



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	04	2022		31	03	2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Barefoot Opera

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

1167730

Charity's principal address

6 The Uplands

St. Leonards on Sea

East Sussex

Postcode

TN38 0HL

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	Olivia Shaw	Chairperson		Trustees of the Charity
2	Elizabeth Allen		Appointed 29 July 22	Trustees of the Charity
3	Joao Figueiredo			Trustees of the Charity
4	Virginia Gilbert	Treasurer		Trustees of the Charity
5	Laurelle Hughes		Appointed 29 July 22	Trustees of the Charity
6	Glenys Jacques			Trustees of the Charity
7	Charles Neal			Trustees of the Charity
8				
9				
10				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent Examiner	Laura Dawson	Hastings Voluntary Action, Jackson Hall, Portland Place,
		Hastings TN34 1QN

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

Jenny Miller, Director

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution dated 15 June 2015

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Trustees have assessed potential risks arising from the expansion of our activities involving community groups and schools, first encountered in the creation and performance of Bloom Britannia, and now becoming a regular feature of our activities. We have adopted a safeguarding policy to manage these risks when working with children. An additional statement specifically addressing work with vulnerable adults has been adopted.

Trustees have also identified the need for a general risk management policy and accompanying procedures to monitor all major risks inherent in our activities. A policy has been agreed and a risk register is gradually being populated.

Other policies adopted include ones to govern volunteers, data protection and environment.

Discussions continue with other arts organisations in our area, exploring opportunities for collaboration.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

To advance education about, promote public appreciation of, and encourage participation in, the art of opera and singing for the public benefit by:

- a) Developing singing at all levels from amateur to professional standard;
- b) Encouraging emerging professional singers to find new approaches to the rehearsal and performance of opera;
- c) developing new audiences for opera, music recitals and concerts with innovative, inclusive and accessible performances
- d) Promote singing for mental and physical health.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Trustees have read the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. The guidance has been considered at trustee meetings when planning the activities for the year.

The Charity's activities are focused on assisting the development of operatic talent and exposing the general public to affordable and accessible operatic performances. The singers benefit from experience and exposure at an early stage of their careers. The public has an opportunity to experience opera in places that are local and familiar to them and at prices that are affordable, developing the audiences of the future.

The public benefit is enhanced by opportunities for local students, musicians and other performers to participate in the development of events and in the final productions. This provides an introduction to opera for sections of the community previously unfamiliar with the genre, with the deliberate intention of demystifying the process and achieving a cohesion of purpose through involvement of schools, choirs or non-musical minority groups. This year for example we performed Red! a new jazz opera for children which we commissioned from composer Lucy Mulgan, with three primary schools from the most economically deprived areas of our locality. 180 children workshopped, rehearsed and performed to an audience of 300, most of whom had never seen a live opera before.

Our advanced student productions experiment with new ways of staging so that audiences experience the music and singing in a different and more engaging way. We involve young local budding costume designers in our work, mentored by experienced professionals. Audiences have included friends and family members of participants in the project, and we invite their feedback. Some of the community groups previously involved in "Bloom Britannia" took part in our Young Artists Tour of Rossini's Cenerentola in 2022.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The charity provides small grants to performers who require financial assistance with accommodation, travel expenses or other costs associated with participation in our productions. Students submit their applications for grant funding in the form of short essays to the Trustees which are evaluated with input from the Director. Decisions are recorded at Trustee meetings.

Volunteers provide invaluable help as front of house staff at events, serving at receptions, providing accommodation for singers on intensive courses and distributing flyers and other publicity.

The Charity relies on grants from Trusts to support our work. We have been supported by Sussex Community Giving, Garfield Weston Trust, the Arts Council, Magdalen and Lasher, the Foyle Foundation and Hastings Council. We also call on crowdfunding via the JustGiving platform on-line.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Training

We have continued our training programme this year with a small number of workshops, each targeted at a particular technique and aimed at aspiring young singers.

Young Artists' Tour

The Young Artists' Tour has been a major feature of Barefoot's activities for several years. Performances and ticket sales have increased steadily. The tour now visits London and other locations as well as the performances in our home base of Hastings.

After a pared-down staging in 2022, we were able to obtain funding for a tour in Summer 2023 of our sparkling production of Rossini's La Cenerentola (Cinderella). The enhanced production has all the hallmarks of a Barefoot Opera show: a dynamic international cast of young singers, a small on-stage band delivering the score, and a contemporary take on a classic tale. Cenerentola opened in Hastings and then spent a week at the Grimeborn Opera Festival, Arcola Theatre, London as well as performances in the Rye Festival in Sussex and Crowhurst Place, Lingfield, Surrey.

