

THE SERSE TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1153972

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2013-09-26

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Garth House
Bell Lane
Cocking
West Sussex
GU29 0HU

Phone 07789 988911

Email john.allen.911@mac.com

Website <http://www.thesersetrust.com/>

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN, AND APPRECIATION OF, THE ART OF MUSIC IN PARTICULAR NEGLECTED 18TH CENTURY OPERAS AND OTHER MUSICAL WORKS OF THAT PERIOD BY ANY MEANS THE TRUSTEES SEE FIT, INCLUDING THROUGH THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CONCERTS AND RECITALS.

Activities: THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY OPERA, AND SUPPORTING YOUNG AND ASPIRING MUSICIANS IN THE PROCESS.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups

Geography

- City Of Westminster

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£89,633	£105,030	-	-
2023-12-31	£9,174	£12,328	-	-
2022-12-31	£77,289	£72,636	-	-
2021-12-31	£30,233	£27,846	-	-
2020-12-31	£12,877	£17,708	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
CHRISTOPHER PAUL VICTOR SILVESTER	Chair	2013-06-21
Dr Alan King		2019-01-03
EDWARD JOHN WILLOUGBY HOUGHTON		2013-06-21

THE SERSE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1153972

Accounts

The Serse Trust Annual Activity Report for 2024

Chairman: Christopher Silvester

The Serse Trust was formed on 18th December 2012. It obtained HMRC approval on 1st June 2013 [Ref. no. EW00385] and full registered charitable status on 26 September 2013 [No. 1153972].

The trustees are Christopher Silvester (chairman), whose professional background is in journalism and PR; Edward Houghton, whose professional background is in the law; and Dr Alan King, a retired consultant anaesthetist and doyen of the London Handel scene.

The operations board consists of Christopher Silvester (chairman); John Allen (treasurer); Mark Payne; Dr Alan King; and Edward Houghton, with the support of Leo Duarte and Ana Waszak.

The Trust was formed to support Ensemble Serse but later switched to supporting the newly formed Opera Settecento, which seeks to revive 18th-century opera seria and other unjustifiably neglected works of the baroque. It also has a mission to promote young and emerging talent, both vocal and instrumental.

The principal vehicle is Opera Settecento, of which Leo Duarte is the Artistic Director. He has transitioned from one of Europe's top baroque oboists to also embrace a career in conducting period performance groups like Opera Settecento and others. In Summer 2022 he made his successful major conducting debut with English Touring Opera and Handel's *Agrippina*.

Performances in 2024 included the following:

January 2024	Rezonanzen Festival Vienna / 'The Planets - Uranus'
June 2024	Halle Handel Festival / <i>Titus L'Empereur</i> HWV A5 (two performances)
October 2024	London Handel Festival / <i>Jane Barbier - the Shrew'd Syren</i> (recital with Ciara Hendrick)
November 2024	Handel Friends / Handel Duets (recital with Hilary Cronin and Francis Gush)

The Trust income was £89,633 for the year, compared to £9,174 in 2023.

Personal donations were significantly down compared to 2022 with just two donors, and we were very grateful for another significant donation from the Behrens Foundation via Stephen Cockburn, and for the donation received from the London Handel Society.

The Trust expenses were £105,030 for the year compared to £12,328 in 2023.

Very modest, but very well deserved, fees went to Anna Waszak for her amazing work as General Manager.

The shortfall of £15,397 in 2024 was funded from the £21,300 reserves brought forward from 2023, leaving £5,903 reserves carried forward to 2025.

Since the income was less than £10,000 in 2024, no independent review of the financial report is required.



John Allen
Treasurer

THE SERSE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1153972

Accounts



The Serse Trust(Registered Charity 1153972)
6 Beechwood Avenue
Weybridge
Surrey KT13 9TE
Chairman: Christopher Silvester
Treasurer: James Alexander

The Serse Trust Annual Activity Report for 2022

The Serse Trust was formed on 18th December 2012. It obtained HMRC approval on 1st June 2013 [Ref. no. EW00385] and full registered charitable status on 26 September 2013 [No. 1153972].

