



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 an 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 our 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
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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.