

Barefoot Opera

Registered Charity No. 1167730

Annual Accounts

for the period

1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024

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

**Organisational information for
Barefoot Opera
for the year ended 31 March 2024**

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)
David Rogers (Treasurer - Appointed 10.05.24)
Virginia Gilbert (Treasurer - Resigned May 24)
Elizabeth Allen
Joao Figueiredo
Laurelle Hughes
Laura Mucha (Appointed 23.02.24)
Charles Neal (Resigned 31.12.23)
Mary Long (Appointed 10.11.23)
Susan Cowell (Appointed 23.02.24)

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 2023 to 31 March 2024

Previous Year

			Current Year	
		Notes	Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds
				Total funds
24,243	Receipts			
6,462	Grants		31,644	31,644
14,101	Sponsorship/Fund raising		-	750
1,888	Ticket sales		-	16,490
-	Student fees		-	2,450
85	Programme sales		-	-
1,989	Bar/Raffle		-	690
5,250	Donations		-	6,511
1,783	Festival Fees		-	9,247
3,160	Miscellaneous Income		-	145
-	Friends Membership		-	2,910
(435)	Gift Aid Reclaimed		-	-
58,525	Less Stripe Commission		-	(612)
			31,644	38,581
				70,225
	Expenditure			
11,920	Direction/Management		10,955	480
150	Coaching		200	1,450
16,367	Musicians		20,770	2,233
55	Travel expenses		481	-
4,472	Venue hire		4,033	-
1,884	Costume & set		1,700	-
3,273	Technical expenses		3,745	-
1,095	Transport costs		1,248	520
1,296	Food costs and preparation		19	484
1,783	Publicity		5,896	-
545	Website		158	-
-	Stripe commission		-	-
8,905	Admin/Office expenses		5,321	7,809
3,963	Fundraising costs		220	5,090
508	Other/Misc		-	1,409
56,215			54,745	19,474
				74,219
2,310	Net surplus (deficit)		(23,101)	19,107
				(3,994)
	Movement between Funds		21,759	(21,759)
				-
17,105	Fund balances b/f	1/4/23	1,536	17,879
				19,415
19,415	Fund balances c/f	31/3/24	194	15,228
				15,421

Barefoot Opera
Statement of Assets & Liabilities
as at
31 March 2024

				Previous year
				Total
		Restricted Income	Unrestricted Income	Total
Current assets				
Current Account	@ 31/03/24	194	15,181	15,374
Cash in hand	@ 31/03/24		47	47
Receipts awaiting banking			-	-
		194	15,228	15,421
Current liabilities				
Uncashed cheques			-	-
		194	15,228	15,421
				19,415

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 23 January 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Olivia Shaw Olivia Shaw (Chair)

David Rogers David Rogers (Treasurer)

Barefoot Opera
Notes to the Accounts
for the period
01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Restricted Funds

			Income	Spent	Left
<u>CEN -</u>	b/fwd	(11,697.52)			
Grants received					
Arts Council England			31,644.00		
Contribution from ACE			12,390.01		
Cont. from Reserves/unrestricted			21,758.62		
Expenses				54,095.11	
Amount carried forward					£ -
<u>FEST -</u>	b/fwd	843.35			
Grants received					
MSL Discover					
Expenses				650.00	
Contribution to reserves					
Amount carried forward					£ 193.35
<u>ACE Continuity Other - CONT</u>	b/fwd	12390.01			
Grants received					
Arts Council England					
Expenses moved to CEN				12,390.01	
Amount carried forward					£ -
Total Restricted Fund b/fwd		1,535.84			
Total Income			65,792.63		
Total Spent				67,135.12	
Total Restricted Funds Held					£ 193.35

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 2024 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: 23/1/25



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **Period start date 01-04-23 to To 31-03-24**
Period end date

