



## Trustees' Annual Report 2024-2025

*May 2026*

### OVERVIEW

The financial year 2024-2025 presented both challenges and opportunities for Docklands Sinfonia. Despite the cancellation of the Iran concert at the Royal Albert Hall due to visa issues, the orchestra maintained a busy performance schedule, highlighted by two concerts with the Southampton Philharmonic Society, a performance with the Basingstoke Choral Society, appearances at the Estuary Festival and Canary Wharf, and the annual HMS Belfast Remembrance Day service. The year also saw engagements with Candlelight concerts and a collaboration with Forte Productions.

The year proved financially challenging, with an adjusted deficit of £942 after accounting for prior year payments and the cancelled Iran concert. However, prudent financial management ensured that committed funds for future projects remained protected, and the charity continues to maintain healthy reserves.

### 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:

1. A high-standard orchestra in the East London area.
2. High-quality concerts and events for the cultural benefit of the local community.
3. Inspire local children to enjoy classical music and to take up playing classical instruments.
4. 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 their continued support remains vital to our work.

### PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

The orchestra delivered a diverse programme of performances throughout the year:

- **HMS Belfast Remembrance Day** – The orchestra continued its tradition of marking this significant commemoration with a moving performance.
- **Southampton Philharmonic Society** – Two successful concerts in Southampton, generating combined income of £23,061 and demonstrating the orchestra's reach beyond East London.

- **Basingstoke Choral Society** – A collaborative concert that showcased the orchestra's versatility and ability to work with community music organisations.
- **Estuary Festival** – Bringing orchestral music to new audiences along the Thames Estuary.
- **Canary Wharf** – Continuing our presence in the heart of Docklands with a well-attended public concert.
- **Candlelight Concerts** – Participation in the innovative Candlelight concert series, reaching new and diverse audiences.

Unfortunately, the planned Iran concert at the Royal Albert Hall had to be cancelled due to visa complications for visiting musicians. This was a significant disappointment, both artistically and financially, though the deficit was absorbed by the committed Epic Persia fund.

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Total income from performance events was £57,806, with musician fees and associated costs totaling £58,027, yielding a gross deficit from events of £221. When combined with other income sources, including £221 in donations and membership fees, £561 in savings interest, and a £100 ex gratia payment from Barclays following a fraud incident on the account, total income reached £58,688.

Operating costs included £422 for monthly email marketing, £506 for printing, and £675 in other costs, bringing total non-performance expenditure to £1,603.

The net movement of funds before adjustments was a surplus of £942. However, when accounting for the Canary Wharf Festival accrued net payments of £2,607 made both this year and next the adjusted movement of funds was a reduction in the overall cash balance of £3,549.

The charity holds total funds of £27,646, comprising £5,569 in the current account and £22,077 in the savings account. Of this, £18,583 remains committed to the Epic Persia CD project (£16,965) and Epic Persia Concert II (£1,618), leaving £9,063 in uncommitted reserves available for general operations. The £1,382 deficit arising from the cancelled Iran concert was taken from the Epic Persia Concert II fund

## ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The orchestra maintains no significant fixed assets beyond music scores and general office equipment. There are no liabilities. The committed funds for the Epic Persia projects continue to be ring-fenced pending completion of these planned activities.

## GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Trustees meet regularly throughout the year, with a minimum of four meetings to review performance, finances, strategy and governance matters. The conductor and musical director attends meetings to provide artistic direction and advice. Trustees also present reports at the Annual General Meeting, to which all musicians are invited.

Following a governance review in November 2025, the Trustees updated the Terms of Reference to strengthen oversight and clarify roles, ensuring the charity remains compliant with Charity Commission requirements and best practice in the sector.

