



CAMBRIDGE HANDEL OPERA COMPANY

DIRECTORS / TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 AUGUST 2024

(Charity Number – 116600 / Company Number – 09717878)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity are the advancement for the public benefit of education in the field of music, with particular reference to the music of the Baroque period.

The principal activity is to stage productions of Baroque operas, with a particular emphasis on works by Handel.

In addition, educational activities are organized to facilitate learning associated with each production, including partnerships with a number of schools within Cambridge.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The highlight of the year was the performance in the chapel of Trinity College Cambridge of John Weldon's *The Judgment of Paris*. This was a highly successful performance with a packed audience, receiving a glowing review in the *Times* newspaper and the *Cambridge Independent*. The partnership with the Academy of Ancient Music here continues to be highly effective and included a separate recording of this rarely heard gem. Prior to the performance, a Colloquium focused on *The Judgment of Paris* was held on 25th October as part of the official series at the Music Faculty.

In parallel to delivering *The Judgment of Paris*, the trustees continued to debate at length what the future of the charity should be and what it would need to prioritize to continue thriving in future. This culminated in the securing of core funding for the following three years from two organizations (Maria Björnson Memorial Fund and the Kathleen Hannay Memorial Charity), a plan to recruit a new more senior colleague to take ownership of the week to week running of CHOC and a prioritization both of the educational aspects of our work and the Cambridge-focused nature of the charity.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

CHOC reported a deficit of £22,984 for the year (2023: Surplus of £13,590) which reduced our Reserves to £23,436 (2023: £46,420), all unrestricted.

Total income for the period was £29,443 (2023: 31,750), made up of £18,000 grant income, £4,971 donations received, £6,245 from charitable activities and £159 bank interest received.

Reserves Policy:

The staging of productions gives rise to substantial costs, thus needing reserves in place to ensure that the charity is able to meet all its expenses when committing to a production and associated educational programme.

As a recently formed small charity we are at a stage of needing to build reserves for the long-term benefit of the charity.

Our target is to reach a level where the reserves held after a production and associated educational programme is completed would be sufficient to entirely fund the next production and educational programme. This will vary based on the planned events, but we typically would be looking to reserves of around £70,000 after each production has been staged.

It is expected that it will take many years and several productions to build up to this level of reserves. Therefore, whilst seeking to maximise reserves and ensure sufficient funding is in place, our focus when considering reserves currently is to carefully review planned expenditure and ensure the charity will be capable of meeting the cost prior making commitments.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document:

Cambridge Handel Opera Company is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 29th July 2015. It is registered as a charity with the Charities Commission.

The directors and trustees are also the members of the company, each of whom agrees to contribute £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

Appointment of trustees:

All trustees are also directors of the company. The members may appoint any person willing to act as a director and trustee, subject to a minimum of three directors and a maximum of nine.

Directors are appointed for a term of three years, although the term of appointment for the first directors ranged from two to four years. Any director reaching the end of their term may be re-elected by the members, although he or she may not serve more than three consecutive terms except where it is considered to be in the best interests of the charity for a director to serve an additional term.

Organisation:

The board of directors administers the charity. The board meets regularly. A Company Manager assists in the administration of the charity.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Number:	1166000
Company Number:	09717878
Registered office:	38 Rustat Avenue, Cambridge, CB1 3PF
Directors and trustees: - Chair - Treasurer (and trustee) - Trustees - Artistic Director	Mr Seth Williams Mr Liam Findlay Professor Peter Holman MBE Mr Michael Darvell Ms Amy Khlor Mr Ian Maconochie (appointed 24 October 2024) Professor David McKitterick (resigned 6 September 2023) Mr Richard Perkins (resigned 28 October 2024) Mr Julian Perkins

APPROVED BY THE TRUSTEES ON: 15 MAY 2025



Cambridge Handel Opera Company
(A company limited by guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements
Period ending 31 August 2024

Charity number 1166000

Company number: 09717878

Cambridge Handel Opera Company

Report of the trustees for the year ending 31 August 2024

The trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 August 2024 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Our purposes and activities

The objects of the charity are the advancement for the public benefit of education in the field of music, with particular reference to the music of the Baroque period.

The principal activity is to stage productions of Baroque operas, with a particular emphasis on works by Handel.

In addition, educational activities are organized to facilitate learning associated with each production, including partnerships with a number of schools within Cambridge.

Achievements and performance

The highlight of the year was the performance in the chapel of Trinity College Cambridge of John Weldon's *The Judgment of Paris*. This was a highly successful performance with a packed audience, receiving a glowing review in the *Times* newspaper and the *Cambridge Independent*. The partnership with the Academy of Ancient Music here continues to highly effective and included a separate recording of this rarely heard gem. Prior to the performance, a Colloquium focused on *The Judgement of Paris* was held on 25th October as part of the officials series at the Music Faculty.

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Financial review

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It is expected that it will take many years and several productions to build up to this level of reserves. Therefore, whilst seeking to maximise reserves and ensure sufficient funding is in place, our focus when considering reserves currently is to carefully review planned expenditure and ensure the charity will be capable of meeting the proposed expenditure prior to committing to the expenditure.