Bloom Britannia

Barefoot Opera's new 'people's opera' started life in 2018, when hundreds of people in the towns of Hastings, St. Leonards and Bexhill took part in singing and discussion workshops.

The creative team met people from all walks of life, gaining a rich perspective on what it means to live in a town on the South Coast today. People learned how to write songs, improvise, and sing together. The team took away all of these insights and developed our brand new opera – 'Bloom Britannia'. It tells the story of a fictional regeneration competition on the South Coast, on the day the winning town is to be decided. With hen parties, dodgy dealings on the seafront, and scandalous secret affairs, mayhem is guaranteed!

Our grand schedule for the full opera in 2020 was wiped out by the pandemic. With the Arts Council's and Barefoot Opera Trustees' support, our team created a new schedule for 2021. Music rehearsals were shifted to begin in late March 2021 and our full production took place in October 2021 over 3 days in St Mary in the Castle, Hastings.

A film of the production has been created and premiered at St Mary in the Castle in 2022, created a lasting record of a magical event.

Community Engagement

Our work with Arts on Prescription, working with adults suffering from mental health issues, and adults recuperating from a variety of other health issues has been limited by lack of funds. Planning is underway to revive this activity in 2024.

We co-organise a Christmas Carols fundraiser for the Seaview Centre for vulnerable adults. This is now an annual event.

Barefoot Opera worked with Hollington, The Baird and Ore Village primary schools to produce RED!, a new jazz opera for children. The work is all about bringing the joys and power of singing and drama to year 5 children. We performed with all the schools at the Stade on 15 July 2022 thanks to a grant from Hastings Foreshore Trust. This was a free event with professional singers and a band as well as 180 school children who had workshopped and rehearsed before performing before an audience of 300.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity's trustees adopted a reserves policy during the 2017-18 financial year. The target level for the reserve was set at £5,000, to be built up from any profits generated from events. The reserve target has been met.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

- The charity's principal sources of funds are ticket sales, student fees, grants, and fundraising.
- Expenditure supports the charity's objectives by funding performances and outreach workshops and by offering financial assistance to students.
- The charity does not have an investment policy as its funds are entirely devoted to the support of students, performances, and outreach events.

Section F

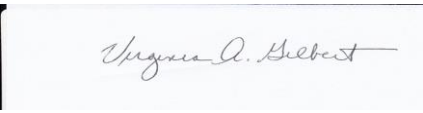
Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Virginia Gilbert	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	
Date	12 January 2023	

Barefoot Opera

Registered Charity No. 1167730

Annual Accounts

for the period

1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023

Contents:

Organisational information
Receipts & Payments account
Statement of Assets & Liabilities
Notes
Independent Examiner's report

Hastings Voluntary Action
Jackson Hall
Portland Place
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 1QN

**Organisational information for
Barefoot Opera
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

Name of charity:	Barefoot Opera
Charity No:	1167730
Legal form:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Governing document:	Constitution dated 15th June 2015, amended 10 June 2022
Address:	6 The Uplands St. Leonards-on-Sea East Sussex TN38 0HL
Trustees:	Olivia Shaw (Chair) Virginia Gilbert (Treasurer) Elizabeth Allen Joao Figueiredo Laurelle Hughes Glenys Jacques Charles Neal
Director:	Jenny Miller
Bankers:	CAF Bank (online), 25 Kings Hill Ave, West Malling, ME19 4JQ
Independent Examiner:	Laura Dawson, Independent Examiner HVA, Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN
Objects:	To advance education about, promote public appreciation of, and encourage participation in, the art of opera and singing for the public benefit by: a) Developing singing at all levels from amateur to professional standard; b) Encouraging emerging professional singers to find new approaches to the rehearsal and performance of opera; and c) Developing new audiences for opera, music recitals and concerts with innovative, inclusive and accessible performances. d) Promote singing for mental and physical health for all.

