

# OXFORDSHIRE CONTEMPORARY OPERA

England & Wales · Charity number 1178044

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2018-04-23

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 37d Church Road  
Wheatley  
Oxford  
OX33 1LZ

**Phone** 01865874542

**Email** [info@oxcontemporaryopera.org](mailto:info@oxcontemporaryopera.org)

**Website** <http://www.oxcontemporaryopera.org>

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECTS OF THE CIO ARE THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE ART OF MUSIC, SPECIFICALLY CONTEMPORARY OPERA, FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY COMMISSIONING AND PERFORMING ACCESSIBLE CONTEMPORARY OPERA SUNG IN ENGLISH.

**Activities:** OCO is dedicated to making contemporary opera in English accessible to the public. Our aims are to perform the work of new and established living composers, to promote the talents of young professionals both in singing roles and also in directorial and craft positions, and to include the community in productions onstage and behind the scenes especially working with schools and young people.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Oxfordshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£9,107	£9,361	-	-
2024-03-31	£14,237	£12,021	-	-
2023-03-31	£4,585	£2,471	-	-
2022-03-31	£15,312	£14,100	-	-
2021-03-31	£4,696	£3,026	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Anthony Keene		2021-10-01
Dr Robert Emslie Gordon		2018-03-05
Matthew Julius Peter Maier		2024-06-15
ROGER DAVID SIMMONDS		2018-03-05

**OXFORDSHIRE CONTEMPORARY OPERA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178044

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# Accounts

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July, 2025

## Report to the Charity Commission 2024-25

The Charity's activities at the beginning of April 2024 were focused on completion of the musical arrangement and libretto for the production of "*Happy Birthday, Gregory Bellings!*", scheduled for November, 2024. During 2024 OCO staged several fund-raising events that also raised awareness for the production of "*Happy Birthday, Gregory Bellings!*"

### **Production and Preparation for "*Happy Birthday, Gregory Bellings!*"**

The plot was fashioned from a storyline that utilized the themes generated by the compositions entered for the song competition held in November 2023. All the soloists and the chorus were amateurs, recruited locally, some of whom hoped to pursue a career in music. Roger Simmonds led the band from the keyboard and Rachel Cave excelled in her debut role as joint Artistic and Musical Director. The refurbished space of St Mary's Church, Wheatley proved to be an excellent choice of venue. From an artistic and musical perspective "*Happy Birthday, Gregory Bellings!*" was very successful and enjoyed four full-house performances. This success was due in a large part to the imaginative libretto written by Bafta award winning scriptwriter Gerard Foster.

### **Planning for the 2026 Season**

The planning for OCO's next production in 2026 will be focused on a production of one of Roger Simmonds' earlier operas, "The Poet and the Plumber". The story is inspired by village politics, human nature and vicissitudes of amateur productions. This new production will benefit from full orchestration and a professional cast of young singers.

The Trustees are pleased to confirm that the Charity's funds are in credit for the forthcoming productions and events planned for 2025-26.

David Keene  
Chairman of Trustees



OXFORDSHIRE CONTEMPORARY OPERA

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2024 – 25 (31 March, 2025)

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37D Church Road, Wheatley OX33 1LZ  
Registered charity number 1178044

<http://www.oxcontemporaryopera.org>  
[info@oxcontemporaryopera.org](mailto:info@oxcontemporaryopera.org)

Oxfordshire Contemporary Opera

Statement of financial activities in FY 2024/25 (31 March 2025)