Reference and administrative details

Charity number:	1166000
Company number:	09717878
Registered Office:	38 Rustat Avenue, Cambridge CB1 3PF

Directors and trustees

The directors of the charitable company (the charity) are its trustees for the purpose of charity law. The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Chair:	Mr Seth Williams
Treasurer:	Mr Liam Findlay
Trustees:	Professor Peter Holman MBE Mr Michael Darvell Ms Amy Klohr Mr Ian Maconochie (appointed 24 October 2024) Professor David McKitterick (resigned 6 September 2023) Mr Richard Perkins (resigned 28 October 2024)
Artistic Director:	Mr Julian Perkins

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document:
Cambridge Handel Opera Company is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 4 August 2015. It is registered as a charity with the Charities Commission.

The directors and trustees are also the members of the Company, each of whom agrees to contribute £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

Appointment of trustees:

All trustees are also directors of the company. The members may appoint any person willing to act as a director and trustee, although there must be a minimum of three directors and a maximum of nine.

Directors are appointed for a term of three years, although the term of appointment for the first directors ranged from two to four years. Any director reaching the end of their term may be re-elected by the members, although he or she may not serve more than three consecutive terms except where it is considered to be in the best interests of the charity for a director to serve an additional term.

Organisation:

The board of directors administers the charity. The board meets regularly. A Company Manager assists in the administration of the charity.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The directors and trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and the group and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of any corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Cambridge Handel Opera Company
Period ended 31 August 2022

By order of the board of trustees

S Williams (Chair)
15 May 2025

Cambridge Handel Opera Company

Statement of Financial Activities
(including income and expenditure account)
for period ending 31 August 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income:					
Donations and legacies	3	22,971	-	22,971	31,591
Charitable activities		6,245	-	6,245	-
Investments		227	-	227	159
Total		29,443	-	29,443	31,750
Expenditure:					
Raising funds		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities		36,410	-	36,410	650
Other		16,017	-	17,510	17,510
Total		52,427	-	52,427	18,160
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		(22,984)	-	(22,984)	13,590
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		46,420	-	46,420	32,830
Total funds carried forward		23,436	-	23,436	46,420

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Cambridge Handel Opera Company

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Note	Total funds 31 August 2024 £	Total funds 31 August 2023 £
Current Assets:			
Debtors & Prepayments	5	564	564
Cash at bank and in hand		22,872	45,856
Total Current Assets		23,436	46,420
Liabilities:			
Creditors falling due within one year	6	-	-
Net Current Assets		23,436	46,420
Total assets less current liabilities		23,436	46,420
Net Assets		23,436	46,420
The funds of the charity:	8		
Unrestricted income funds		23,436	46,420
Restricted income funds		-	-
Total Charity Funds		23,436	43,420

These accounts are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act relating to small companies and constitute the annual accounts required by the Companies Act 2006 and are for circulation to members of the company.

For the year ending 31 August 2024 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The notes at pages 7 to 9 form part of these accounts.

L Findlay
15 May 2025

Notes on the accounts

1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Cambridge Handel Opera Company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue, as the trustees ensure careful management of the charity's funds to ensure that any projects committed to are within the existing means of the charity.

b) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has received, or has entitlement to the funds and it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income received in advance of an operatic performance or provision of other specified service it is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

c) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

d) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs arranging fundraising concerts and other fundraising activities.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of performances, and other educational activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading. This includes costs in respect of the Company Manager and Artistic Director, whose roles do involve assisting in fundraising (making grant applications, organizing fundraising events and administering the Friends Scheme), and organizing charitable activities. As proportion of time spent on the different activities

throughout the year varies, the cost of the Company Manager and Artistic Director (except where there is a specific payment in respect of an event or activity) cannot accurately be allocated between the costs of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities; it is all included within other expenditure.

- e) Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.
- f) Creditors and provisions
Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

2 Legal status of the Charity

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

3 Sources of Income

Donations and legacies	2024	2023
	£	£
Grants	18,000	-
Donations	4,971	31,591
Gift Aid	-	-
Total	<u>22,971</u>	<u>31,591</u>

The charity benefits greatly from the involvement of volunteers. In accordance with FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

4 Related party transactions

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits for their work as trustees.

5 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other debtors	-	-
Prepayments	564	564
Total	<u>564</u>	<u>564</u>

6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other creditors	-	-
Total	-	-

7 Corporation Tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

8 Analysis of charitable funds

Analysis of movements in unrestricted funds

	Balance at start of period	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	46,420	29,443	(52,427)	-	23,436
Total	46,420	29,443	(52,427)	-	23,436

9 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Fund	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	22,872	-	-	22,872
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	564	-	-	564
Total	23,436	-	-	23,436



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Cambridge Handel Opera Company

On accounts for the year
ended

31 August 2024

Charity no
(if any)

116600

Set out on pages

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2024.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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.

Signed:

R. Slater

Date:

7/4/2025

Name:

RICHARD SLATER

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Address:

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MITCHAM SURREY

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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.