

# London Firebird Orchestra

Company Registration No. 8392959

Registered Charity Number: 1151014

## Report of Activities for the year ending 28 February 2021

At the start of the period the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis began to unfold. The orchestra was due to perform at Kings Place in March 2020 at a concert which had to be cancelled at short notice, in view of UK government restrictions. In spite of a lack of concert income, fortunately, sufficient reserves made it possible to offer cancellation payments to all performing artists involved with this production. The first lockdown period concluded in summer 2020. By the early autumn it seemed possible for concerts to be organised again but with safety measures in place – the precise details of which evolved over time and were subject to change without notice. An initial concert planned for September 2020 had to be cancelled at very short notice, whilst regulations were clarified and safety measures fine-tuned. Once again the orchestra made cancellation payments to all the performers. These payments, like those of earlier in the year, seemed particularly important at a time of great challenge for those in the performing arts.

Happily two further concerts took place successfully in the autumn of 2020 – one each in October and November. The first was enjoyed by a socially-distanced audience with a heavily reduced maximum capacity. By the time of the second, live audiences were no longer permissible so the concert was filmed for subsequent broadcast instead. In fact, all performances that have taken place during the pandemic have been filmed and released online so that those who could not attend in person could enjoy them at home. These recordings have also been made available to the musicians involved to enable them to showcase their work. By Christmastime the UK went into a long period of lockdown once again and it was not until May 2021 that the orchestra could start to play again, so this concludes the performing activities of the period.

Naturally the heavy reduction in concert activity and audience capacity led to a substantial fall in concert income. Nevertheless payments to performing artists remained at their usual percentage – around 50% of expenditure. A further fall is seen in Voluntary Income. This is partly due to there being two sponsored concerts in the previous period – a concert at St George's Hanover Square, which unusually attracted direct sponsorship, and a Firebird for Schools Concert which was heavily subsidised by two large donations. None of the various sponsorship contributions continued into the current period, as no productions were produced in their various categories. In addition, a small proportion of the orchestra's Friends & Benefactors Society were unable to maintain their support at the usual level, while the majority continued their support.

Income from engagement fees fell slightly. A largescale concert at Middlesex University, planned for March 2020, was cancelled. However the university supported the orchestra by making cancellations payments, again to help artists at a difficult time.

Notwithstanding these considerable challenges, the year concluded with a reserve only marginally reduced.

November 2021

David Baty (*Chairman*), Marc Corbett-Weaver (*Artistic Director*), Michael Manning Clark, Roderick Graham, Philip Rowley  
Trustees of London Firebird Orchestra

For further information about London Firebird Orchestra please visit: [www.LondonFirebird.com](http://www.LondonFirebird.com)

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## Financial Statements for the year ending 28 February 2021

Notes		Year to 28 Feb '21	Year to 29 Feb '20
	<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
1	Concert income	<b>2,485</b>	14,674
2	Engagement fees	<b>5,373</b>	6,078
3	Voluntary income	<b>27,196</b>	39,891
4	Gift Aid	-	5,726
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>35,054</u></b>	<b><u>66,369</u></b>
	<b>Expenses</b>		
5	Payments to performing artists	<b>18,190</b>	39,228
6	Concert expenses	<b>13,141</b>	20,714
7	Recordings	<b>1,045</b>	960
8	Promotion	<b>1,955</b>	2,265
9	Insurance	<b>1,137</b>	362
10	Bank charges	<b>98</b>	159
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>35,566</u></b>	<b><u>63,688</u></b>
	<b>Surplus/Deficit for the year</b>	<b><u>(512)</u></b>	<b><u>2,681</u></b>

### Notes

- 1 Ticket sales and other income generated by the orchestra's own productions.
- 2 Fees paid by external promoters in respect of the orchestra's performances.
- 3 Gifts donated by private individuals to support the orchestra's work.
- 6 Venue hire, hire of percussion equipment and other musical instruments, hire or purchase of sheet music, catering and ancillary expenses, management and production costs

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## Balance Sheet as at 28 February 2021

	Year to 28 Feb '21	Year to 29 Feb '20
<b>ASSETS</b>		
	£	£
Fixed Assets	0	0
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	27,608	28,120
Total current assets	<u>27,608</u>	<u>28,120</u>
Current liabilities	0	0
Total current liabilities	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u>27,608</u>	<u>28,120</u>
 <b>CAPITAL &amp; RESERVES</b>		
Reserves brought forward	28,120	25,439
Surplus for year	(512)	2,681
<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<u>27,608</u>	<u>28,120</u>