	Note	FY 2023/24 £	FY 2024/25 £
<b>Income</b>			
Brought forward from FY 2022/23		2,113.25	
Brought forward from FY 2023/24			2,216.23
Donations		7,020.00	1,011.03
Gift Aid		1,637.50	87.50
Ticket sales	2	630.00	
Raffle ticket sales	2	100.00	
Ticket sales (2)	4	2,300.00	
Bar and programme sales	4	436.00	
Ticket sales (3)	6		210.00
Bar and raffle tickets sales	6		415.89
Ticket sales (4)	7		6,232.00
Bar and programme sales (2)	7		1,074.15
Sale of HBGB T-shirts			75.98
<b>Total income</b>		<u>14,236.75</u>	<u>11,322.78</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Squarespace		506.40	501.60
OCO Insurance	1		96.00
Google		279.86	297.00
Parchment Print		132.20	
Hire of Holton Village Hall	2	110.00	
Musician Fees	2	400.00	
Advertising	2	40.80	
PayPal/SumUp/Stripe costs	2	3.77	
Hire of Holton Village Hall (2)	3	119.00	
Hire of Wheatley Park Academy	3	150.00	
Hire of St Mary's, Thame	3	394.00	
Travel Expenses (Fame & Envy)	4	606.53	
Artistic Director Fees		1,000.00	
Stage Designer Fees		300.00	
Soloist Fees	4	4,500.00	
Musicians Fees (2)	4	1,700.00	
Thank you	4	30.00	
Rehearsal food	3	70.00	
Advertising (2)	4	416.56	
Costumes and props	4	538.14	

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Piano Tuning		125.00	
Parchment Print (2)		184.68	
Bar costs	4	199.77	
PayPal/SumUp/Stripe costs (2)	4	27.97	
Strategy meetings		141.26	148.29
Song competition prizes	5	238.48	
Bar costs (2)	6		241.74
Musician fees (3)	6		100.00
Musician fees (4)	7		2,800.00
Scriptwriter fees	7		1,000.00
Production of scores	7		64.40
Hire of St Mary's, Wheatley	8		702.00
Hire of Merry Bells	8		37.50
Hire of URC	8		200.00
Rehearsal food	8		279.11
Costumes and props (2)	7		668.07
Stage preparation	7		133.76
Lighting and sound	7		889.12
Programme production	7		45.00
Artwork, advertising and signage	7		392.00
Bar costs (3)	7		534.87
Temporary event notice	7		21.00
Thank you (2)	7		154.98
SumUp transaction costs	7		54.82
Total Expenditure		<u>2,471.37</u>	<u>9,361.26</u>
Funds			
At April 2024		2,216.23	
Net Movement of Resources in the Year		102.98	
At 31 March 2025			<u>1,961.52</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure are derived from continuing activities.

#### Notes

1. Insurance was re-instated on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2023
2. A fund-raising concert was held on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2023
3. Space for rehearsals and performances of *Fame and Envy*
4. The performances of *Fame and Envy* were held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

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5. A song writing competition was held at Wheatley Primary School on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.
6. A fund-raising concert was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2024.
7. The performances of *Happy Birthday, Gregory Bellings!* were held during 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.
8. Space for rehearsals and performances of *Happy Birthday, Gregory Bellings!*.

Draft

**OXFORDSHIRE CONTEMPORARY OPERA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178044

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# Accounts

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December, 2024



## Report to the Charity

## Commission 2023-24

The Charity's activities at the beginning of April 2023 were directed to the fulfillment of the core aims by completing the preparations for the production of *Fame and Envy*, a new opera by Roger Simmonds set to an initial story by Simon Kingston. During 2023 OCO staged several fund-raising events that also raised awareness of the production of *Fame and Envy*.

### **Production and Preparation for *Fame and Envy***

Kingston's plot was an original conception, with none of the heroic, legendary, historical or literary inspirations underlying much of opera, but it lacked nothing in the way of drama, intrigue or, indeed, tragedy by pitting genuine against fake and love against the eponymous emotions of fame and envy. Under the direction of Callie Nestleroth the six young professional singers gave excellent performances in the natural theatrical space that is St Mary's Church, Thame. From an artistic and musical perspective *Fame and Envy* was very successful and deserved a better attendance at the performances. However, the enforced choice of this venue, away from OCO's base in Wheatley, may have contributed to some of the loss of audience.

### **Planning for the 2024 Season**

The planning for OCO's next production in 2024 has been focused on stimulating musical awareness and finding new talent in Wheatley. To that end OCO organized a song writing competition in November 2023. The competition was open to all ages in three categories (junior, adult and senior). The response was impressive in that over 20 entries were submitted (including 4 from primary schoolchildren) with OCO patron, Jessica Dromgoole, judging the contributions.

