavo *string quartet*

As in previous years, five concerts were given over three days. A broad range of significant chamber music pieces were showcased, featuring works from Bach to Beethoven to Benjamin Britten to Louise Adolpha le Beau to Richard Rodney Bennett. Here is just a selection of the works programmed in 2024:

POULENC Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano  
RAVEL String Quartet  
SMETANA *Aus meinem Leben* String Quartet

SCHUMANN Dichterliebe Op. 48  
RICHARD RODNEY BENNETT Tom O'Bedlam's Song  
SCHUBERT Piano Sonatas D537, D958, D960  
FAURE La bonne chanson Op. 61 for tenor, piano and string quartet  
LOUISE ADOLPHE LE BEAU Piano Quartet Op. 28  
BENJAMIN BRITTEN String Quartet  
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 5 in piano and string quartet arrangement

This list gives a good idea of the range of composers, styles and periods represented. It's such a unique feature of Midsummer Music that the programming draws together works for many different instruments and combinations. Often these juxtapositions can help to create an eclectic and unique listening experience. It is also a privilege to witness the artistic interplay between musicians of such integrity and excellence. Collaboration is also a very key feature, because the musicians very equally share the concert programmes, with all the artists being given equal billing. There is a warm sense of support from within the whole team of musicians and an informality and friendliness that has great integrity. Often the musicians give introductions to the works they are about to play, with elucidating insights into their artistic processes and musical understanding. All these aspects are so inviting to the audience who feel that they are very much a part of the concert experience. Hugely inspiring performances were given all round, culminating in a joyful rendition of Beethoven's 5<sup>th</sup> Piano Concerto in a less often heard arrangement for piano and string quartet.

For many of the audience, Midsummer Music has become a fixture in their annual calendar to which they feel a connection and indeed an ownership: the event is a shared one and it is heartening to know that classical music and its live performance has such a devoted following. Whether listening to the more familiar, beloved pieces from the repertoire or expanding one's knowledge through newer and lesser-known works, Midsummer Music plays a significant role in creating possibilities for audience members to connect with the richly imaginative art form of chamber music.

Midsummer Music's outreach work with the children from St Mary's Church of England Primary School continued in 2024, as once again a special pre-festival concert for all of the school's Key Stage 2 children (aged from seven to eleven) was presented. The festival musicians are so generous in donating their time for free so that the children can have a real taste of a live classical music concert. Paul and Bjørg Lewis together with their colleagues played movements from Mozart's Piano and Winds Quintet and Ravel's String Quartet. Élisabeth Pion played a fun and virtuosic solo piano work. Bringing the children into the festival venue to hear music and watch musicians up close might not be an experience readily available to most of them. The concert was excellently attended by over 120 children, staff members, the headteacher and the church rector, Revd. Jonny Rapson. Everyone always leaves uplifted having ended the session by asking lots of interesting questions and having encountered something new, exciting and enriching. It's so important to everyone at Midsummer Music to continue this collaboration with St Mary's School and the invitation to attend next year in 2025 has already been accepted. Accessibility to the local community and to children and young people in particular is central to what Midsummer Music hopes to achieve. Students from local secondary schools are offered free tickets to attend the festival itself and there has been a good take-up on this, which is increasing each year.

2024 was another outstanding year filled with concerts and community outreach. The supportive network surrounding Midsummer Music remains its greatest strength. We are especially thankful to the church community for their generosity in allowing the festival to take place in their beautiful and busy church. St Mary's in Old Amersham provides an ideal setting for both performing and

listening to music, and we deeply appreciate the kindness and flexibility of the clergy and parish during the week of setup, rehearsals, and concerts.

We are proud to welcome audiences from near and far—locally, nationally, and internationally. The festival's presence in Old Amersham enriches the town, contributing to the local economy and creating a sense of excitement and anticipation. Over the past fifteen years, Midsummer Music has earned a reputation as a world-class classical music festival—uplifting, inspiring, and expertly led by two passionate champions of music and its transformative power, Paul and Bjørg Lewis.

