



The Bristol Reggae Orchestra

Charity registration number: 1180167
Annual report and Unaudited Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 September 2024

The Bristol Reggae Orchestra Contents

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**The Bristol Reggae Orchestra
Reference and Administrative Details**

Charity Registration Number	1180167
Patron	Gary Crosby OBE
Chair	Arusha McKenzie
Orchestra Leader	Norma Purnell
Choir Leader	Elaine Walker
Trustees	Arusha McKenzie Barrington Chambers Kat Branch Kevin Millwood Sharon Folland Simon Pratchitt Rebecca Scott Wesley Guinchard-Cox
Treasurers	Sue Lamble & Dirk Walker
Musical Director	Ben Jenkins
Choir Director	Kim Samuels
Administrator	Bradley Greening
Principal Address	Malcolm X Community Centre 141 City Road St Pauls Bristol BS2 8YH
Bankers	Lloyds
Charity Website	https://www.bristolreggaeorchestra.com/

Trustees Report

The Trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2024.

Objectives and activities

Objectives and aims

The objects of the charity are to advance the art of music, particularly reggae and music of Jamaican origin for the benefit of the public by performing such music to the public and providing opportunities to develop musical skills.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Achievements and performance

Following the resignation of Orgena Rose as Choir leader in March 2024 we were delighted to appoint Kim Samuels as the new choir leader and they continue to go from strength to strength.

On Saturday 3rd of August 2024 the orchestra and choir performed at Valley Fest in Chew Magna and a few days later, on Wednesday 6th of August, at a fundraising gig for those impacted by Hurricane Beryl in Carriacou, Grenada, held at The Mount Without. Over £5,000 was raised during the evening where the Orchestra performed amongst other acts including Nia Bimkubwa and Celestine. The Choir also had a busy winter gig calendar and joined with other Bristol Choirs and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra to perform the world premiere of 'Odyssey' at the Beacon.

The Fatty Boom Boom Windrush Documentary was filmed in 2023-2024 with members from the choir and Orchestra contributing and the screening being held in December 2024 and the youth outreach team journeyed to Trinity Academy for the school's youth outreach day.

In the time following the end of the year Kristian Sharpe and Kat Branch made the decision to step down as trustees and Simon Pratchett joined the board.

As mentioned in the prior year report, in January 2024 Arden Tomison made the decision to step down from the board of trustees due to ill health. He continues to contribute to the organisation, having been part of it for more than 14 years and everyone involved in the organisation wishes him all the best in his continued recovery. Arusha McKenzie kindly stepped into the role as the chair of the trustees.

The board of trustees met regularly, in person mostly, although remote set ups were also used.

Thanks are due to all Trustees, to orchestra leader Norma Purnell, our Orchestra Music Director, Ben Jenkins, Choir leader Elaine and our current choir musical director Kim Samuels.

Financial review

The total cash fund position at the end of the period was £15,998 (Unrestricted funds: £14,456, restricted funds £1,542). The Charity reports a surplus during the period of £1,172, (Unrestricted funds: a surplus of £4,213, restricted funds: a deficit of £3,041).

This is the second full year in which the Windrush Choir's finances have been reflected in the report and the first for which has had its own bank account.

Income

The Charity received total income of £22,698 meaning that, once more, there was no need for an independent examination of the accounts.

Income from members subscriptions to the orchestra and the choir totalled £6,609 (2023: £5,526). A small rise reflecting the growth of the choir although it was acknowledged that membership needed to grow further.

The charity received performance income which generated £15,522 (2023: £14,011) of income as a result of playing at several gigs, including Valley Fest in August 2024 and the Bristol Beacon Housewarming in December 2023.

Expenditure

The Charity's core operating costs were £18,485 (2023: £20,708), which is roughly consistent with the prior year. The Charity incurred costs of £3,044 (2023: £351) in relation to the hire of rehearsal spaces. In 2023 the charity experienced a reduction in these costs due to the Malcolm X Centre experiencing staffing issues during the year and consequently not invoicing the organisation for the usage of their space. These invoices were subsequently issued during the year ended 30/09/2024.

Musical Director's fees were £9,388 for the orchestra and the choir (2023: £4,700). This discrepancy can be explained by the fact that the categorisation of these expenses in 2023 were different to the current year, and if the categorisation were the same the prior year expenses would have come to £10,172. Going forward, this year's categorisation will be used.