With this gratifyingly large selection of compositions OCO invited Gerard Foster, a Bafta award winning scriptwriter (and resident of Wheatley), to fashion a storyline that would utilize the themes generated by the compositions. Although this would be Gerard's introduction to writing a script set to music, he willingly accepted the challenge and duly produced a storyline that incorporated many of the songs from the competition that would eventually be arranged musically by Roger Simmonds. OCO scheduled the performance of this new work for November 2024 at St Mary's Church, Wheatley.

The Trustees are pleased to confirm that the Charity's funds are in credit for the forthcoming productions and events planned for 2024.

David Keene  
Chairman of Trustees

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OXFORDSHIRE CONTEMPORARY OPERA

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2023 - 24

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Oxfordshire Contemporary Opera

Statement of financial activities in FY 2023/24

	Note	FY 2022/23 £	FY 2023/24 £
<b>Income</b>			
Brought forward from FY 2021/22		1,211.12	
Brought forward from FY 2022/23			2,113.25
Donations		1,625.00	7,020.00
Gift Aid			1,637.50
Ticket sales	2	790.00	
Raffle ticket sales	2	97.00	
Bar sales	2	261.50	
Ticket sales (2)	5	460.00	
Raffle ticket sales (2)	5	70.00	
Ticket sales (3)	6	70.00	
Ticket sales (4)	7		630.00
Raffle ticket sales (4)	7		100.00
Ticket sales (5)	9		2,300.00
Bar and programme sales	9		436.00
<b>Total income</b>		<u>4,584.62</u>	<u>14,236.75</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Squarespace		268.80	506.40
OCO Insurance	1	96.00	
Google		259.79	279.86
Parchment Print		132.20	
Advertising	2	67.50	
Postage		10.05	
Musicians Fees	2	280.00	
Refreshment costs/SUN voucher	2	209.86	
TEN licence	2	21.00	
PayPal/SumUp/Stripe costs	2	3.88	
Artistic Director Fees	3	500.00	
Travel expenses (Fame & Envy)	4	278.26	
Hire of Holton Village Hall	5	166.50	
Hire of URC	4	20.00	
Advertising (2)	5	49.99	
Musician Fees (2)	5	50.00	
Crick's of Wheatley voucher	5	25.00	
PayPal/SumUp/Stripe costs (2)	5	2.59	
Advertising (2)	4	29.95	

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Hire of Holton Village Hall (2)	7	110.00
Musician Fees (2)	7	400.00
Advertising (3)	7	40.80
PayPal/SumUp/Stripe costs (3)	7	3.77
Hire of Holton Village Hall (3)	8	119.00
Hire of Wheatley Park Academy	8	150.00
Hire of St Mary's, Thame	8	394.00
Travel Expenses (Fame & Envy) (2)	4	606.53
Artistic Director Fees (2)	3	1,000.00
Stage Designer Fees		300.00
Soloist Fees	9	4,500.00
Musicians Fees (2)	9	1,700.00
Thank you	9	30.00
Rehearsal food	8	70.00
Advertising (3)	9	416.56
Costumes	9	18.00
Props	9	520.14
Piano Tuning	9	125.00
Parchment Print (2)		184.68
Bar costs	9	199.77
PayPal/SumUp/Stripe costs (4)	9	27.97
Strategy meetings		141.26
Song competition prizes	10	238.48

Total Expenditure	<u>(2,471.37)</u>	<u>(12,020.52)</u>
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#### Funds

At April 2023	2,113.25
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Net Movement of Resources in the Year	902.13
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At 31 March 2024	<u>2,216.23</u>
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The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure are derived from continuing activities.

#### Notes

1. Insurance suspended with effect from 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.
2. A fund-raising concert was held on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.
3. Artistic Director for *Fame and Envy* appointed on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2022.
4. Audition and Marketing for *Fame and Envy*.
5. A fund-raising concert was held on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2022.

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6. *Fame and Envy* scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2023. Advanced ticket sales in FY22/23.
7. A fund-raising concert was held on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2023
8. Space for rehearsals and performances of *Fame and Envy*
9. The performances of *Fame and Envy* were held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2023
10. A song writing competition was held at Wheatley Primary School on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.

