

Rye Wurlitzer Academy
Rye College
The Grove
RYE
East Sussex
TN37 7NQ

Registered Charity No. 1041821 Phone 01424 444 058 Email richard@ryewurlitzer.co.uk

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR PERIOD 1ST SEPTEMBER 2024 to 31ST AUGUST 2025

Our year started with a very successful and enjoyable Rye Proms event, which appears to be part of the local social calendar now. All of our fund-raising evenings were profitable and very enjoyable for those who attended. The highlight event was our Wurlitzer 100 Centenary Concert on April 6th, which was attended by over 200 people, including two coaches and the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex as our guest of honour.

We are still not seeing numbers through the door as we did pre-Covid-19, which means the days of having Brass Bands, Big Bands and Male Voice Choirs are not a consideration at this present time, as they will not bring in the extra people necessary to fund the extra expense. We continue to endeavour to create enjoyable evenings whilst giving good value for money. It is lovely to see our students not only playing at some of the events but taking an active part in helping. Since we started in 2009, we have created a family within RWA, and it is pleasing to hear from some of original students how they are progressing through life.

We were fortunate to receive a donation from the Theatre Organ Club of Great Britain of £500 to support the costs of our running some concerts on Sunday and, with this in place, they all made a small profit, were highly enjoyable and attracted different people from our evening events, with some old faces returning. Four concerts were arranged but only three took place, as the organist for our February concert had a bad fall just a few days beforehand and a suitable deputy could not be found at short notice.

The Sussex Keyboard and Organ Club were unable to re-open following the Covid-19 pandemic and following discussions, it was agreed that they would pass us all of their remaining funds, some £20,000, on the understanding that around half of it should go to support likeminded projects and clubs across the country who were keen to continue but struggling financially. Organists Michael Wooldridge and Chris Stanbury produced a list of groups they felt would really benefit from, sometimes, quite modest support and, following discussions with the organisations, funds have been distributed as follows

Scottish Cinema Organ Trust	£1,500
Sleaford & Scunthorpe Music4You	£1,500
Horsham & Bognor MelodyTimes	£1,110 to date
Burntwood Organ Club	£700
Colchester Keyboard Concerts	£500
Cambridge Keyboard Concerts	£500
Nene Valley Organ Club	£500

A portion of these funds is still ringfenced ready for further support in the coming year, as follows:

Leamington Spa relaunch at Fentham Hall	£700 to sponsor two concerts during 2026
Horsham & Bognor MelodyTimes	£1,390

We are also planning a concert on the Worthing Wurlitzer, operated by the Sussex Theatre Organ Trust, with our aim to be to work with this long-established Trust on an event to the benefit of young Wurlitzer players, including RWA and TPOPS students, plus the reigning UK Young Theatre Organist of the Year. £1,000 has been set aside to cover extra running costs and hire for this very special afternoon at one of the UK's most prestigious theatre organ venues, though we hope the final cost may not be quite so high, if we work to promote the event to maximise the audience income.



From our share of the funds received, with the RWA now responsible for the maintenance and repair of the Rye Wurlitzer since the Friends of the Rye Wurlitzer were disbanded, £3,100 will be used for the re-leathering of the shutters, much needed work which took place during August 2025. Now that the Wurlitzer is 100 years old, it seems to give us regular and ongoing issues that require specialist repair and this is shown in our financial report, though, with the work being done to a high standard, we hope it will last for the next 100 years!

RWA were approached by the Rye Methodists, as they wish to support the project over a 4 year period to the value of £5,000 and the first year instalment has been received. We were also granted £1,000 from the Charity Fund of Hastings Direct, a new supporter and funds we were very pleased to receive.

We are most grateful to those who continue to support our Sponsor a Student Scheme. We are also delighted with the continued support of local estate Agents Rush Witt Wilson for continuing to sponsor the hire of the hall. A private loan of £2,000 from the previous year has been half repaid with the other half being repaid in January 2026.

We continued to enjoy good relations throughout the year with the Aquinas Trust, who run Rye College, and much appreciate the continuing support of Principal Mr Dom Downs and the Senior Leadership Team. It is anticipated that our "normal" recruitment presentations will continue in the new college year

We are pleased that we no longer have storage costs with Stamford Storage, although our teaching room is a little cramped at the present time.

Once again, the project could not be the success it is without the continued professionalism and commitment of Principal Tutor Michael Wooldridge, who gives much of his personal time to support the whole project and who, in his professional capacity, has continued to work wonders with the students in their lessons. Our e-newsletters continued during the year, when we had sufficient news to tell.

To conclude 2024/25 will be remembered as a year in which we survived and thrived thanks to some unexpected support and donations, together with doing what we do best in bringing high quality learning to our students together with some memorable fund-raising events.

