

Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
	Period start date				Period end date	
From	1	Aug	2023	To	31	Jul 2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Chester Orchestral Society		
Other names charity is known by	Chester Philharmonic Orchestra		
Registered charity number (if any)	1181355		
Charity's principal address	c/o Mrs Susan Taylor		
	77 Mill Lane		
	Upton		
	Postcode	CH2 1BS	

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)
Mrs Diana Anderson	Chairman		Members of Society
Mrs Alex Stubbs	Secretary		Members of Society
Mrs Susan Taylor	Treasurer		Members of Society
Mrs Sally Slater	Librarian		Members of Society
Mrs Jane Holmes	Chair, Music Committee		Members of Society
Dr James Warwick			Members of Society
Mrs Jemma Clark			Members of Society
Miss Abbie Parr			Members of Society

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
N/A	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent financial examiner	Angela Moulton	3 Hareswood Close, WINSFORD, CW7 2TP

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

N/A

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation - Association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by Society members at AGM or appointed by Trustees.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Chester Orchestral Society is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation that runs Chester Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Trustees of the Society are the members of the Main Committee, all of whom have signed that they are eligible to be charity trustees under current regulations. The Trustees meet regularly, usually 4 times a year, to discuss, implement and approve actions related to Society business. The Main Committee members are all elected by Society members at an Annual General Meeting held in late November. To assist in the musical activities of the Society, the Main Committee appoints a separate Music Committee with members chosen from the Society who have particular, relevant knowledge or expertise with respect to musical repertoire. The Chairman of the Music Committee is also a member of the Main Committee to ensure good communication. All operational aspects of the Society, including reporting, finance, membership, ticket sales, publicity and concert management are the responsibility of the Main Committee.

New Trustees are generally trained by former post-holders who in past years have generally remained playing members of the Society. The Chairman takes overall responsibility for ensuring that Trustees are aware of their Charity Commission obligations.

All Trustees and committee members give their time freely and on a voluntary basis.

The Society is a member of Making Music, a national organisation that represents and supports over 2,900 voluntary and amateur music groups throughout the UK.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The object of Chester Orchestral Society is to advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means that the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Society runs Chester Philharmonic Orchestra, a non-professional orchestra drawing its members, aged from 18 to 70+ from the North West of England and North Wales. Members pay an annual subscription to the Society and rehearse weekly from September to June. The orchestra performs 4 main concerts a year, open to the paying public. In addition, the orchestra collaborates in joint concerts with other local amateur music organisations. We aim to perform music that is both interesting and challenging to players and audiences alike, with a mix of familiar and unfamiliar works.

The Trustees consider that the aims and activities of Chester Orchestral Society fulfil the public benefit requirement of the Charities Act, 2011.

The activities of the Society provide the following main public benefits:

- An orchestra with the opportunity for people to be involved in a creative, enjoyable and fulfilling educational activity by rehearsing and performing concerts whilst developing orchestral repertoire and musical technique.
- Orchestral concerts for people to be presented with exciting, high quality performances that are a pleasurable experience but will sometimes challenge and educate them by extending their musical knowledge.

The Charity's beneficiaries are all those in the Chester region and elsewhere who wish to experience its activities as performers or audiences.

The following people specifically benefit from Chester Orchestral Society:

- Non-professional orchestral players who join as members of the Society and rehearse and perform in concerts.
- Any member of the public who attends concerts mounted by the Society.

In addition, young professional musicians benefit from the opportunities provided by the orchestra for them to gain exposure and educational experience as soloists and conductors.

Opportunities to benefit as players and audiences are promoted by ensuring that subscriptions and tickets are priced only to ensure that the Society does not incur financial loss and are subsidised wherever possible by other donations and fundraising activities. There are discounted playing membership rates for students and instalment options by agreement with the Treasurer for playing members experiencing financial hardship. Reduced ticket prices are available through an Associate Membership subscription scheme and heavily discounted tickets provided for all students and children.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Members, including Trustees, contribute freely of their time in relation to Society playing activities and volunteer to undertake additional tasks connected with running the orchestra, including providing refreshments for members at rehearsals, ticket selling, promotion of events, more formal committee tasks and concert management. In addition, a number of friends and relatives of members provide additional voluntary support, including programme and ticket selling and clearing up after concerts. Without such volunteers, to whom the Society is very grateful, the orchestra could not function.