**OXFORDSHIRE CONTEMPORARY OPERA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178044

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# Accounts

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## Report to the Charity Commission 2022-23

The Charity's activities at the beginning of the financial year commencing April 2021 were all directed to the fulfillment of the core aims through the performance of *Fame and Envy*, a new opera by Roger Simmonds set to an initial story by Simon Kingston.

### Production and Preparation for *Fame and Envy*

For OCO's next production Roger Simmonds had completed the score for a new opera entitled, *Fame and Envy*. The new work was completed by the end of 2021 with a focus on the Art World with its opportunities for vast wealth, unbounded ambition and unscrupulous corruption. *Fame and Envy* starts out with a debate between two friends which essentially amounts to one friend's jealousy of the other's success in the world of contemporary painting. The debate escalates to a challenge centred on an exhibition of "mock" art which, in turn, engenders sub-plots of envy, infidelity, scandal and murderous intent. Inevitably, there are unintended consequences and these lead to the opera closing with two tragic deaths. OCO scheduled the production of this tale of jealousy in the world of fine art for the summer of 2023 and, once again, OCO started the recruitment of young professionals not only for the leading singing roles but also a young professional to be Artistic Director.

The choice of venue for this production presented the biggest challenge as we had decided not to continue with *al fresco* performances due to the demands made on the soloists and the vagaries of the weather. The lack of a suitable venue in Wheatley forced us to look further afield, even into neighbouring Buckinghamshire. Eventually we settled on St Mary's Thame, a church that offered excellent space and marvellous acoustics. Although the decision for the venue was only made in January 2023 the six young soloists and the Artistic Director had already been recruited so the rehearsals were well underway. It had been decided not to use a chorus but accompany the singers with an instrumental quartet of piano, violin, cello and oboe.

During 2022 and the first quarter of 2023 OCO staged several fund-raising events that also raised awareness of the forthcoming production of *Fame and Envy*. The Trustees are pleased to confirm that the Charity's funds are in credit for the forthcoming productions and events.

David Keene  
Chairman of Trustees  
July 2023

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OXFORDSHIRE CONTEMPORARY OPERA

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2022 - 23

37D Church Road, Wheatley OX33 1LZ  
Registered charity number 1178044

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Oxfordshire Contemporary Opera

Statement of financial activities in FY 2022/23

	Note	FY 2021/22 £	FY 2022/23 £
<b>Income</b>			
Brought forward from FY 2020/21		3,026.75	
Brought forward from FY 2021/22			1,211.12
Ticket sales (1)	1	800.00	
Raffle ticket sales	1	226.00	
Bar sales (1)	1	364.30	
Donations (1)	2	1,324.92	
Donations (2)			1,625.00
HMRC Gift Aid		200.00	
Ticket sales (2)	3	7,435.00	
Bar sales (2)	3	988.55	
Programme sales	3	411.00	
Ticket sales (3)	6	460.00	
Raffle tickets sales (3)	6	75.00	
Ticket sales (4)	7		790.00
Raffle ticket sales (4)	7		97.00
Bar sales (2)	7		261.50
Ticket sales (5)	10		460.00
Raffle ticket sales (5)	10		70.00
Ticket sales (6)	11		70.00
<b>Total income</b>		<u>15,311.52</u>	<u>4,584.62</u>

**Expenditure**

Squarespace		216.00	268.80
OCO Insurance	4		96.00
Google		214.25	259.79
TEN licences (x2)		42.00	
Refreshments/SUN voucher costs (1)	1	302.78	
Hire of chairs/tables for concert	1	173.04	
Musician Fee	1	50.00	
Parchments Print (1)	3	795.97	
Rehearsal space hire (1)	3	204.00	
Rehearsal Pianists	3		
Piano Tuner	3	68.00	
Soloist travel expenses	3	825.29	
Carecheck			
Postage (1)	3	7.95	