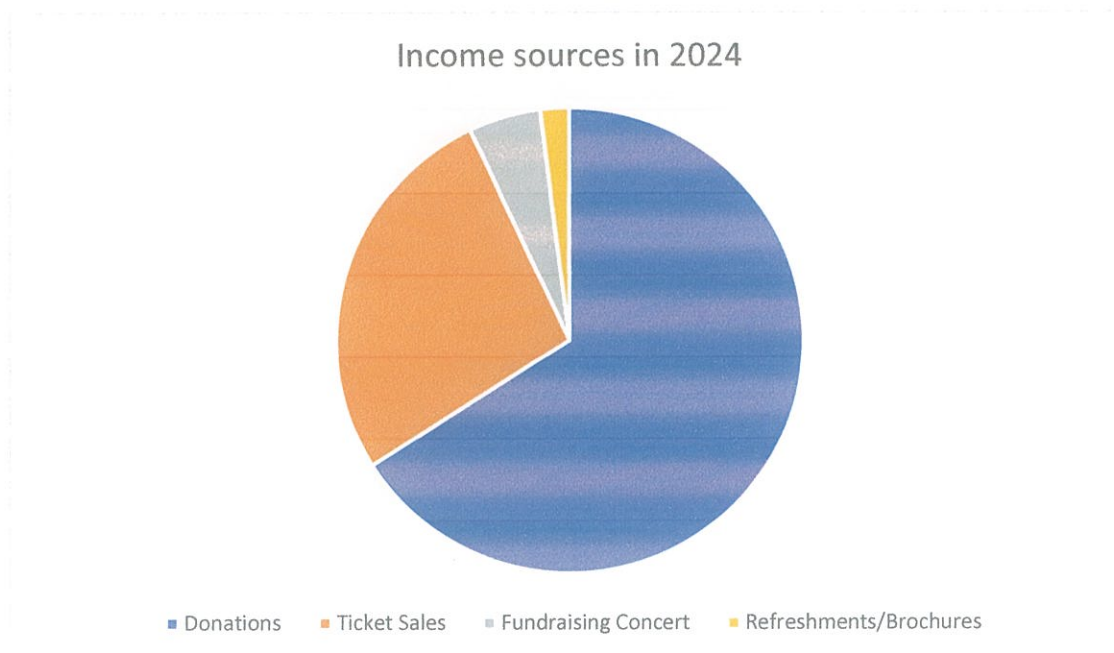
Midsummer Music exists to connect people through chamber music: bringing the greatest artists to audiences, bringing music compositions together with artistic expression, and bringing St Mary's Amersham to wider attention as a world-class venue for music.

The festival continues to celebrate classical music in an engaging and joyful way, staying true to its mission to both educate and entertain. As trustees, we take great pride in being part of Midsummer Music and remain committed to making its rewards accessible to as many people as possible.

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In 2024, Midsummer Music generated income from the four sources below:

- 1) Donations from Supporters together with grant from Merefund via the King Baudouin Foundation
- 2) Ticket sales from the festival
- 3) Fundraising / Launch Concert
- 4) Refreshment and brochure sales during the festival



Midsummer Music ended the year in a very good financial position. It is now the third year in a row to close with a net incoming resource. As seen above, the festival cannot operate on ticket sales alone, but is hugely indebted to all its Supporters and donors. Also, this year, we are especially grateful to Merifin Capital, which has made a significant grant to Midsummer Music under the auspices of the King Baudouin Foundation. At the close of the 2024 financial year, Midsummer Music held cash at the bank of £57,933 all of which is unrestricted funds. In order to meet unforeseen circumstances (another pandemic, a cancelled festival, a drop in Supporter donations, reduced ticket sales), the reserve level remains set at £10,000.

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The Trustees and Artistic Directors would like to thank everyone who helps Midsummer Music flourish: the artists, audience and donors. A genuine love of music from all of those involved remains the foundation of what Midsummer Music can achieve. We remain committed to building on Midsummer Music's contribution to the UK's cultural landscape, making the event as accessible as possible to the local community and to those who travel long distances to attend. Above all, Midsummer Music aspires to maintain the highest standards of artistic excellence in live classical music performance.

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The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

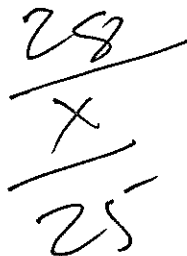
Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Dixon', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Full Name: Sir Jeremy Dixon

Position: Chairman of the Trustees

Date:

A handwritten date '28/7/25' in black ink, with the numbers written in a cursive style.