Barefoot Opera

Receipts & Payments accounts

for the period

1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Previous Year			Current Year		
		Notes	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds	Total funds
	<u>Receipts</u>				
89,877	Grants		24,243	-	24,243
3,000	Sponsorship/Fund raising		-	6,462	6,462
18,159	Ticket sales		-	14,101	14,101
2,430	Student fees		-	1,888	1,888
46	Programme sales		-	-	-
-	Bar/Raffle		-	85	85
4,460	Donations		-	1,989	1,989
12,046	Festival Fees		-	5,250	5,250
21,550	Miscellaneous Income		-	1,783	1,783
1,155	Friends Membership		-	3,160	3,160
2,260	Gift Aid Reclaimed		-	-	-
	Less Stripe Commission			(435)	(435)
<u>154,982</u>			<u>24,243</u>	<u>34,283</u>	<u>58,525</u>
	<u>Expenditure</u>				
23,527	Direction/Management		11,480	440	11,920
4,353	Coaching		150	-	150
65,588	Musicians		13,607	2,760	16,367
1,317	Travel expenses		55	-	55
13,532	Venue hire		4,472	-	4,472
13,438	Costume & set		1,884	-	1,884
19,387	Technical expenses		3,273	-	3,273
942	Transport costs		600	495	1,095
2,214	Food costs and preparation		628	668	1,296
13,638	Publicity		1,698	85	1,783
1,075	Website		250	295	545
418	Stripe commission		-	-	-
10,797	Admin/Office expenses		-	8,905	8,905
11,273	Fundraising costs		-	3,963	3,963
748	Other/Misc		10	498	508
<u>182,244</u>			<u>38,107</u>	<u>18,109</u>	<u>56,215</u>
(27,261)	Net surplus (deficit)		(13,864)	16,174	2,310
<u>44,366</u>	Fund balances b/f	1/4/22	<u>15,400</u>	<u>1,705</u>	<u>17,105</u>
<u>17,105</u>	Fund balances c/f	31/3/23	<u>1,536</u>	<u>17,879</u>	<u>19,415</u>

Barefoot Opera
Statement of Assets & Liabilities
as at
31 March 2023

				Previous year
				Total
		Restricted Income	Unrestricted Income	Total
Current assets				
Current Account	@ 31/03/23	1,536	17,832	19,368
Cash in hand	@ 31/03/23		47	47
Receipts awaiting banking			-	-
		<u>1,536</u>	<u>17,879</u>	<u>19,415</u>
				<u>17,105</u>
Current liabilities				
Uncashed cheques			-	-
		<u>1,536</u>	<u>17,879</u>	<u>19,415</u>
				<u>17,105</u>

Charity Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which comply with the regulations set out in the Charities Act 1993. The trustees have elected to take advantage of the provisions that apply to small charities and have prepared a Receipts and Payments account and Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Approved by the Trustees on 12 Jan 2024 and signed on their behalf by

 Olivia Shaw (Chair)

 Virginia Gilbert (Treasurer)

Barefoot Opera
Notes to the Accounts
for the period

01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Restricted Funds

			Income	Spent	Left
<u>CENT -</u>	b/fwd	-			
Grants received					
Magdalen & Lasher			6,500.00		
Expenses				18,197.52	
Amount carried forward					£(11,697.52)
<u>FEST -</u>	b/fwd	0			
Grants received					
MSL Discover			4,242.50		
Expenses				3,399.15	
Contribution to reserves					
Amount carried forward					£ 843.35
<u>ACE Continuity RED</u>	b/fwd	2900			
Grants received					
HBC			10,744.99		
Expenses				13,644.99	
Amount carried forward					£ -
<u>ACE Continuity Other - CONT</u>	b/fwd	12500			
Grants received					
Arts Council England			2,755.01		
Expenses				2,865.00	
Amount carried forward					£ 12,390.01
Total Restricted Fund b/fwd		15,400.00			
Total Income			24,242.50		
Total Spent				38,106.66	
Total Restricted Funds Held					£ 1,535.84

Please note that the CENT Project has a timing difference - the funds have been received in the next financial year.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Committee of Barefoot Opera

I report on the accounts of Barefoot Opera
for the twelve month period ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on the previous pages.

Respective responsibilities of committee & examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility:

- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the supporting documentation presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Laura Dawson
Finance Manager
Hastings Voluntary Action
Jackson Hall, Portland Place, Hastings, TN34 1QN

Dated: 16/01/2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Committee of Barefoot Opera

I report on the accounts of Barefoot Opera
for the twelve month period ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on the previous pages.

Respective responsibilities of committee & examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act), and that an independent examination is needed.

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- to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act
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Laura Dawson
Finance Manager
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Dated: 16/01/2024