

UK Friends of Cape Town Opera
Report of the Trustees for the year ending 31st December 2023

The UK Friends have built up over the years a loyal following in Britain and Ireland generating considerable donations from a relatively small base and very supportive Trustees. The ability to host live Cape Town Opera musical events in London, Ireland and at the Buxton Festival, have been key to its past success. But the event of Covid, the restrictions on travel, and the very considerable costs over the last 3 years have limited our ability to expand the CTO following with live performances in Britain. However, the excellent communication and regular newsletters from Cape Town Opera, and the experience of many of our UK patrons who regularly visit Cape Town in the South African summer, have helped to keep the UK patronage and awareness of CTO alive and very supportive.

In February 2023, the success of the “Summer Soirée”, hosted by Chairperson Lady (Mary) Hatch and Peter and Lorna Rogan, in Peter’s beautiful home in Camps Bay, with outstanding performances by Cape Town Opera singers and presenters, was one of the highlights of the UK Friends’ 2023 activity, with a considerable number of the UK Friends and guests joining with CTO performers, management and staff and local CTO Friends. As in previous years, it generated significant funds directly for CTO and, significantly, through UK Friends’ contributions. It also creates valuable contacts and “in kind” support, and lead directly to the sponsorship by Stanislas Yassukovich, a patron based in Cape Town and London, of the Opera Cinderella (*Cendrillon*), which was performed in Cape Town in July 2023 and was a considerable success.

In November 2023, coinciding with the World leading competition, Plácido Domingo’s Operalia, celebrating its 30th anniversary in Cape Town, Lady (Mary) Hatch, Chairperson hosted a “winter Soirée” in her house in Camps Bay, with the outstanding support of Jennifer Renner, Head of Development, Cape Town Opera, and the wonderful CTO performers. It was a major success with guests, local and international, along with friends and CTO supporters representing a wider spread of UK and CTO followers who donated generously and introduced new patrons. One of the guests at this event, followed up by hosting a reception for CTO and his guests in his own house in Camps Bay.

The outcome of the UK Friends support in 2023 significantly strengthened the bonds between Cape Town Opera and its UK Friends, and made a considerable financial contribution to CTO during the year, 2023, the UK Trust remitted £42,000 to Cape Town Opera equivalent in Zar R950, 000

**Lady (Mary) Hatch, Chairperson,
UK Friends of Cape Town Opera**

Trustees: Lady Mary Hatch, Mr. Niall Gallagher, Mr. Ivan Fallon, Mr. Peter Rogan, Mr. Robert Silbermann, Mrs. Susan Smith

The UK Friends of Cape Town Opera is a registered charity in England and Wales. Number 1175984

U.K. FRIENDS OF CAPE TOWN OPERA

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31st December 2023

	31.12.2023 £	31.12.2022 £
INCOME		
Donations received	26,940	22,420
Gift aid tax recovered	5,632	Nil
Income from fundraising	NIL	Nil
	<u>32,572</u>	<u>22,420</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Remittances to Cape Town Opera	42,000	14,000
Bank charges, fees and commissions+ Interest	95	125
	<u>42,095</u>	<u>14,125</u>
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	(9,523)	8,295
Funds held at 1st January 2023	11,682	2,869
FUNDS HELD AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023	<u>£2,159</u>	<u>£11,682</u>

Approved on 24th January
2024

Lady (Mary) Hatch
(Trustee)

Signed.....yes..... .

Niall Gallagher (Trustee)

Signed.....yes.....

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Registered Charity In England and
Wales. Number 1175984**

U.K. FRIENDS OF CAPE TOWN OPERA

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on the attached page.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and 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 the year under section 1144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act); and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
to follow the procedure laid down by the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 1455 (5)(b) of the 2011 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 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 accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees covering 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 2011 Act and
to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met, or
- (2) To which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Posgate FCA

12 Reynolds Road

Dated 5th October 2024

Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, HP9 2NJ