The trustees are Christopher Silvester (chairman), whose professional background is in journalism and PR; James Alexander (treasurer), whose professional background is in investment management; Edward Houghton, whose professional background is in the law; Dr Alan King, a retired consultant anaesthetist and doyen of the London Handel scene; and Miranda Houghton a former classical musical agent and critic, currently a therapist working with musicians.

The Trust was formed to support companies that seek to revive 18th-century opera seria and other unjustifiably neglected works of the baroque. It also has a mission to promote young and emerging talent, both vocal and instrumental. The principal vehicle is Opera Settecento, of which Leo Duarte is the Director. He is currently transitioning from one of Europe's top baroque oboists to also embrace a career in conducting period performance groups like Opera Settecento and others. In Summer 2022 he made his successful major conducting debut with English Touring Opera and Handel's Agrippina. One of a number of very favourable reviews remarked: *"In the pit, Leo Duarte (conducting rather than playing the oboe) drew vivid playing from the Old Street Band. This was a performance where the vivacious action on stage was really balanced by strongly characterised and stylish playing in the pit. Duarte's highly dramatic conducting style seemed to almost draw the sound physically from the players."* Joanne Miller is our General Manager who works closely with Leo, organises our mini-tours and, marketing and recording projects, as well as being an in-demand period performance viola player.

2022 finally saw the easing of the Covid lockdowns. We performed a three times matching our best ever year. In January we gave our debut performance at Theater am der Wien, presenting Aminta e Filide with the Fair Oriana duo, Penelope Appleyard and Angela Hicks and in the title roles. The production was broadcast live on the internet and was clearly received with great acclaim, loud cheers even.

After some frustrating covid-related delays we finally performed Handel's Fernando at both the London Handel Festival and Halle Handel Festival. Both concerts were very well received. It was a premiere of this neglected, because unfinished, piece. As well as rediscovering opera seria our charitable mission was also well served by the performers chosen for the performance. As leading critic Alexandra Coughlan noted: *"And what a cast. Name a young British singer headed for big things, and you'll find them here. There is Susanna Fairbairn's sumptuous Princess Elvida, all dramatic ice and vocal fire, turning an ingenue into a queen, finding her match in the unshowy, emotionally-grounding warmth of Ciara Hendrick's matriarch Isabella. And there is Nick Scott's poised King Dionisio and Meili Li's sweet-toned lover Fernando."*

Our recording of Arias for Ballino was held at All Hallows Gospel Oak in London. It involved several days of playing in a very cold church but our very well-regarded producer was very positive. The editing is well underway and we are still on target for a release late in 2023. Our young tenor Jorge Navarro Colorado is increasingly being recognised as rising star with some excellent roles and reviews going his way. Our backing for him is very much in line with one of core missions to support emerging talent. He also has a second CD in the works due for release in later 2023 involving same sex love duets.

The Trust had a total turnover of over £75000 (£30000 in 2021). Donations (plus associated Gift Aid) and grants made up around one-third of our income, the majority was in performance fees from our three concerts. The bulk of the donations were specifically tagged for our recording, temporarily restricting their use during the year, but then paid out after the recording.

We are immensely grateful to all our supporters for their incredibly generous response to our funding campaign. Everyone will get mentioned with the final product but special thanks should go to Chris Carter, Erhard Meier, Hugh Meares, Peter Wardle, Charles Lutyens, Angela Cain and Robert Hughill – plus two very generous donors who particularly wanted to support Jorge, but wished to remain anonymous.

The major personal donors (Alan King, Edward Houghton and James Alexander) were again very supportive in giving their normal annual contributions. We were also grateful for another significant donation from the Behrens Foundation via Stephen Cockburn. The Independent Examination of our accounts in 2022 has once again been carried out by Mr Paul Fage, for which many thanks.

