



June 2025

## **Trustees' Annual Report 2023-2024**

### **OVERVIEW**

The financial year 2023-2024 saw the orchestra's work start to pick up with increased bookings as confidence starts to return to the industry after the pandemic.

Highlights include:

- \* A week of shows at the contemporary opera festival, Grimeborn. We performed the Premiere of Bronte Sisters - The Opera.
- \* Recording for new 'Universal' artist with producer David Stewart.
- \* Appearance on ITV's 'This Morning' show as The Wombles with Mike Batt.
- \* Concerts with Choirs in Fairfield Halls – Croydon, The Anvil - Basingstoke and The O2 Guildhall - Southampton.
- \* Summer series of 6 concerts 'Al Fresco at Canary Wharf' – in Canary Wharf.

### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The musical director and Trustees continue to work hard to achieve the aims and objectives set out in the orchestra's constitution, namely to promote, develop, improve and maintain:

- a) A high-standard orchestra in the East London area.
- b) High-quality concerts and events for the cultural benefit of the local community.
- c) Inspire local children to enjoy classical music and to take up playing classical instruments.
- d) A showcase for new compositions by British composers and for innovative musical collaborations.

### **PATRONS AND FRIENDS**

Docklands Sinfonia remains indebted to our supportive Patrons, Admiral Lord West and composer, producer and musician Mike Batt.

We would also like to thank supporters of the orchestra who pay a £20 annual fee to become a Friend of Docklands Sinfonia. Many have been Friends since the orchestra launched in 2009 and continued their support during the Covid restrictions.

## **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

Our income from thirteen live events was £66,866, up from £17,080 the previous year. The orchestra had four engagements this year where the income exceeded £10,000: the Bronte Opera, and concerts with the Basingstoke, Southampton and Croydon choral societies. Musician and other concert-related expenses matched these incomes per the charity's policy, enabling it to break even for all the events once all items were taken into account for incomes and expenses paid in different accounting periods.

Donations and memberships (orchestra and friends) amounted to £182; there were no grants received.

The charity holds a total of £24,681 in committed funds carried forward from the previous year's accounts (see below) , and £6,514 in uncommitted funds which are available for future investment.

## **ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

A set of acoustic shield deflectors was purchased for £345. These help musicians in studio conditions by reducing the effect of sounds from other performers around them.

There are no liabilities. However, we continue to hold funds previously accumulated for a CD of music from our Epic Persia concert and for a planned second Epic Persia concert. These monies are noted in the summary of annual accounts as committed funds.

## **GOVERNING STRUCTURE**

Our six trustees normally meet a minimum of three times a year with extra meetings as required to discuss specific areas such as PR/Marketing, Strategy and Fundraising. The conductor/musical director is also in attendance to advise and contribute ideas.

## **TRUSTEES**

Kathryn Lewis, Chairman (PA Consulting)

J. Kirsty Walker, Deputy Chairman (University College London)

Harold Sim, Accountant (Wells Fargo, now retired)

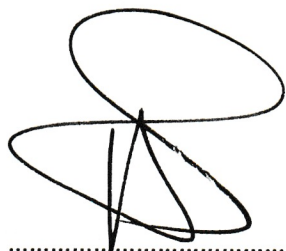
Phil Sizer (Ensembles, Programming & Instrument Manager, Guildhall and Orchestral Manager, Docklands Sinfonia)

R. Clare Walker (Clare Walker Associates; joint founder and former Treasurer of the orchestra)

Lesley Balding (London Link Properties/Vice Chair Limehouse Community Forum)



Signed: ..... Kathryn Lewis, Chairman



..... Harold Sim, Accountant

Date: 19 June 2025 .....

## Accountant's Report: Docklands Sinfonia 2023/24

### Bank balances

	01-Sep-23	31-Aug-24	Movement
Community account	16,808	5,701	(11,107)
Savings account	25,337	25,493	156
Total	42,145	31,195	(10,950)

### Funds available for use:

BANK ACCOUNTS		
Current	5,701	
Savings	25,493	
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>31,195</b>
<b>Less committed funds:</b>		
Canary Wharf Festival payments made next year	(4,716)	
Funding for Epic Persia CD	(16,965)	
Funding for Epic Persia Concert II	(3,000)	
<b>Total Committed Funds</b>		<b>(24,681)</b>
<b>Uncommitted funds carried forward</b>		<b>6,514</b>

### Income and Expense analysis for the 12 months ending 31-Aug-24

Event incomes and expenses	Net	Income	Musicians	Hire / Mktg / Other
Bronte Opera	145	22,687	(22,508)	(34)
HMS Belfast	0	1,100	(1,100)	
Basingstoke Choral	16	10,522	(10,506)	
Southampton Philharmonic Society	9	11,668	(10,890)	(769)
The Pool session	2	2,228	(2,226)	
Croydon Philharmonic	154	12,735	(12,581)	
Wombles	0	1,210	(1,210)	
Canary Wharf Festival 14	0	4,716	(4,716)	
<b>EVENTS SUB-TOTAL A</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>66,866</b>	<b>(65,737)</b>	<b>(803)</b>

Other incomes and expenses	
Donations, Gift Aid, Membership, Friends etc	182
Grants	0
Savings account interest	156
Monthly email costs (marketing)	(199)
Printing costs (ink & paper)	(185)
Other costs	(826)
<b>Net oth inc/exp B</b>	<b>(872)</b>

<b>Net movement of funds A+B</b>	<b>(546)</b>
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### Prior year income received in advance

Bronte Opera September 2023	(11,254)
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### Event income received in the next year

Canary Wharf Festival July 2024	(2,366)
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### Musician payments made in the next year

Canary Wharf Festival July 2024	4,716
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### Venue hire for next year paid in advance

Reading November 2024	(1,500)
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<b>Adjusted movement of funds including prior year and</b>	<b>(10,950)</b>
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### Notes

1: The Bronte Opera income was split over two years; £11,254 was received last year
2: Music hire for the Southampton Phil Soc was £769
3: Some of the funding income and all of the musician payments for the Canary Wharf Festival were paid in the next year: September 2024
4: The interest from the Business Account continued to generate an income of £156
5: Other costs included instrument insurance of £405 and the purchase of acoustic shield deflectors from Chamberlain £345

# **DOCK LANDS SINFO NIA**

## **Annual Accounts for 2023-2024**

### **EXAMINER'S REPORT**

I confirm that I have examined the Docklands Sinfonia Annual Accounts for 2023-24 and that I believe them to be an accurate statement of the Charity's Financial performance during that year. I have been given access to the Charity's detailed accounts and have also had meetings with the Charity's Treasurer

I have been associated with the orchestra since it's foundation in 2009 as a Friend of Docklands Sinfonia and have know the joint founders for many years. As a result of my experience as a Company Director, Company Secretary and Accounts Administration since 1972 I was asked to act as examiner of the orchestra's accounts

Signed .....V B Cahill..... Mrs Valerie B Cahill

Date..... 19/06/2024