



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 01.01.22 Period start date To 31.12.22

Period end date

Charity name: HURN COURT OPERA

Charity registration number: 1177609

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To advance, improve, develop and maintain public appreciation of the art and science of music in any way that the trustees see fit, including through public concerts and recitals.
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	See attached sheet – 'Section C Summary of main activities'
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	We confirm that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit in deciding upon the activities of the charity

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	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
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	See attached sheet – Section D, Summary of main achievements, and impact on beneficiaries and society

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

		See attached sheet – Section E, HCO Business Plan
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Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	See attached sheet – Section E, HCO Business Plan
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	As at 31.12.22 HCO had funds amounting to £76,122.99 and a surplus for the year of £10,898.16
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	HCO has no permanent employees or significant overheads. Current reserves policy is to ensure that no commitments are entered into that might leave the charity in deficit in the event of disappointing ticket sales or cancellation. This is made possible by the goodwill and unpaid work of the trustees and other volunteers
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	The charity currently (as at 28.9.23) has funds of £56,184.88 held in a Bank. There is no specific reserve set but the trustees ensure funds held are sufficient to cover any conceivable loss on a performance
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	See above, and HCO funds are readily realisable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

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	<p>HCO's principal sources of funding in 2022 were:</p> <p>Fundraising events (event with our President, Sir Simon Keenlyside and a Christmas concert)</p> <p>Fundraising through Friends & Patrons scheme</p> <p>Donations from private individuals</p>
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	The principal risk facing the charity is that a performance cannot happen or has disappointing ticket sales leading to a substantial deficit. This drives our caution in ensuring we have more than enough cash to cover this risk
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted?	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	Appointed by meeting of trustees. We have conducted a skills audit to inform the recruitment of any further 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 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	Hurn Court Opera
Other name the charity uses	none
Registered charity number	1177609
Charity's principal address	83 Lower Road, Lower Bemerton, Salisbury, SP2 9NH

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	Michael Hart	Chairman		
2	Rosie Clay	Secretary		
3	Andrew Foot	Treasurer		
4	Joy Atkinson			
5	Tom Clay			
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20				

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

Director name		
N/A		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
N/A		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

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

Additional information (optional)**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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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

N/A

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)	<i>Rosemary May</i>	<i>A. S. Foot</i>
Full name(s)	Rosemary Elisabeth Clay	ANDREW SAVILLE FOOT
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Secretary	Treasurer
Date	24/10/23	

HURN COURT OPERA

Summary of activities and events for 2022 Jan-Dec

OPERA- DON PASQUALE-April 2022

Sell out performances-Christchurch Regent Centre 12th April 2022

-Salisbury Blackledge Theatre 14th April 2022

Five solo roles and four chorus members accompanied by a professional orchestra

performing to a 400+ audience

MASTERCLASS-12th June 2022

Led by international soprano Kate Royal

Three young professional singers were coached before an audience of 40, many of whom were singers themselves

PRIZE-WINNERS RECITAL-Sept 2022

Recitals-St Thomas Church, Salisbury 24/9/2022

-Merley House, Wimborne 25/9/2022

Two prize-winners from our Singing Competition gave recitals to audiences totalling over 100

FUND-RAISING RECITAL 6th Nov 2022

Merley House, Wimborne

Sir Simon Keenlyside CBE President of Hurn Court Opera along with young professional singers performed songs and opera arias before an audience of 65.

SINGING COMPETITION 20th Nov 2022

Kimmeridge Hall ,Bournemouth University-in association with
The Grange Opera Festival

There were 81 entries for our annual national singing competition
8 postgraduate semi-finalists were chosen to perform before an audience of 60.
From these 4 became prize-winning finalists

FUND-RAISING CHRISTMAS CONCERT 4th Dec 2022

Church House,Wimborne
Our annual Christmas event performed by 4 young professional singers
Before an audience of 73

Section D - Summary of main achievements 2022, and impact on beneficiaries and society

Recitals

- Four recitals in three different locations in Dorset and Wiltshire provided ten professional performance opportunities for selected young singers, accompanied by well-regarded professional pianists. These included a pair of recitals for prizewinners from our 2021 Singer of the Year Competition.
- The recitals fulfil our objective to provide young singers with quality performance opportunities.
- Three of the four recitals were sponsored by Hurn Court Opera Patrons.
- Each event attracted an audience averaging 45 people. Free tickets were available to under-18s and those in full-time education. The recitals brought high-quality vocal recitals to local people in areas where such events are unusual.