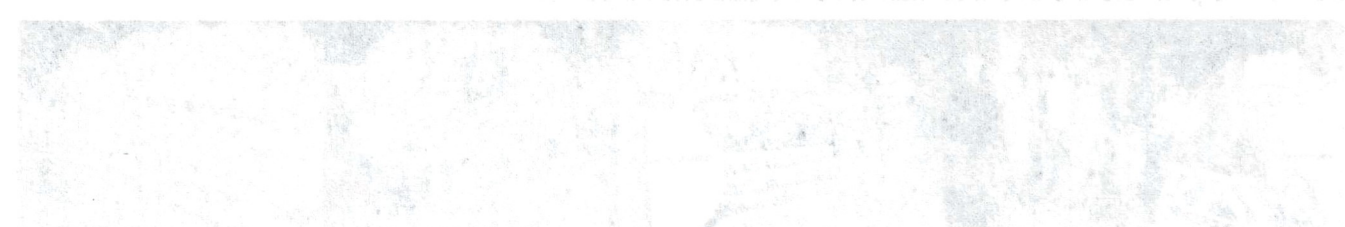
Richard Moore
Chairman & Founder

The Essex Keyboard and Organ Club were unable to perform following the Covid-19 pandemic. It was agreed that they would pass us all of their remaining funds some £200.00 on the understanding that a third of it should go to support liveried players and clubs across the country who were keen to continue but struggling financially. Organists Michael Wooldridge and Chris Steadby produced a list of groups they felt would really benefit from a donation a more modest support and following discussions with the organists, funds have been divided as follows:

£1,800	South Essex Organ Trust
£1,500	Essex & Suffolk MusicYoun
£1,100 to date	Horsham & Bognor MelodyMies
£700	Burwood Organ Club
£500	Colchester Keyboard Concerts
£500	Canbridge Keyboard Concerts
£200	More Valley Organ Club

A portion of the funds is still required ready for further support in the coming year as follows:
Leamington Spa School of Harpsichord £1,700 to support a new concert during 2025
Horsham & Bognor MelodyMies £1,100

We are also planning a concert on the Wollington Wurlitzer, created by the Essex Theatre Organ Trust with our aim to be in work with the long established Trust on an event to the benefit of young Wurlitzer players including RWA and TPO's students plus the returning UK Young Theatre Organists of the Year. £1,100 has been set aside to cover extra running costs and one for this very special afternoon at one of the UK's most prestigious theatre organ venues, though we have the fact that may not be quite as high. It we work to promote the event to maximise the audience, income





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TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2025

Review of Year to 31st August 2025

This year has seen a substantial increase in both income and expenditure on the previous year. A large donation from The Sussex Keyboard & Organ Fund along with a student bursary from Rye Methodist Church has increased income, although this has been partially off-set by increased tuition costs and the Sussex Keyboard & Organ Fund giving (see more below) .

Income and Expenditure

Income for the year totalled £42.7k compared to £14.5k the previous year. This represents a 193% increase in income.

This is mainly due to a £20.6k donation from the Sussex Keyboard & Organ Fund, arranged through the kindness of their President Michael Wooldridge and son of the Chair, Chris Stanbury. This was given with the restriction that £9.4k will be given in support of other organ groups. The balance of £11.2k is to cover immediate work required on the RWA Wurlitzer, plus ongoing tuition costs. This is in progress.

The first payment of a bursary to support student tuition has been received of £1.3K, from Rye Methodist Church. Income from events was £11.9k, up by £3.8k, largely due to the extra Centenary event held in April 2025.

Expenditure for the year totalled £28.1k compared to £14.4k in 2023/24. The main increase was due to the Sussex Organ Fund giving, mentioned above of £4.7k in this year. There is also an increase in tuition costs due to an increase in the number of students taking lessons and also events costs in relation to the increase in income. Additional costs have been incurred by the refurbishment of the ceiling tiles in the hall to benefit the sound of the Wurlitzer.

The loan received last year of £2.0k has been partially repaid and now stands at £1k owing, due to be paid in January 2026.

Summary

With an income of £42.7k and expenditure of £28.1k, there is an increase in the end of year Bank Balance of £14.6k, resulting in a year end balance of £15.2k.



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**INCOME & EXPENDITURE BALANCE SHEET
FOR YEAR ENDED
31ST AUGUST 2025**

INCOME

Donations	27,897.33
Rye Mayor's Fund Donations	0.00
Sponsor-A-Student	1,024.00
Student Bursary	1,368.00
Show - Door Admissions	10,555.20
Raffle	1,195.75
Catering Donations	0.00
Other Donations	118.00
Gift Aid Reclaim	490.57
Sale of Instruments	0.00
Loan	0.00
Other	0.00
TOTAL INCOME:	42,648.85

EXPENDITURE

Tuition	12,350.00
Artists Fees	3,625.00
Hall Hire	375.00
SOF Giving	4,685.00
Printing/Stationery	247.65
Organ Removals/Purchases/Storage	1,204.00
Organ Repairs	850.80
Catering	2,129.00
Music Books	0.00
Repairs & Refurbishment	1,469.25
Loan Repayment	1,000.00
Other	135.84
TOTAL EXPENDITURE:	28,071.54

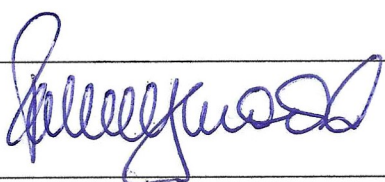
Opening Balance: 01/09/2023	590.72
Plus Income	42,648.85
Less Expenditure	(28,071.54)
Closing Balance: 31/08/2024	<u>15,168.03</u>

Barclays Bank Balance: 31/08/2024	15,168.03
Uncleared Cheques	
Funds Available: 31/08/2024	<u>15,168.03</u>

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature		
Full Name	Mr Richard Moore	
Position (eg, Secretary, Chair, etc.)	CHAIRMAN	
Date	27.011.25	