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Hire of tables/chairs	3	173.58	
Hire of Portaloos	3	390.00	
Advertising and signage (1)	3	90.00	
Video and lighting	3	1,480.51	
Rental of monitor, cable etc	5	75.00	
Set construction and design	3	408.16	
Costumes	3	86.01	
Soloists Fees	3	5,500.00	
Musicians Fees (1)	3	1,300.00	
Performance film costs	3	47.00	
Refreshments costs (2)	3	568.57	
Soloist/musician food	3	365.32	
Thankyous, props and sundries	3	344.88	
Business Cards		28.20	
Parchments Print (2)	6	20.20	
Advertising and Signage (2)	6	125.67	
Rehearsal space hire (2)	6	66.00	
Hire of Holton Village Hall	6	130.00	
Card reader costs (1)		2.02	
Parchments Print (3)			132.20
Advertising (3)	7		67.50
Postage (2)			10.05
Musicians Fees (2)	7		280.00
Refreshment costs/SUN voucher (2)	7		209.86
TEN licence	7		21.00
PayPal/SumUp costs	7		3.88
Artistic Director Fees	8		500.00
Travel expenses (Fame & Envy)	9		278.26
Hire of Holton Village Hall	10		166.50
Hire of URC	9		20.00
Advertising (4)	10		49.99
Musician Fees (3)	10		50.00
Crick's of Wheatley voucher	10		25.00
Card reader costs (2)	10		2.59
Advertising (5)	9		29.95
Total Expenditure		(14,100.40)	(2,471.37)
Funds			
At April 2022		1,211.12	-
Net Movement of Resources in the Year		(1,815.63)	
At March 2023			2,113.25

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure are derived from continuing activities.

#### Notes

1. A fund-raising concert was held on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.
2. In FY 20/21 funds were donated by The Thistle Trust (£1,500) and The Martin Smith Foundation (£1,000). These were augmented in FY 21/22 by donations from other supporters.
3. All these expenses were incurred in preparation for the OCO production of *@emele* in July 2021
4. Level of insurance was reduced by changing insurers.
5. £25 of these costs were incurred in FY 20/21. In agreement with Spire Film Ltd., payment for these costs was deferred until FY 21/22.
6. A fund-raising concert was held on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.
7. A fund-raising concert was held on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.
8. Artistic Director appointed on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2022.
9. Auditions and marketing for Fame and Envy
10. A fund-raising concert was held on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2022.
11. Fame and Envy scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

**OXFORDSHIRE CONTEMPORARY OPERA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178044

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# Accounts

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## Report to the Charity Commission 2021-22

The Charity's activities at the beginning of the financial year commencing April 2021 were all directed to the fulfillment of the core aims through the performance of *@emele*, a new comic opera by Roger Simmonds and David Willcock.

### Production and Performance of *@emele*

Continuing restrictions surrounding Covid 19 were in place for amateur participants until May 17<sup>th</sup>, and even after this only six amateur singers were allowed to sing indoors. However, rehearsals with the professional cast were allowed and went ahead according to contract. Similarly professional musicians were employed to accompany in the band.

The rehearsal period was short but the show was staged at Wheatley House, Ladder Hill, Wheatley on 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> July as planned with amateur participants singing outdoors and with a socially distanced audience.

Many in-kind donations were received from local businesses. Despite ticket sales being reduced due to social distancing issues the production did break even according to the budget.

### Changes in Trustees

At the half-yearly meeting of the Trustees, held on 30<sup>th</sup> September, David Willcock and Ruth Burdett tendered their resignations from the Board citing their concerns regarding the difficulties of financing future OCO productions. Roger Simmonds and Roy Gordon thanked David Willcock and Ruth Burdett for the work that they had contributed during their tenure and also declared it was their intention to continue to develop OCO and seek appropriate ways in which to support the OCO activities. To that end, on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021, David Keene was appointed as a Trustee and to serve as Chairman.

### OCO's next production

In parallel with working on *@emele* Roger Simmonds' fertile gaze was also working on the score for a new opera entitled, *Fame and Envy*, with a libretto by Simon Kingston. The new work was completed by the end of 2021 and has as its focus the Art World with its opportunities for vast wealth, unbounded ambition and unscrupulous corruption. *Fame and Envy* starts out with a debate between two friends which essentially amounts to one friend's jealousy of the other's success in the world of contemporary painting. The debate escalates to a

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challenge centred on an exhibition of “mock” art which, in turn, engenders sub-plots of envy, infidelity, scandal and murderous intent. Inevitably, there are unintended consequences and these lead to the opera closing with two tragic deaths. OCO is scheduling the production of this tale of jealousy in the world of fine art for the summer of 2023. Once again OCO will seeking to recruit young professionals to work with aspiring amateur performers and musicians.

