



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1/4/20

Period start date To 31/3/21

Period end date

Charity name: Northern Opera Group

Charity registration number: 1167501

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT OF THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE ARTS, IN PARTICULAR THOUGH NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY THE PRODUCTION OF LIVE OPERA AND THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF AUDIENCES AND PARTICIPANTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	We create a range of musical productions, suitable for participants of varying ages, abilities and experiences. We produce works which are rarely performed, providing artists, participants and audiences with new and engaging experiences. We operate in the North of England, with a national reach.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees confirm they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
	Para 1.38	

Contribution made by volunteers		
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>In spite of the Covid-19 pandemic having a tangible financial and logistical impact on the CIO, we are proud of what we have been able to achieve for audiences, artists and our community this year.</p> <p><u>Leeds Opera Story</u></p> <p>Our heritage project exploring the 300 year history of opera in Leeds.</p> <p>Following the national lockdown we continued to work on the project from home, which included having volunteers conduct their own computer based research. We created three documentary films featuring expert contributors and paying artists to create at-home recordings to accompany the films. We completed our online exhibition with over 6,000 viewing the website thus far.</p> <p><u>Leeds Opera Festival</u></p> <p>We managed to achieve our busiest Festival to date, with 20 events across 5 days. This included an outdoor performance of 'Thomas and Sally', the first indoor concert in the North of England post-lockdown, a tour of English ballad opera to venues across the city, and an extensive online programme of talks and workshops.</p> <p>We worked with Made with Music for the first time to stage an online event for young children and families, and welcomed online contributors from the UK, Denmark and USA.</p> <p>"An excellent production and a lovely distraction and a welcome step forward in the current circumstances. The set up followed all the guidelines excellently and meant we could enjoy the production whilst feeling safe"</p> <p>Audience feedback</p>

		<p>“[Artistic Director] David Ward is someone who will not take no for an answer. There was never any doubt in his mind that the Festival would not materialise ... Ward's dauntless optimism had led the way” Opera Magazine</p> <p><u>Cinderella</u></p> <p>Determined to find a way to enable our community to take part in opera over the past 12 months, we decided to try something completely new for Northern Opera Group and make a film!</p> <p>We wanted to adapt an opera that offered opportunity for an amateur chorus to take part digitally, that would attract a large family audience, and that was technically and logistically achievable with the realities of Covid-secure guidelines and funding available.</p> <p>Pauline Viardot's 'Cinderella' (which we first produced as a stage production in 2016) was an ideal choice, and we were able to utilise two outstanding local venues as locations for the film shoot – Calverley Old Hall (owned and run by the Landmark Trust) and Temple Newsam (one of the UK's finest country houses, run by Leeds City Council).</p> <p>Amateur chorus members were able to take part for free; joining us for weekly Zoom sessions to learn the music and choreography / acting directions, before recording their parts at home to be edited into the final film. We attracted a mix of previous and new participants, including members joining us from the Netherlands, Mexico and South Korea!</p> <p>We were able to assemble an outstanding principal cast of professional singers, including James Cleverton and Claire Wild, with regular Northern Opera Group contributor Jenny Martins providing piano accompaniment. All principal and chorus cast members joined us for an online 'film premiere' the day before general release, which was a wonderful occasion to bring everyone together virtually.</p> <p>The film was exceptionally well received, with a 5* review in The Guardian and winning 'Best Opera' at the Classical Music Digital Awards</p>
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		<p>2020. We attracted additional coverage from BBC Radio 3 (Music Matters) and BBC Look North. Audiences across the world have watched the film online, with lovely feedback from audiences aged 8 to 90.</p> <p>“What a brilliant project and it thoroughly deserved the wonderful praise and reviews it has received. Thank you so much for keeping music making happening in these times. It was a pleasure to be a part of lockdown project and thank you to all involved for making such an innovative production. Thank you for all your hard efforts!” Participant</p> <p>“Such a wonderfully engaging performance of Pauline Viardot’s Cinderella. Perfect for keeping 8 year olds mesmerised on a rainy Sunday. A magical production indeed. Thank you Northern Opera Group” Audience</p> <p><u>New Responses to Old Operas</u></p> <p>This new programme commissions composers and librettists to create new, short, music theatre works in response to existing repertoire. It encourages artists to create work for opera / music theatre for the first time, in a supportive and creative environment, producing contemporary responses to often very old (and sometimes quite controversial) repertoire. Our first two projects under this scheme are ‘Savitri’ – commissioning two artists from a South Asian background to respond to Gustav Holst’s Indian opera, Savitri – and ‘The Leeds Opera Story’ – commissioning two artists from Leeds to create a piece finding parallels between the past and present of opera in the city.</p> <p>Filmed and live performances of these works are scheduled for the forthcoming financial year.</p> <p>Planning has continued for future projects, including our 2021 Leeds Opera Festival with funds raised in this year towards it.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
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Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	With minimal overheads and liabilities, Northern Opera Group is in a stable financial position moving forward with a healthy reserve level
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	As we have minimal overheads the company doesn't have a formal reserves policy. Management accounts are created for each Board meeting for Trustees to monitor
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	1177
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	n/a

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed , royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association , CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are selected based on recommendation and research

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Northern Opera Group
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1167501
Charity's principal address	c/o Northern Ballet 2 St Cecilia Street Quarry Hill Leeds LS2 7PA

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Mark Skipper			
2	Sally Stephens			
3	Sarah Calvert			
4	Rachel Bamforth			
5	Emily Simpson			
6	Charlotte Armstrong		12/2/21 -	
7	Lorna James			
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16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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Other optional information

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Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Charlotte Armstrong	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)		
Date	27 September 2021	



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/04/2020

To

31/03/2021

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 £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Government	-	20,404	-	20,404	36,900
Trust and Foundation	7,000	2,350	-	9,350	31,100
Donation	539	150	-	689	185
Box office	-	1,000	-	1,000	9,914
Arts@Leeds	-	4,000	-	4,000	4,000
Commissions	-	-	-	-	300
Misc	-	-	-	-	346
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	7,539	27,904	-	35,443	82,745
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	7,539	27,904	-	35,443	82,745
A3 Payments					
Operacast	150	-	-	150	400
Artist fee	120	20,558	-	20,678	52,456
Marketing	1,500	150	-	1,650	1,548
Accommodation / travel	-	821	-	821	2,635
Venue hire	-	475	-	475	8,970
Production	121	1,549	-	1,670	5,109
Administration	-	550	-	550	1,800
Overheads	168	-	-	168	408
Equipment	-	-	-	-	1,208
Governance	240	-	-	240	240
Volunteer expenses	-	-	-	-	207
Training	-	510	-	510	-
Vendor fees	-	-	-	-	805
Other	128	18	-	146	-
Sub total	2,427	24,631	-	27,058	75,786
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,427	24,631	-	27,058	75,786
Net of receipts/(payments)	5,112	3,273	-	8,385	6,959
A5 Transfers between funds	- 7,365	7,365	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	3,430	7,085	-	10,515	3,556
Cash funds this year end	1,177	17,723	-	18,900	10,515

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	1,177	17,723	-
CCXX R1 accounts (SS)	1	-	-	7/09/2021 -

	-	-	-
Total cash funds	1,177	17,723	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

Unrestricted funds
to nearest £

OK

Restricted funds
to nearest £

OK

Endowment funds
to nearest £

B2 Other monetary assets

Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Tax reclaimable through Theatre Tax Relief	10,987	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

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)
WYCAS - Independent Examination	Unrestricted	240	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Charlotte Armstrong	27 September 2021