Opera – Donizetti's Don Pasquale

- Provided 16 professional performance opportunities to young singers who were selected either through Hurn Court Opera Singer of the Year competitions or by audition, roles having been advertised on Audition Oracle.
- The production was supported by a professional orchestra.
- The opera further fulfils our objective to provide young singers with quality performance opportunities.
- The performances attracted a total audience of approx 400 local people. Reduced-price tickets were available to under-18s and those in full-time education.

Singer of the Year Competition, October/November

- Semi-finals and finals held on 20 November at Bournemouth University. Competition attracted 81 entrants from across the UK a 37% increase on 2021. The preliminary rounds were held online, making entry available to as wide a group as possible.
- This year the Competition was run in collaboration with The Grange Festival, a respected professional opera festival based at The Grange, Arlesford, Hampshire. The Grange Festival augmented the First Prize with the offer of a place in the Chorus of The Grange Festival for 2023, subject to suitability.
- The three judges were Joan Rogers CBE, international soprano (Chair), Michael Chance CBE, Artistic Director and CEO of The Grange Festival and Scott Cooper, Director of Artistic Administration, The Grange Festival.
- Eight semi-finalists performed at the live Finals Day, held before a public audience.
- Over £5,000 in prizes, donated by Hurn Court Opera supporters, was awarded to the four finalists. All the singers will also be considered for future performance opportunities with Hurn Court Opera, and the winner for performance opportunities with The Grange Festival. Both the prize money and the chance of performance enhance opportunities for young singers in the UK.
- Audience day tickets enabled the audience to come and go through the day and hear the adjudications from the distinguished judges.
- Audience participation was encouraged through voting to choose the winner of the Audience Prize.
- Free admission for under-18s and those in full-time education was designed to encourage attendance of young people and especially those from the university.

-The Friends and Patrons of Hurn Court Opera were entertained to a complimentary lunch to recognise their support and engender a sense of community among the group.

Supporter developments

-A revised two-tier supporter scheme was launched, introducing a higher tier of membership, Patrons (£500pa for one person; £750 per couple). Friends membership was increased to £40/60pa.

-By the end of 2022 we had 13 Patron and 45 Friend memberships.

Fundraising events

-To raise funds for our 2023 opera, Puccini's La Bohème, we organised a very successful event at which our President, renowned international baritone Sir Simon Keenlyside CBE performed alongside two young singers who had been cast in the lead roles in La Bohème. The appeal raised £10,000 in sponsorship of roles and donations to the production, and resulted in four new Patrons and several new Friends joining our supporter scheme.

-By running the Christmas Concert on a donations basis, were able to raise £250 for Hurn Court Opera.

Section E: Hurn Court Opera Business Plans 2017-2024

1. Strategic aspirations

- To form an organisation that would perform operatic and other music to a high standard in order to give emerging young singers opportunities to perform with a substantial degree of professionalism
- to give young singers the chance to work with established and eminent singers through mentoring, masterclasses, competitions etc.
- to establish an annual singing competition for emerging professionals
- to remunerate professional singers, musical director, director and instrumentalists appropriately
- Developing a programme of visits to take classical singing into the community including schools
- Ensuring a local focus for performances, community work and fundraising
- Creating new partnerships with other similar organisations
- To develop an organisation structure which would enable the aspirations to be delivered with regular reviews of the Business and Financial Plans

