



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	1	APRIL	2024		31	MARCH	2025

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name	THE SITAR MUSIC SOCIETY
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1170299
Charity's principal address	93 EMPINGHAM DRIVE, LEICESTER
Postcode	LE7 2DL

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	D. S. Dhadyalla	Chairman		
2	Atul Patel	Treasurer		
3	Anita Mistry			
4				

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

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
NONE	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
NONE		

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

NONE – VOLUNTEERS ONLY

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	CONSTITUTION
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed By Governing Body

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.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and can receive reasonable expenses incurred in the course of their duties but do not receive any remuneration.

A number of Volunteers help to programme, promote and run our events. Volunteers can receive reasonable expenses incurred in the course of their duties and may receive token honoraria for services rendered.

Declarations of Interests are made by Trustees and Volunteers, as applicable, and maintained in a register. Payments to one related party have been previously cleared with the Charity Commission.

SMS is a member of Making Music through which it has access to training resources, policies, and various insurances.

Section C	Objectives and activities
-----------	---------------------------

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

- (a) To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.
- (b) To advance the education of all aspects of Indian classical music and dance, for the general public in Leicester and the United Kingdom.
- (c) To create opportunities for teaching, mentoring, training, and gaining qualifications at all levels of sitar playing and related instruments.
- (d) To promote excellence in all aspects of performance of the sitar and related instruments for UK-based musicians and the wider public.

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)

SMS has no staff or premises but relies on volunteers, and partnerships with established institutions. The programme is carried out in hired premises, or volunteers' homes, or the premises of partner organisations.

In devising our programme of activities, we have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Our events are open to the general public, and some are free. Partner organisations are public bodies or charities or non-profits.

We have an Artistic Policy and Strategy that informs each year's programme of events and performances. The Trustees have an important role in maintaining artistic excellence. The Chairman is a professional artist and educator of high standing. Other Trustees and volunteers are also artists or have considerable knowledge, experience and networks in their arts field.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

We are pleased to have maintained the momentum after last year's emergence from the pandemic. In our 10th year, we presented the following events:

- Baithak Series: A unique 'Jugalbandi' concert featuring 'duets' from emerging young musicians: Kaviraj Singh (santoor and vocal) with Satwinder Pal Singh (sarangi), and Upneet Singh and Rajvir Singh on tabla as accompanists, and soloists. Audience 65/70 (93% capacity).
- Our annual Homage to Gurus, Guru Purnima event featuring performances from students of all ages and abilities, as we celebrate the Guru-Shishya Parampara. Audience 33/40 (83% capacity).
- Our annual Diwali concert in partnership with Leicester Cathedral. This year we were back in the Cathedral itself after several years of repairs and improvements to the building in a wonderfully refurbished church. We had great pleasure in presenting Debasmita Bhattacharya on the sarod along with Pandit Sanju Sahai on the tabla (now based in Leicestershire). Audience 116/145 (80% capacity).
- A rare opportunity to be able to present three events featuring Dhrupad by the esteemed Pandit Uday Bhawalkar, in conjunction with the Dhrupad Music Society and Darbar Leicester. He was accompanied by Kirit Singh on vocals and Sardar Jasdeep Singh on Jori. The concert attracted an audience of 78/100 (78% capacity); a workshop for children at Leicester Namdhari Gurudwara (17/20) and a workshop for adults at the Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre (21/21) were held in conjunction with the Vocal Guru Smt. Gunwant Kaur.
- All our events attracted new audience members and workshop participants from the general public. Over six events we attracted an audience of 330 representing 84% capacity.

Other notable developments:

- We held our annual Tribute to Ustad Vilayat Khan in London under the auspices of the London Sitar Academy at the Bhavan on 15 March 2025;
- We began collaborating with Darbar Leicester to bring more and wider range of ICM for the Leicester and surrounding communities and for mutual benefit in terms of information sharing, avoiding programming clashes, and developing new initiatives;
- We worked in partnership with Sikh Lens to procure sponsorship for their community arts and culture events.
- *We received and noted a declaration in respect of DMS sponsorship received: Atulkumar Patel is a Trustee of DMS.*

We are grateful to Attenborough Arts Centre - we benefit greatly from their unstinting support, and we are most grateful to them for being our much-valued partner.

In addition, our thanks go to the Leicester Cathedral, Leicester Namdhari Gurudwara, Smt. Gunwant Kaur and the Dhrupad Music Society. Most of all, our grateful thanks to all our volunteers and musicians for their enormous support over the year!

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Income is sourced from charges for events, which are kept reasonable and affordable, and donations from companies and individuals. Some donations qualify for Gift Aid. SMS is registered with the HMRC for this purpose. We have a prudent financial strategy to ensure each event covers its costs and makes a small contribution to the overall surplus. We do not receive any other grants or public funding.

We made a **modest surplus of £79** on the year's activities. We pride ourselves in investing as much as possible in artis fees. A key metric is the proportion of Artists fees as a % of box office income, which was 86% over the year as a whole. The lowest proportion was for the Diwali concert (49%) due to additional costs arising from the Cathedral's changed policy of charging us venue hire fees, and the need for external sound tech support.

At the end of the year, SMS has **£14,741 in unrestricted reserves**. Reserves are presently maintained as a risk-buffer and for cash-flow management. Our aim was to grow it to £10k for these purposes, and to be able to provide match-funding in grant applications that we may choose to make in future. We are pleased to have achieved this goal.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable.

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.

Following last year's major donation, the Board decided to open a savings account with our bank, which yielded an additional income of £349 in interest. Our policy is to keep at least £10,000 in the savings account as a general reserve for unforeseen risks and cash-flow management.

We pride ourselves in investing as much as possible in artis fees. A key metric is the proportion of Artists fees as a % of box office income, which was 86% over the year as a whole.

Without donations, gift aid and savings interest, we would have been unable to mount this level of activity. Our grateful thanks to our donors for their continuing support.

Section F

Other optional information

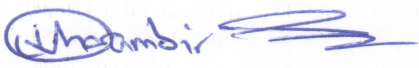

None

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)	Dharambir S. Dhadyalla, MBE	Atul Patel, MBE
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	Treasurer
Date	23 April 2025	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name

THE SITAR MUSIC SOCIETY

No (if any)

1170299

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01 April 2024

To

Period end date
31 March 2025

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					
DONATIONS	2,685	-	-	2,685	7,293
BOX OFFICE	4,696	-	-	4,696	2,963
GIFT AID	209	-	-	209	-
PARTNERSHIP FUNDING	-	-	-	-	-
OTHER	1	-	-	1	-
Savings Account Interest	349	-	-	349	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	7,940	-	-	7,940	10,255
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	7,940	-	-	7,940	10,255
A3 Payments					
VENUE HIRE, PR & TECH FEES	1,444	-	-	1,444	187
ARTISTS FEES	4,052	-	-	4,052	2,103
ARTISTS T&S	345	-	-	345	67
INSURANCES	270	-	-	270	158
OTHER/WEBSITE COSTS	-	-	-	-	-
Marketing & Printing	0	-	-	0	65
Grants given	1,520	-	-	1,520	-
Website Costs	230	-	-	230	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	7,861	-	-	7,861	2,580
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	7,861	-	-	7,861	2,580
Net of receipts/(payments)	79	-	-	79	7,676
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	14,662	-	-	14,662	6,986
Cash funds this year end	14,741	-	-	14,741	14,662

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	4,392	-	-
	Savings Account	10,349	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	14,741	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK


		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
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 liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Details			
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	ATUL PATEL, TREASURER	23-Apr-25