Plans for future periods

Grant funding applications

The organisation has continued to explore the possibility of grant funding to support further development during the year with a number of options being considered in this regard

Structure, governance and management

The Bristol Reggae Orchestra is a registered charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) and is governed by its constitution dated 2 October 2018. The CIO was registered with the Charity Commission on 2 October 2018.

The CIO is administered by the Board of Trustees. The Board has begun to meet more frequently than its original quarterly basis to accommodate the additional work arising from the projects. A management committee and formal action groups are appointed to assist with orchestral section management, planning, development, communications and finance who meet every 6 weeks.

The action groups consist of the following:

Finances and income: responsible for managing the money, generating income, pursuing funding opportunities, sales and merchandising

Membership: responsible for managing recruitment, keeping a balance of musicians, involving members and volunteers, running rehearsals with refreshments

Musical development: responsible for working closely with the Musical Director to define our repertoire, manage the music library, commission new works and arrangements, seek educational and funded projects.

Media and Marketing: responsible for publicity, recruitment strategies, managing social media and web-based activity, marketing and point of contact for bookings.

Performance logistics: responsible for maintenance and storage of all equipment, managing all aspects of performances including contracts, liaison, logistics (including transport), set-ups and take-downs.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting and are appointed on the basis of their skills and relevant experience to meet the objects of the charity. Trustees are elected by the membership to serve terms of one year and are eligible for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting.

Induction and training of trustees

Once appointed, new trustees are fully briefed by the Board with regard to:

- their obligations as members of the Board of Trustees, including relevant publications from the Charity Commission;
- relevant documentation regarding the legal framework of the charity, e.g. Constitution;
- relevant financial information as set out in the most recent published annual accounts;
- strategic plans and objectives.

Reserves Policy

The Charity recognises that it requires a certain level of funding in order to meet its core operational activities. The Charity anticipates holding one year's operating costs in reserve which will be monitored by the Treasurer and Board of Trustees on a regular basis.

Declaration

The Trustee's declare that they have approved the Trustee report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Arusha McKenzie
Trustee

30 July 2025

Statement and Receipts and Payments

	2024	2024	2024	2023	2023	2023
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS						
Donations, legacies, grants	567	-	567	3,185	500	3,685
Membership subscriptions	6,609	-	6,609	5,526	-	5,526
Performance income	15,522	-	15,522	9,961	-	9,961
Merchandise sales	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glastonbury income	-	-	-	4,050	-	4,050
Other income	-	-	-	1,425	-	1,425
Asset and investment sales	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	22,698	-	22,698	24,146	500	24,646
PAYMENTS						
Musical director	9,388	-	9,388	4,700	-	4,700
Musical project costs	586	3,041	3,627	2,161	14,583	16,745
Musician fees (non-members)	517	-	517	954	-	954
Rent / Hire of rooms	3,044	-	3,044	351	-	351
Advertising	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	-	-	-	239	-	239
Website maintenance / Digital media	690	-	690	152	-	152
Merchandise	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sundry	682	-	682	559	-	559
Orchestra administration costs	2,748	-	2,748	4,357	-	4,356
Sound technician costs	830	-	830	1,587	-	1,587
Musical equipment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glastonbury costs	-	-	-	5,649	-	5,649
Asset and investment purchases	-	-	-	450	-	450
Total payments	18,485	3,041	21,526	21,159	14,583	35,742
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,213	3,041	1,172	2,987	14,083	- 11,096
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	9,792	5,034	14,826	6,805	19,117	25,922
Cash funds this year end	14,005	1,993	15,998	9,792	5,034	14,826

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

		2024	2024	2024
	Details	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		£	£	£
Cash funds	Cash at bank	14,456	1,541	15,998
Other monetary assets		-	-	-
Investment assets		-	-	-
Assets retained for the charity's own use	Merchandise	1,730	-	1,730
	Musical equipment	7,903	-	7,903
Liabilities	Creditors	-	-	-

		2023	2023	2023
	Details	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		£	£	£
Cash funds	Cash at bank	10,243	4,583	14,826
Other monetary assets		-	-	-
Investment assets		-	-	-
Assets retained for the charity's own use	Merchandise	1,730	-	1,730
	Musical equipment	7,903	-	7,903
Liabilities	Creditors	-	-	-

The financial statements were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 30 July 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



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Arusha McKenzie
Trustee
30 July 2025