At the beginning of 2022 OCO staged a fund-raising event entitled “The Age of Aquarius” which comprised various musical genres including two scenes from *Fame and Envy*. Gratifyingly, these extracts were well received which bodes well for next year’s production.

With *@emele*, OCO’s first major venture, completed successfully the Trustees are pleased to confirm that the Charity’s funds are in credit for forthcoming productions and events.

David Keene  
Chairman of Trustees

July 2022



OXFORDSHIRE CONTEMPORARY OPERA

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2021 – 2022

## Oxfordshire Contemporary Opera

### Statement of financial activities in FY 2021/22

	Note	FY 2020/21 £	FY 2021/22 £
<b>Income</b>			
Brought forward from FY 2019/20		2,191.21	
Brought forward from FY 2020/21			3,026.75
Ticket sales (1)	1		800.00
Raffle ticket sales	1		226.00
Bar sales (1)	1		364.30
Donations	2	2,505.00	1,324.92
HMRC Gift Aid			200.00
Ticket sales (2)	3		7,435.00
Bar sales (2)	3		988.55
Programme sales	3		411.00
Ticket sales (3)	6		460.00
Raffle tickets sales (3)	6		75.00
<b>Total income</b>		<u>4,696.21</u>	<u>15,311.52</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Squarespace		216.00	216.00
OCO Insurance	4	600.00	
Google			214.25
TEN licences (x2)			42.00
Refreshments/SUN voucher costs (1)	1		302.78
Hire of chairs/tables for concert	1		173.04
Musician Fee	1		50.00
Parchments Print (1)	3	176.00	795.97
Rehearsal space hire (1)	3	168.00	204.00
Rehearsal Pianists	3	400.00	
Piano Tuner	3		68.00
Soloist travel expenses	3	75.32	825.29
Carecheck		12.00	
Postage	3	22.14	7.95
Hire of tables/chairs	3		173.58
Hire of Portaloos	3		390.00
Advertising and signage (1)	3		90.00
Video and lighting	3		1,480.51
Rental of monitor, cable etc	5		75.00
Set construction and design	3		408.16
Costumes	3		86.01
Soloists Fees	3		5,500.00

37D Church Road, Wheatley OX33 1LZ  
Registered charity number 1178044

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Musicians Fees	3	1,300.00
Performance film costs	3	47.00
Refreshments costs (2)	3	568.57
Soloist/musician food	3	365.32
Thankyous, props and sundries	3	344.88
Business Cards		28.20
Parchments Print (2)	6	20.20
Advertising and Signage (2)	6	125.67
Rehearsal space hire (2)	6	66.00
Hire of Holton Village Hall	6	130.00
Card reader costs		2.02
Total Expenditure		<u>(14,100.40)</u>
		<u>(1,669.46)</u>

#### Funds

At April 2021	3,026.75	-
Net Movement of Resources in the Year	834.54	(1,815.63)
At March 2022		<u>1,211.12</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure are derived from continuing activities.

#### Notes

1. A fund-raising concert was held on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.
2. In FY 20/21 funds were donated by The Thistle Trust (£1,500) and The Martin Smith Foundation (£1,000). These were augmented in FY 21/22 by donations from other supporters.
3. All these expenses were incurred in preparation for the OCO production of *@emele* in July 2021
4. Renewal will be postponed until required for future fund-raising events and productions.
5. £25 of these costs were incurred in FY 20/21. In agreement with Spire Film Ltd., payment for these costs was deferred until FY 21/22.
6. A fund-raising concert was held on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

**OXFORDSHIRE CONTEMPORARY OPERA**

England & Wales - Charity number 1178044

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# Accounts

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## **Report to the Charity Commission 2020-21**

In spite of the Charity's activities being curtailed by the Covid-19 pandemic during the financial year the Trustees have been able to adapt to further the charities aims within the parameters of the Government's guidelines.