1.2 Access

- Facilitating and publicising opportunities for young singers in music colleges to gain performance experience through a regular programme of recitals or operas.
- Showcasing young talent by promoting a programme of recital and operatic opportunities
- Developing relationships with music colleges specialising in singers
- Developing a wider community programme targeting singers
- Supporting performances in local arts venues
- Developing means by which HCO can take classical singing into schools
- Developing a public profile for HCO to encourage wider participation

1.3 Supporters

- Develop and launch the HCO programme to supporters
- Exploit the talent and public profile of the President & Vice Presidents
- Establish a Patrons, Friends and Sponsorship Schemes
- Maintain a mailing list of supporters to encourage attendance at events

1.4 Young singers

- Offering opportunities to gifted and talented young singers
- Establishing a separate bursary scheme for young singers
- Creating young and student members support/mentoring schemes
- Support the transition process from study to professional careers

1.5 Delivery of the Business Plan

- Agreeing the appropriate structure and governance for the organisation
- Agreeing and publicising the Events Programme
- Developing a robust financial model supported by fundraising events and schemes
- Setting up financial systems and regular financial reviews

Action Plans 2017 onwards

Year 1 2017

Year 1 2017	Target	By
Promote Fundraising Events	Minimum of 4 events	Jun-18
Performance opportunities for graduate professionals	Minimum of 20	Jul-18
Recitals programme for graduate singers	Minimum of 3 recitals	Jun-18
Promote Opera productions	1 production	Apr-18
Launch HCO Opera Singer Competition	Minimum of 50 entrants	Jun-18
Launch HCO Song Competition	Minimum of 50 entrants	May-18
Establish & operate Patrons Scheme	Minimum of 20 Patrons	Jul-18
Attract Sponsors of £500+ for specific projects	Minimum of 3 sponsors	Jul-18
Governance structures & Trustee roles agreed	Achieved	Nov-17
Charitable Status achieved	Achieved	Dec-17
Set up Financial processes and protocols	Achieved	Sep-17
Launch Facebook page	Achieved	Oct-18
Develop HCO Website	Website design agreed	Nov-17
Launch HCO Website	Successful Launch	Nov-17
Develop Recital Series at Merley House for 2018/19	Series established	Apr-18
Making Music Membership & Insurance schemes	Achieved	Oct-18

Year 2 2018

Year 2 2018	Target	Outcome
Promote fundraising events	4	4
Performance opportunities for graduate professionals	25	28
Recitals programme for graduate singers	5	16
Promote Opera productions	2	1
HCO Opera Singer Competition	75	48
HCO Song Competition	75	48
Establish & operate Patrons Scheme	25	10
Attract Sponsors for specific projects	5	6
Review Governance structures and Data P	Dec 2018	Achieved
Gift Aid procedures agreed and publicised	Sep 2018	Achieved
Review Financial processes and protocols	Dec 2018	Achieved
Develop Recital Series at Merley House for 2019	October 2018	Achieved

Year 3 2019

Year 3 2019	Target	Outcome
Promote fundraising events	4	4
Performance opportunities for graduate professionals	25	26
Recitals programme for graduate singers	5	5
Promote Opera productions	2	1
HCO Opera Singer Competition	50	48
HCO Song Competition	50	48
Ongoing recruitment of new Friends	10	30
Attract Sponsors for specific projects	5	6
Review Governance structures for development needs	June 2019	Achieved – see Appx 1
Review Financial processes and protocols	Jul 2019	Achieved
Develop Recital Series at Merley House for 2020/21	Nov 2019	Achieved

Decision taken June 2019 to change timing of Singing Competition to avoid summer opera programme commitments affecting take up.