Our expenses were again slightly less than our revenues but we still have a number of outstanding payments to make from 2022 activities as well as various firm commitments for 2023. Almost all of income was spent on singers and musicians, as well as the technicians for the recording. Very modest, but very well deserved, fees went to Joanne Miller for her General Manager work.

For 2023 we look forward to coming out with our premier recording and to a fascinating lunchtime concert in the London Handel Festival Spring season of Arias for Cuzzoni with our good friend soprano Angie Hicks. We are also engaged in longer term planning for a major and innovative engagement in 2024 at both the Halle Festival and the LHF.

James Alexander (Treasurer)



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Serse Trust

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/01/22

To

31/12/22

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	25,497	-	-	25,497	12,311
Gift Aid	3,009	-	-	3,009	1,964
Sales	48,783	-	-	48,783	15,958
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	77,289	-	-	77,289	30,233
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	77,289	-	-	77,289	30,233
A3 Payments					
Production 1 (Amita in Vienna)	10,508	-	-	10,508	16,665
Production 2 (Fernando)	40,214	-	-	40,214	7,677
Production 3 (Ballino recording)	17,403	-	-	17,403	1,004
Production 4 (last costs for 2021 LH)	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
Other costs	3,511	-	-	3,511	2,500
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	72,636	-	-	72,636	27,846
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	72,636	-	-	72,636	27,846
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,653	-	-	4,653	2,387
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	19,801	-	-	19,801	-
Cash funds this year end	24,454	-	-	24,454	2,387

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current account	24,454	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	24,454	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

THE SERSE TRUST

On accounts for the year
ended

31/12/2022

Charity no
(if any)

1153972

Set out on pages

N/A

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2022

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

~~The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination ~~(other than that disclosed below*)~~ which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

PSR

Date:

12/5/23

Name:

PAUL STAFFORD FAGE

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body

(if any):

Address:

19 ASHLEY DRIVE
WALTON-ON-THAMES
SURREY KT12 1JL

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

THE SERSE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1153972

Accounts



The Serse Trust(Registered Charity 1153972)
6 Beechwood Avenue
Weybridge
Surrey KT13 9TE
Chairman: Christopher Silvester
Treasurer: James Alexander

The Serse Trust Annual Activity Report for 2021

The Serse Trust was formed on 18th December 2012. It obtained HMRC approval on 1st June 2013 [Ref. no. EW00385] and full registered charitable status on 26 September 2013 [No. 1153972].

The trustees are Christopher Silvester (chairman), whose professional background is in journalism and PR; James Alexander (treasurer), whose professional background is in investment management; Edward Houghton, whose professional background is in the law; Dr Alan King, a retired consultant anaesthetist and doyen of the London Handel scene; and Miranda Houghton a former classical musical agent and critic, currently a therapist working with musicians.

The Trust was formed to support companies that seek to revive 18th-century opera seria and other unjustifiably neglected works of the baroque. It also has a mission to promote young and emerging talent, both vocal and instrumental. The principal vehicle is Opera Settecento, of which Leo Duarte is the Director. He is currently transitioning from one of Europe's top baroque oboists to also embrace a career in conducting period performance groups like Opera Settecento and others. Joanne Miller is our General Manager who works closely with Leo, organises our mini-tours and, marketing and recording projects, as well as being an in-demand period performance viola player.

2021 was looking to be nearly as bad as 2020 but a gradual easing of Covid allowed a modest recovery in our activity. Both our planned Spring performances of Handel's pasticcio, *Lucio Papirio dittatore* (HWV A6) were cancelled, yet again. However, with the very generous support of the Halle Festival we were able to turn one of the *Lucio Papirio* concerts into a very high quality video recording that was then broadcast "live" for the first time at their virtual festival in May 2021. The performance was rehearsed and recorded at the excellent Wiltshire Music Centre in Bradford upon Avon. The team there provided highly professional technical and admin support and we hope to return soon to perform with a real live audience. It was also broadcast over the radio and internet and is still available (somewhat mysteriously) on YouTube and has received over 1000 views to date. At least two of the young team of singers, Helen Charlston and Jess Dandy, are moving on now to forge international careers – in line with the missions of the Serse Trust.