## TRUSTEES

The Trustees serving during 2024-2025 were:

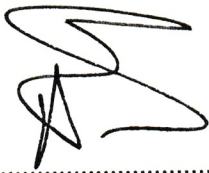
- Kathryn Lews (Chair) – Partner, PA Consulting

- Harold Sim (Treasurer) - retired
- Lesley Balding (Trustee) – Founder, LondonLink Properties Ltd
- Phil Sizer (Trustee) – Ensemble, Programming & Instrument Manager, Guildhall School of Music and Drama
- Clare Walker (Trustee) – retired
- Kirsty Walker (Trustee) – Vice President (External Engagement), University College London



Signed: .....

Kathryn Lewis, Chairman



..... Harold Sim, Treasurer

Date: .....14 May 2026.....



## Accountant's Report: Docklands Sinfonia 2024/25

### Bank balances

	01-Sep-24	31-Aug-25	Movement
Community account	5,701	5,569	(132)
Savings account	25,493	22,077	(3,416)
Total	31,195	27,646	(3,548)

### Funds available for use:

BANK ACCOUNTS		
Current	5,569	
Savings	22,077	
<b>Total Funds</b>		27,646
<b>Less committed funds:</b>		
Funding for Epic Persia CD	(16,965)	
Funding for Epic Persia Concert II	(1,618)	
<b>Total Committed Funds</b>		(18,583)
<b>Uncommitted funds carried forward</b>		9,063

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

Event incomes and expenses	Net	Income	Musicians	Hire / Mktg / Other
HMS Belfast Remembrance Day	0	1,100	(1,100)	
Film night Forte Productions, Greenwich ORNC	0	3,977	(3,977)	
Southampton Phil Soc	862	15,825	(13,500)	(1,463)
Candle Light	0	1,235	(1,150)	(85)
Southampton Phil Soc	0	7,236	(7,236)	
Basingstoke Choral	227	12,392	(11,074)	(1,091)
Estuary Festival	332	6,588	(6,256)	
Canary Wharf	(260)	5,567	(5,827)	
Iran Concert (RAH) - cancelled	(1,382)	3,886	(5,030)	(238)
<b>EVENTS SUB-TOTAL A</b>	<b>(221)</b>	<b>57,806</b>	<b>(55,150)</b>	<b>(2,877)</b>

Other incomes and expenses	
Donations, Gift Aid, Membership, Friends etc	221
Grants	0
Ex gratia payment Barclays re fraud on account	100
Savings account interest	561
Monthly email costs (marketing)	(422)
Printing costs (ink & paper)	(506)
Other costs	(675)
<b>Net oth inc/exp B</b>	<b>(721)</b>

<b>Net movement of funds A+B</b>	<b>(942)</b>
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#### Income received this year for prior year event

Canary Wharf Festival July 2024	2,366
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#### Musicians paid this year for prior year event

Canary Wharf Festival August 2024	(4,716)
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#### Income received next year for this year's event

Canary Wharf Festival July 2025	(2,784)
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#### Musicians paid next year for this year's event

Canary Wharf Festival July 2025	2,527
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Rounding	1
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<b>Adjusted movement of funds including prior year and future year income and expense</b>	<b>(3,548)</b>
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### Notes

- The Film Night in Greenwich was cancelled but musicians were contracted to be paid within 30 days. In order to meet this deadline £3,977 was paid on account by DS to Forte Productions from the Business (Savings) Account. This was reimbursed by Forte to the Community (Current) Account and the amount transferred back to the Business Account in the new year, September 2025
- The musicians were paid for the previous year's Canary Wharf Festival during this year, and paid for parts of this year's festival next year
- The Business Account balance was brought up to date as at end-August; previous years have just used the annual bank statement issued in the previous January. Interest therefore includes two extra quarters' interest amounts
- There was a fraud on the Business Account which was corrected by Barclays, and they sent us an ex gratia payment for £100
- The Iran concert was cancelled due to visa issues and the subsequent deficit has been taken from the Funding for Epic Persia fund. £150 was paid to the Parochial Church as a security deposit and this is due to be repaid next year. This money will now be used for the recording and we are hoping to record in June 2026

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