



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 17/10/2023 Period start date To 16/10/2024 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 and Celestial Sirens directed by Laurie Stras; Claire Williams is credited as Ensemble Director on programmes and recording notes.</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.

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, managing the self-release label Lucky Music, social media marketing (and profile strategy) and delivery, grant writing and other forms of fundraising, administration around recordings and rehearsals (including accommodation, scheduling, booking of artists and technicians). 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><i>Formal activities</i> Between 17 October 2023 and 16 October 2024, formal activities have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two concerts, at BREMF and at the Turner Sims Concert Hall, of the <i>Mother, Sister, Daughter</i> programme, in October 2023 • Release of a Christmas single, December 2023 • Release of <i>Corpore et anima</i>, a five-track digital EP between October 2023 and February 2024. The project, raising awareness and directing the audience to donate to breast cancer research charities MetUpUK and Breast Cancer Now, culminated in a live performance on BBC Radio 3 <i>In Tune</i> on 5 February 2024. • Recording of 100 minutes of music from the Biffoli-Sostegni manuscript, in January 2024, that will become a stand-alone release, in conjunction with Laurie's Leverhulme Emeritus Fellowship project • Laurie led a workshop in Worcester in May 2024, based on the Biffoli-Sostegni manuscript repertoire • Two video recording sessions in Oxford in August 2024 to complement the January recordings <p><i>Musica Secreta website and score shop</i> We continue to sell scores and CDs from the website.</p> <hr/>
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Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>The reconciled bank account has a credit balance of £4272.22, and the cash box contains £50.00. This gives us a total of £1322.22 float and £3000.00 in reserve.</p> <p>Total income from all sources was £31,231.15. Total expenditure was £34,908.34.</p> <p>Expenditure was higher than income this year, but we have funded a large recording project this year without a release to recoup.</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 2024/25 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	

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 • continued shrinking of arts sector in the UK
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 Organisation.

(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		
2	Ms Sarah Dunant		resigned 30/01/2023	
3	Prof Andrew Pinnock			
4	Ms Anna Wright		Appointed 30/01/2023	
3	Dr Susan Jackson		Appointed 30/01/2023	

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

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)	Nick Boston	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	20.3.25	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Musica Secreta

No (if any)
1180343

Receipts and payments accounts


CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 17/10/2023	To	Period end date 16/10/2024
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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	5 500	-	-	5 500	-
Donations	51	-	-	51	51
Education	100	-	-	100	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Primary trading	25 540	-	-	25 540	5 125
Royalties	40	-	-	40	535
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	1 209
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	31 231	-	-	31 231	6 920
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	31 231	-	-	31 231	6 920
A3 Payments					
Accommodation and subsistence	3 100	-	-	3 100	172
Office peripherals	-	-	-	-	-
Primary trading expenses	654	-	-	654	1 433
Professional fees - musicians	18 600	-	-	18 600	3 000
Professional fees - technical	9 927	-	-	9 927	2 455
Professional fees - other	-	-	-	-	-
Space charges/hire	238	-	-	238	500
Transaction charges	98	-	-	98	152
Travel	2 291	-	-	2 291	445
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	34 908	-	-	34 908	8 157
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	34 908	-	-	34 908	8 157
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 3 677	-	-	- 3 677	- 1 237
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	7 999	-	-	7 999	9 236
Cash funds this year end	4 322	-	-	4 322	7 999

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	4 272	-	-
	Cash in box	50	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	4 322	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
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 asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			NICK BOSTON	15/4/25



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Musica Secreta

On accounts for the year
ended

16th October 2024

Charity no

1180343

Set out on pages

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **16th October 2024**

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:

25 April 2025

Name:

Margaret Rachel Cooper FCA

Address:

29 Welbeck Avenue

Southampton

SO17 1ST