The exceptional performance of the *Lucio Papirio* production and those in the past means we have been re-booked for both the LHF and the Halle Handel Festival to perform *Fernando* in 2022.

Whilst the London Handel Festival was wiped out in its entirety for Spring 2021 the team heroically regrouped and managed to produce a mini-festival in September. We stepped in to help too and performed a concert consisting of "Arias for Ballino", one of Handel's leading tenors, starring the upcoming Jorge Navarro. The concert received a 5-star review from Robert Hughill who described Jorge's performance as one of "thrilling virtuosity and engaging personality". He is just the sort of young singer that our charity was set up to support. A sign of his growing recognition is that he was signed up to sing under Diego Fasolis at La Fenice in Spring 2022 in Vivaldi's *La Griselda*. We decided to use the arias in this concert as the basis for our initial commercial recording. The concert thus became a platform for us to launch an appeal for funds than will pay the upfront costs of the recording – planned for November 2022.

The Trust had a total turnover of just over £30000 (£17000 in 2020). Donations (plus associated Gift Aid) and grants again made up just under half of our income, the rest was in performance fees. Around 1/3 of the donations were specifically tagged as for our recording, becoming restricted reserves until the costs arise in late 2022.

The major personal donors (Alan King, Edward Houghton and James Alexander) were again very supportive in giving their normal annual contributions. We also received a number of other individual donations and support

from Alan Sainer and Angela Cain, amongst others. We were also grateful for another significant donation from the Behrens foundation via Stephen Cockburn. The Independent Examination of our accounts in 2021 has once again been carried out by Mr Paul Fage, for which many thanks.

Our expenses almost matched our revenues and most went on singers and musicians. Very modest, but very well deserved fees went to Joanne Miller.

For 2022 we look forward with great excitement to our first performance at Theater am der Wien in presenting Aminta e Filide with Fair Oriana in the title roles. We shall also be finally performing Handel's Fernando at both the LFH and Halle.

James Alexander (Treasurer)



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Serse Trust

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/01/21	To	31/12/21
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Donations (restricted for recording project)	9,128	3,183	-	12,311
Gift Aid (restricted for recording project)	1,168	796	-	1,964
Sales	15,958	-	-	15,958
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	26,254	3,979	-	30,233
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	26,254	3,979	-	30,233
A3 Payments				
Production 1 (Lucio Papirio recording)	16,665	-	-	16,665
Production 2 (LHF Arias for Ballino)	7,677	-	-	7,677
Production 3 (Aminta in Vienna 2022)	1,004	-	-	1,004
Other costs	2,500	-	-	2,500
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	27,846	-	-	27,846
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total payments	27,846	-	-	27,846
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,592	3,979	-	2,387
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	17,414	-	-	17,414
Cash funds this year end	15,822	3,979	-	19,801

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Current account	15,821	3,979
		-	-
		-	-
	Total cash funds	15,821	3,979
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	OK

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-
			-
			-
			-
			-

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name

CC16a

Last year

to the nearest £

3,375
1,952
7,550
-
-
-
-
-
12,877

-
-

12,877

10,579
1,935
3,194
2,000
-
-
-
-
-
17,708

-

17,708

-	4,831
	-
	-
-	4,831



**Endowment
funds**
to nearest £

-
-
-
-

OK

**Endowment
funds**
to nearest £

-
-
-
-
-
-

**Current value
(optional)**

-
-
-
-
-

**Current value
(optional)**

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

**When due
(optional)**

Date of
approval

Paul Fage
19 Ashley Drive
Walton-on-Thames
Surrey KT12 1JL
Email:psfage3054@aol.com
Phone: 07901517279

The Trustees of The Serse Trust
6 Beechwood Avenue
Weybridge
Surrey KT13 9TE

18 August 2022

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Serse Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity, The Serse Trust ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

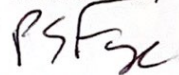
Independent examiner's statement

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:

- accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

Yours faithfully



Paul Fage