



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 17/10/2021 Period start date To 16/10/2022 Period end date

Charity name: Musica Secreta

Charity registration number: 1180343

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The purposes of our charity are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">To advance education, for the public benefit, in the knowledge and appreciation of music primarily but not exclusively for female voices, whether for choir, consort, or solo voices, accompanied or unaccompanied. <p>To further the development of public appreciation of and education in the musical arts through concerts, workshops, conferences, lectures, broadcasts, publications (print, digital, and online), and recordings, and by such other means as the trustees shall from time to time determine.</p>
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	<p>The charity fulfils its purposes through giving concerts, making recordings, and running workshops. Where possible and practical, amateur choirs are invited to be involved in performances.</p> <p>The charity also engages in primary trading through its website, selling scores and CDs. The website is also used to distribute free scores and advice to choirs wishing to develop experience in singing female-voice polyphony.</p> <p>The charity supports two ensembles: Musica Secreta, a professional ensemble normally comprising 8-10 singers, viol, and keyboard (organ or harpsichord); and Celestial Sirens, an amateur choir based in the south of England that meets on an ad hoc basis to prepare performances, sometimes alongside Musica Secreta. Musica Secreta is directed by Laurie Stras; Celestial Sirens will in the future be directed by Deborah Roberts.</p>

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	In shaping the objectives for and planning the charity's activities, the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and fee charging. The ensemble relies on grants and income from fees and primary trading to cover the costs of its activities. Budgets for projects are based on industry-appropriate rates (such as union-recommended rates, where available); grants are sought to reduce the fees chargeable to promoters.
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The charity, the primary trading, and the ensemble are all managed by one person (Stras), who is also responsible for the research on which programmes are based, and the editions performed. Management of the charity involves all reporting tasks (accounting and annual report), populating and managing the website, grant writing and other forms of fundraising, administration around recordings and rehearsals (including accommodation, scheduling, booking of artists and technicians). More tasks were added in 2021-2022 – managing a self-release label, social media marketing (and profile strategy) and delivery. Other members of the ensemble are only able to help in a limited way because none of the activity is remunerated.
Other		

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
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<p>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.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>Between 17 October 2021 and 16 October 2022, formal activities have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording and release of new CD on a self-managed label • Concerts to promote the CD, including a filmed concert • Recording of three tracks for a Christmas "single" release in November 2022. <p><i>Mother, Sister, Daughter</i> This year Musica Secreta released its tenth CD, <i>Mother Sister Daughter</i>, on new record label, Lucky Music (more below). The repertoire included music from Italian convents, music associated with female patrons, songs by dissenting women, and and new commission by Joanna Marsh, "The Veiled Sisters."</p> <p>The project was begun in the previous accounting year, in which £7K was raised from the Leche Trust, the Ambache Charitable Trust, and Angel Early Music. In the course of 21-22, further funded were raised from Huddersfield University (c. £6K) and AltPitch Festival (£2.5K). A crowdfunder raised in excess of £5K.</p> <p>Recording took place at Stapleford Granary from 26-29 March 2022. A short version of the concert was filmed on 26 March, and then we gave the same concert live in the evening. We did not premiere Joanna Marsh's work at this concert, as we had a new soprano on the day (Victoria Meteyard) and we had not had time to rehearse it. Ms Meteyard joined the group on the morning of the filming, due to one of the regular sopranos contracting covid at the last minute.</p> <p>The filmed concert was shown as part of Bloomington Early Music Festival on 26 May; we released the film to the online AltPitch Festival in July, and it is now permanently on our YouTube channel.</p> <p>We prepared the album for release on digital platforms, and pressed a limited run of 300 physical copies. Our digital distributor is RecordJet, a company based in the EU: they manage release to Spotify, Amazon, and Apple Music. We released the recording in both stereo and Dolby Atmos (on Apple Music).</p> <p>Since all releases must be done through a label, Stras created a new label, Lucky</p>
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		<p>Music, which controls the copyright in the recording. Lucky Music has paid the MCPS licenses to all composers/arrangers (Stras, Marsh, Couper, Kinder, Ely), and has ensured that all PRS/PPL percentages were distributed correctly for the release. Stras took the decision not to have the charity control the label, as this could create problems when the ensemble/charity is eventually wound up. All proceeds from the sale of physical CDs and from streaming go directly to Musica Secreta.</p> <p>We gave two concerts at the time of the release: 10 June at Kings Place; and 24 June at Stour Music Festival. A further date is planned for Brighton Early Music Festival in October 2023.</p> <p>On 23 September, we gathered to video and record some tracks for Christmas release – having our own label means that we can release “little and often” to make the best of streaming platforms. We managed to make four recordings, of which two will be released in time for Christmas 2022.</p> <p><i>Musica Secreta website and score shop</i> We continue to sell scores and CDs from the website; traffic should increase in the next financial year because of the release of Laurie’s edition of Maddalena Casulana’s five-voice madrigal book.</p> <hr/>
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Financial Review