### **Performance**

Having committed to the production of *@emele*, a comic opera by Roger Simmonds and David Willcock, the work of the Trustees has been focused on the promotion and funding of this work in line with the detailed budget submitted by the production team and agreed by the Trustees.

In September 2020, after the easing of lockdown measures, the production team held auditions for the leading roles, from which four singers were cast. However, following these auditions, the production team suggested that five more professionals should be cast in the roles of the Olympian Gods. This increased the production budget but the Trustees felt that, with the state of theatre and the arts providing little or no work for any of the auditionees, who were uniformly of a high standard, the aims of the charity would be furthered by the inclusion of more young professionals. This wisdom of this decision was underlined by the continuing restrictions on the number of amateur singers; this precluded more than six amateurs being included in the production.

The contracts for the four lead roles included a fund-raising concert to be held in Oxford in late October 2020. New lockdown measures meant there could be no audience and consequently the Trustees decided to cancel this concert. Instead, video excerpts of *@emele*, along with interviews with the singers about themselves and their roles were filmed free by a local production company (as a donation in kind) with the aim of using these to promote the production on the charity's website. The website was developed to reflect the 2021 season and links made to a new YouTube channel for the Charity.

The venue for the production was to have been The North Wall theatre in Oxford but, thanks to the cancellation of shows in 2020, the Trustees were informed that the booking for July 2021 would have to be cancelled. Fortunately, Mr and Mrs Keene offered their house and garden in Wheatley pro bono instead. The Trustees were able not only to benefit from the stability of this commitment in their planning but also save several hundred pounds in location and rehearsal fees.

### **Fundraising**

The putative fundraising concert in October had to be cancelled but the Trustees were successful in securing both grants and sponsorship. Major grants were obtained from The Thistle Trust and The Martin Smith Foundation.

### **Support of young artists and community involvement**

Restrictions for Covid severely inhibited the Charity's work with young people and community involvement in this year. The increased number of young artists contracted for the production was a step forward in the encouragement of young talent, however, the Trustees' plans for partnerships with local schools and the

involvement of younger people had to be postponed for health and practical reasons. Not only was it deemed unsafe for outside agencies to visit schools, teachers were so hard-pressed that they had no time to collaborate on external projects. Consequently, all contact with amateur singers was made via electronic media in this period. A small semi-chorus was assembled using recordings for auditions though, pleasingly, this included two school-leavers who were put forward by the music teacher at Oxford High School.

Ruth Burdett  
Chair of Trustees



OXFORDSHIRE CONTEMPORARY OPERA  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
2020 - 2021

The Old Woodyard, Stanton St. John, OX33 1EX  
Registered charity number 1178044

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Oxfordshire Contemporary Opera

Statement of financial activities in FY 2020/21

	Note	FY 2019/20 £	FY 2020/21 £
<b>Income</b>			
Brought forward from FY 2018/19		1,461.73	
Brought forward from FY 2019/20			2,191.21
Ticket sales from concert	1	660.00	
Raffle ticket sales	1	130.00	
Donations	2	100.00	2,505.00
<b>Total income</b>		<u>2,351.73</u>	<u>4,696.21</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
The Sun voucher	1	25.00	
Parchments Print	1	15.00	
Raffle Ticket Books	1	6.54	
Cost of refreshments	1	113.98	
Squarespace		216.00	
OCO Insurance			600.00
Parchments Print	3		176.00
Rehearsal space hire	3		168.00
Rehearsal Pianists	3		400.00
Soloist travel expenses	3		75.32
Carecheck			12.00
Postage	3		22.14
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<u>(160.52)</u>	<u>(1,669.46)</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
At April 2020		2,191.21	-
Net Movement of Resources in the Year		730.48	835.54
At April 2021			<u>3,026.75</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure are derived from continuing activities.

#### Notes

1. A fund-raising concert was held on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.
2. In FY 20/21 funds were donated by The Thistle Trust (£1,500) and the Martin Smith Foundation (£1,000).
3. All these expenses were incurred in preparation for the OCO production of *@emele* in July 2021