**MIDSUMMER MUSIC**

Charity No: 1145873

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**



**MIDSUMMER MUSIC**

**ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

**FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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## **MIDSUMMER MUSIC**

Charity No: 1145873

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF MIDSUMMER MUSIC**

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 2 to 4.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 43 of the Charities Act 1993. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in my report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for my work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of s43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under s43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

- to keep accounting records in accordance with s41 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or

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

Jagbir Singh Sahdra  
CPA



24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

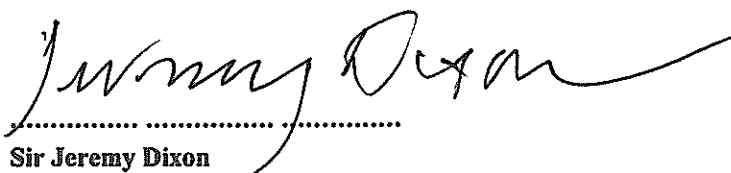
Alexander-Churchill Accountants, Brandon House, 90 The Broadway, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, HP5 1EG

# MIDSUMMER MUSIC

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	<u>Notes:</u>	<u>31 Dec 2024</u>	<u>31 Dec 2023</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>			
Cash at Bank and in Hand			
HSBC Current Account		17,565	31,999
HSBC Savings Account		40,368	-
		<u>57,933</u>	<u>31,999</u>
<b>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>			
		-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<u><u>57,933</u></u>	<u><u>31,999</u></u>
<b>Financed by:</b>			
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
Balance as at 1st January 2023		<u>31,999</u>	<u>27,562</u>
Net Income/(-Deficit) for year		<u>25,934</u>	<u>4,437</u>
Balance as at 31st December 2023		<u><u>57,933</u></u>	<u><u>31,999</u></u>

Approved by the Trustees on  
and signed on their behalf:-

  
.....  
Sir Jeremy Dixon  
Trustee

28  
x  
25

# MIDSUMMER MUSIC

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the Year-Ended 31st December 2024

### INCOMING RESOURCES

	Notes:	31 December 2024		31 December 2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>From Charitable Activities:</b>					
Ticket Sales		20,592		18,570	
Supporters		25,602		24,091	
Gift Aid		0		2,849	
<b>Total</b>			<b>46,194</b>		<b>45,510</b>
<b>From Other Activities:</b>					
Fundraising Concert		4,220		1,657	
Sale of Drinks & Programmes		1,640		1,534	
Interest from Bank		368		0	
<b>Total</b>			<b>6,228</b>		<b>3,191</b>
<b>From Charitable Grant:</b>					
Merefin Fund via the King Baudouin Foundation		25,000		0	
<b>Total</b>			<b>25,000</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>			<b>77,422</b>		<b>48,701</b>

### RESOURCES USED

<b>Cost of Generating Funds:</b>					
Fundraising Expenditure	2a	2,783		415	
<b>Total</b>			<b>2,783</b>		<b>415</b>
<b>Cost of Charitable Activities:</b>					
Accountancy Fees		744		678	
PRS Fee		1,028			
Artists' Fees	2b	19,012		13,958	
Bank Charges		119		186	
<b>Office Expenses and Printing</b>	2c	1,220		1,236	
Staff Remuneration		15,000		15,000	
Website		267		320	
Insurance	2d	325		325	
<b>Hiring Charges</b>	2e	1,557		1,551	
Piano Removal and Tuning		2,797		4,112	
Stage & Lights		3,342		2,946	
Extra help		770		1,090	
<b>Storage</b>		1,226		1,134	
Sundries		483		428	
Licence Fee for Selling drinks		21		21	
Drinks		794		865	
<b>Total</b>			<b>48,705</b>		<b>43,850</b>
<b>Total Resources Used</b>			<b>51,488</b>		<b>44,265</b>

### NET INCOMING /

( - NET DEFICIT) - RESOURCES

<b>Total</b>		<b>25,934</b>		<b>4,437</b>	
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### GENERAL FUND

	£		£
Balance 1st January 2024	31,999		27,562
Balance 31st December 2024	<b>57,933</b>		<b>31,999</b>

# MIDSUMMER MUSIC

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the Year-End- 31st DECEMBER 2024

Note:

### ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

- 1**      **[a] Basis Of Accounting:**  
The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP.
- [b] General Funds:**  
The funds of the charity are entirely General Funds available for the objects of the charity, without restriction.

		£	£
<b>2</b>	<b>[a] Fundraising Expenditure:</b>		
	Fundraising Concert	2,783	
			2,783
	<b>[b] Artists' Fees and Expenses:</b>		
	Fees (including Travel & Accomodation)	15,955	
	Refreshments	3,056	
			19,012
	<b>[c] Office Expenses and Printing:</b>		
	Office Supplies and Sundries (Translations & Program notes)	375	
	Printing:	845	
			1,220
	<b>[d] Insurance:</b>		
	Public Liability	325	
			325
	<b>[e] Hiring Chages:</b>		
	Church Hire	1,255	
	Portaloo Hire	302	
			1,557