Charity name: **Barefoot Opera**

Charity registration number: **1167730**

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	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 standards b) encouraging young 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) promoting singing for mental and physical health.
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 successfully applied for Arts Council funding to support our Barefoot Opera Young Artists Tour, a revival of our previous year's production <i>Cenerentola</i> by Rossini, which reached new venues, and engaged with new community groups in our tour venues, finding new participants from those communities and new audiences. Typical audience feedback: "Magical performance! Fantastic, funny! Superb singing and highly creative staging. The accordion was astounding". Our community groups included Hackney Voices, (performing with Barefoot Young Artists at the Arcola Theatre Dalston), the East Grinstead Choral Society, (performing at the Big Woods Estate near East Grinstead), Waterside Academy, the Seaview Centre and Bexhill 6th Form College (performing in St Leonards on Sea and Rye Creative Arts Centre). Typical feedback from community participants: "To be offered the opportunity to take part in such a polished, expertly crafted and creative production, was such a privilege and a joy. " We supported the Seaview Centre Choir in their annual Christmas fundraising concert. We held two music based fundraising concerts at our company home address of 6 The Uplands, featuring young singers. We continued to provide monthly workshops for young aspiring professional singers at the London studio available for our use. We developed our plans for touring our childrens opera 'Red' which we commissioned from Barefoot Opera double bassist and composer Lucy Mulgan.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have read and considered the guidance 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	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.
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	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.
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	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.
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	Please refer to our summary of our main activities, which were integral to these achievements: Aided significantly by an Arts Council grant, we have greatly developed our partnership with all our touring venues successfully developed our outreach into communities in the South East, and we will build on these relationships. We sold very well throughout. 70% of the Arcola audiences were new to our company's work, and every show received long applause/standing ovations. Our new venue Crowhurst Place is entirely new for the management as well as us, and yet we had an audience of 350 all new to our organisation and very enthusiastic; "We thought it was excellent. The performance was imaginative and vocal quality was superb." Rye Creative Centre has had a couple of visiting operas, but is primarily a visual arts venue, so again they and we were very pleased with our audience outcome of a full house. Despite being near to Hastings, we had not previously persuaded Rye cultural activists to come to our performances, and we now have a stronger link to the Rye community. "I

		never liked opera until I came across Barefoot. There is something about seeing it live and the raw, vital energy they create that has captivated me". In Hastings: we received a standing ovation, and this from Hastings Independent: "Without a doubt, I have never enjoyed an opera more. Seeing it in the round, lent it an immediacy that no proscenium could ever project". The critic from 'L'Art de vivre' wrote: "A forward-thinking company: Barefoot Opera certainly met its mandate of creating an ensemble of body, breath, movement...being climate-conscious, the costume design cleverly incorporated recycled plastics and materials...taking this re-envisioned approach to opera across the UK will surely give many an encounter with the art form they may not otherwise experience".
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
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	The charity's financial position at the end of the year is stable after a busy and successful year
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	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.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	The reserves for the previous year were used to help cover two late payments of significant funding from the Arts Council, a state which was rectified in August 2024. Our current accounts are now healthy, holding in excess of £30,000.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	NA
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	As a major portion of Arts Council funding was spent in advance of receipt (the monies were received in August 2024) our accounts at the end of March 23 showed a deficit of £4000. As this was rectified well after the new tax year, the Trustees have decided to change our tax year in future from January to January, to reflect better the flow of our funding.
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

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	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.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	The charity does not have an investment policy as its funds are entirely devoted to the support of young artists, students, performances, and outreach events.
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The founder and CEO of the company is planning to retire from actively running the company and is seeking a replacement for her role. The principal risk for the charity is that she will not find a suitable candidate. The Trustees are closely involved with the organisation and financing of this potential hand-over, and candidates are being trialled in production runs.

Other		
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Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution dated 15 June 2015
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (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	Appointed by existing trustees

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 trustees have agreed a process of induction and training of trustees led by the Chair.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The trustees meet every two months or more if more urgent business requires it. The organisational structure is agreed in our constitution. We are not currently working with a wider organisational network. However discussions continue with other arts organisations in our area, exploring opportunities for collaboration.
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	The trustees have embedded in our constitution how to manage any conflicts of interest. This is part of a wider risk register we have put into place, alongside an updating of our other policies: Safeguarding both for vulnerable adults and children, governance of volunteers, data protection and environment.
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Barefoot Opera
Other name the charity uses	none
Registered charity number	1167730

Charity's principal address	6 The Uplands Maze Hill St Leonards East Sussex TN380HL

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	David Rogers	Treasurer	Appointed March 30 th 2024	Trustees of the charity
3	Elisabeth Allen			Trustees of the charity
4	Joao Figuero			Trustees of the charity
5	Laurelle Hughes			Trustees of the charity
6	Laura Mucha		Appointed September 30 2023	Trustees of the charity
7	Mary Long		Appointed September 30 2023	Trustees of the charity
8	Sue Cowell		Appointed March 30 th 2024	Trustees of the charity
9				
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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)

Anthony Flaum, Charlotte Tingley

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)	OLIVIA JANE SHAW	DAVID LAWRENCE ROGERS
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	CHAIR.	Treasurer

Date 