Review of the charity’s financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>The bank account had a credit balance of £9044.66, and the cash box contains £191.99.</p> <p>Total income from all sources was £32993.44. Total expenditure was £36582.52.</p> <p>Expenditure was higher than income this year, but overall the balance was down only £3643 on 20-21, and only £1078.35 from 19-20.</p>
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Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between spending/paying fees and receiving payment from promoters. The ideal level of reserves is £3000 per contracted concert, the minimum we judge to be necessary to cover compensatory artists' fees for a single concert in case of promoter non-payment.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	Although there is no separate account for reserves, there is capacity to cover our ideal reserve amount for 2022/23 in the general fund.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	n/a
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	n/a
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	n/a

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	Royalties on recordings; primary trading; grants; crowdfunding
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	n/a
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	Risks include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • director retiring • shrinking of arts sector in the UK • continued pandemic making performance/recording/scheduling unviable • ability to recruit Trustees
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed , royal charter)	Para 1.25	The charity is governed by a constitution.
How is the charity constituted?	Para 1.25	The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Association.

(e.g unincorporated association, 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	The trustees were approached by the ensemble's directors on the basis of their knowledge and skills associated with the charity's purposes.

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	Musica Secreta
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1180343
Charity's principal address	24 Oakmount Ave Southampton SO17 1DR UK

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	Mr Nick Boston	Chair	Term: 17/10/2021-16/10/2024	
2	Ms Sarah Dunant		Term: 17/10/2018-16/10/2022	
3	Prof Andrew Pinnock		Term: 17/10/2020-16/10/2023	

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

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

Professor Laurie Stras – administrator for the charity; director of the ensemble
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Exemptions from disclosure


Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

n/a

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Nicholas Alexander Boston	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	5 April 2023	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name

No (if any)

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date

To

Period end date

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					
Concerts	10,104	-	-	10,104	-
Donations	1,428	5,383	-	6,811	450
Education	-	-	-	-	125
Grants	-	12,826	-	12,826	3,200
Primary trading	3,146	-	-	3,146	948
Royalties	52	-	-	52	539
	-	-	-	-	3,058
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	14,730	18,209	-	32,939	8,320
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	14,730	18,209	-	32,939	8,320
A3 Payments					
Accommodation and subsistence	-	1,931	-	1,931	738
Office peripherals	35	159	-	194	-
Primary trading expenses	561	1,889	-	2,450	225
Professional fees - musicians	11,513	5,761	-	17,274	4,300
Professional fees - technical	340	7,266	-	7,606	-
Professional fees - other	-	2,200	-	2,200	-
Space charges/hire	250	1,683	-	1,933	24
Transaction charges	95	164	-	259	42
Travel	420	2,318	-	2,738	479
Sub total	13,214	23,369	-	36,583	5,809
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	13,214	23,369	-	36,583	5,809
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,516	- 5,160	-	- 3,643	2,511
A5 Transfers between funds	- 2,515	2,515	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,235	2,645	-	12,880	10,369
Cash funds this year end	9,236	- 0	-	9,236	12,880

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				
	Cash in bank	9,044	-	-
CCXX R1 accounts (SS)	Cash in hand 1	192	-	-


		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
	Nicholas Alexander Boston	10/07/2023



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Musica Secreta

**On accounts for the year
ended**

16th October 2022

Charity no

1180343

Set out on pages

2-3

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **16th October 2022**

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

20 July 2023

Name:

Margaret Rachel Cooper ACA

Address:

29 Welbeck Avenue

Southampton

SO17 1ST