



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
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Email:psfage3054@aol.com
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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.

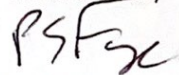
Independent examiner's statement

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