Year 4 2020

Year 4 2020	Target	Outcome*
Promote fundraising events	4	1
Performance opportunities for graduate professionals	40 (2 perfs Cosis; 1 of Acis)	Online performances invited and uploaded to website
Recitals programme for graduate singers	5	1 online masterclass
Promote opera productions	2	-
HCO Singer of the Year Competition	60	114 (online)
New Friends	10	12
Attract sponsors for specific projects	1	2
Review governance structures	By end of year	ongoing
Review Financial processes and protocols	By end of year	ongoing
Develop Recital Series at Merley House for 2021/22	November 2020	Plans on hold during 2020

Appx 1 Development Plans for 2020	Outcome*
MH - Set and light design	Behind-scenes visit Wexford took place. Ongoing.
LA - Conducting mentoring & workshops	One training session achieved. Ongoing
AF – Accounting and grant application mentoring	Accounts successfully audited. Ongoing
KM – Governance issues for charities	Ongoing
RC – Social media for marketing	Training cancelled due to Covid. Ongoing
JA – Production and movement mentoring	Ongoing

*Outcomes for 2020 impacted by Covid 19

Year 5 2021*

Year 5 2021	Target	Outcome
Promote fundraising events	4	1
Performance opportunities for graduate professionals	40	29
Recitals programme for graduate singers	5	5
Promote opera productions	2	1 (2 performances)
HCO Singer of the Year Competition	70	54
Establish & operate Patrons Scheme	5	ongoing
Attract sponsors for specific projects	2	-
Review Governance structures	ongoing	ongoing
Gift Aid procedures agreed and publicised	ongoing	done
Review financial processes and protocols	ongoing	ongoing
Develop recital series for 2021/22	ongoing	executed as planned

*NB no public events Jan-June 2021 due to Covid-19

Appx 2 Development Plans for 2021*	Outcome
MH - Set and light design	Ongoing
LA - Conducting mentoring & workshops	Ongoing
AF – Accounting and grant application mentoring	Ongoing
RC – Social media for marketing; mail list software	Ongoing
JA – Production and movement mentoring	Ongoing

*NB Activities restricted Jan-June 2021 due to Covid-19

Year 6 2022

Year 6 2022	Target	Outcome
Promote fundraising events	2	2
Performance opportunities for graduate professionals	40	26
Recitals programme for graduate singers	5	10
Promote opera productions	1 (3 performances)	1 (2 performances)
HCO Singer of the Year Competition (entrants)	70	81
Develop and promote Patrons Scheme (memberships)	5	13
Develop and promote Friends Scheme (memberships)	10	45
Attract sponsors for specific projects	2	8
Review Governance structures	ongoing	ongoing
Review financial processes and protocols	ongoing	ongoing

Develop recital series for 2023	3	3

Appx 3 Development Plans for 2022	Outcome
MH - Set and light design	ongoing
LA - Conducting mentoring & workshops	ongoing
AF – Accounting and grant application mentoring	Making Music courses undertaken/booked in Gift Aid and Diversity
RC – Social media for marketing; mail list software	Help obtained with social media obtained; new mail and comms software adopted
JA – Production and movement mentoring	ongoing

Year 7 2023

Year 7 2023	Target	Outcome
Promote fundraising events	2	
Performance opportunities for graduate professionals	25	
Recitals programme for graduate singers	5	
Promote opera productions	1 (3 performances)	
HCO Singer of the Year Competition	70	
Develop and promote Patrons Scheme	5	
Develop and promote Friends Scheme	10	
Attract sponsors for specific projects	2	
Review Governance structures	ongoing	
Review financial processes and protocols	ongoing	
Develop recital series for 2024	3	

Appx 3 Development Plans for 2023	Outcome
MH Health & safety education	
AF Online proficiency development	
RC Work with an external agency to assist with marketing	
JT Update CPE on VAT re performing arts organisations and on charities' SORP	

Hurn Court Opera Company
113, Middlehill Road

Registered Charity Number 1177609

JUNE 3, 2023

Dr Andrew Foot

RE: Examination of 2022-2023 Year end accounts for Hurn Court Opera Company.

Dear Andrew,

I have completed my examination.

I confirm that no matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- proper accounting records were not kept
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. I was grateful for your assistance in producing clear and complete records for examination.

Warm regards,

S J Cowsill

Ms. Susan Cowsill MA

**6 Mallard Road
Wimborne
BH21 2NJ
03/06/2023**

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