Other volunteers include extra non-professional players for concerts who, although not members of the Society, perform in concerts for no fee.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The 2023-24 concert season was entitled A Season of Postcards, and it proved to be another successful series of concerts both musically and financially. In March 2024 we collaborated in a performance of Elgar's Dream of Gerontius with two local choirs. We had agreed to use some of our financial reserves towards this for the hire of choral staging and for payment of top professional soloists. In the event the concert attracted a large audience, and costs were well managed, meaning that we were able to give a larger share of the income than envisaged to the choirs, and only use a limited amount of our unrestricted reserves.

During the season the trustees have completed the updating of both the society's policies and procedures, and key job roles, and these are now available for consultation by all members.

Following the retirement of Mr Edward Warren as COS' President of many years, we were delighted that Dr Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason agreed to take on this role. In her introductory comments she said that she is a great advocate of community music making and she is very pleased to support Chester Philharmonic in this honorary role .

The November concert was marketed as "Postcards from the Seaside" and featured British music associated with the sea. Joyce Tinsley was the soloist in Elgar's Sea pictures with other works being Bridge's The Sea, Britten's Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes, and the Fantasia on British Sea songs by Henry Wood. Artistic Advisor David Chatwin conducted this programme, for which he proposed a collaboration with a local art group featuring nautical themed pictures. These were provided by the Caldby Valley Fine Artist's Group and displayed on easels in the Cathedral Nave for the audience to enjoy

We performed in one Christmas concert in late December, again run by Chester Music Society Choir and Graham Jordan Ellis. This featured Ian McMillan as guest presenter and orchestra, choir, and audience all enjoyed Ian's poetry and impromptu improvisations with audience participation. The concert included carols with the cathedral Saturday Singing Club, a children's choir who gain valuable experience performing with an orchestra and adult choir.

The March 2024 performance of Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius was a joint venture proposed by Chester Bach Singers and conducted by their music director, Martin Bussey. The Cantiones Choir of Oswestry, which Martin also conducts made up the choir of nearly 100 singers. This event required many organisational "zoom" meetings with all collaborators and, although all the performers only came together on concert day, it proved to be a memorable concert. The vocal soloists were Kathryn Rudge, Joshua Ellicott and James Platt, all well-established, experienced soloists well-suited to their demanding roles in this work.

The April postcard was from Spain in a programme initially devised by Jon Malaxetxebarria, but he was unable to conduct it due to securing professional engagements in Spain. We were fortunate instead to welcome Lauren Wasynczuk from Los Angeles, who guided us through Chabrier's Espana, Ritmos by Turina, movements from Bizet's Carmen Suite and Lalo's Symphonie Espagnole. This a symphonic work featuring a violin soloist and we were delighted to welcome young aspiring violinist Christian Granjer de Sa, who gave a dazzling performance with us.

Section D

Achievements and performance

The final postcard was from the Danube and included music by Johann Strauss, Dvorak and Bartok. The viola concerto by Bella Bartok was performed by Duncan Anderson, violaist from the orchestra of English National Opera. The concerto was framed by two popular Strauss Waltzes and ended with Dvorak's lyrical 8th symphony.

We believe the 2023-2024 season was a good example of Chester Orchestral Society's ambition to offer well known music together with pieces which may "educate and challenge" some of our audience. Attendance at all our concerts was at or above expectation and we continue to revise our marketing and publicity offerings to ensure this continues.

The Trustees consider that our activities have met, possibly exceeded, our stated objectives and we will continue to run the Society in a similar manner going forwards.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Society seeks to have sufficient income to cover expenditure during a given playing season. Due to the variability and uncertainty of audience numbers, we aim to maintain unrestricted reserves sufficient to cover the next three to four planned concerts. Annual budgets are prepared to inform financial planning and decisions made by the Trustees over the use of reserves to support activities. Any funds surplus to requirements are held in an interest-bearing deposit account and are reviewed on a regular basis.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

No funds were in deficit at any stage during the financial year.

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Funds were raised mainly by member subscriptions (which help offset the costs associated with running regular weekly rehearsals), ticket sales (including the Associate Membership scheme), donations (from members and sponsors), fund-raising (from concerts with other organisations and member activities) and Gift Aid on eligible donations. Currently, all surplus income over expenditure goes into an Unrestricted Fund and we have no Restricted Funds.

All expenditure was related to mounting orchestral rehearsals and concerts with professional soloists and conductors and the associated administrative tasks required. These activities all fell within our charitable aims of furthering education and the public appreciation of music so were appropriate usages of our funds.

As planned, our unrestricted reserves helped support the expenditure connected with the ambitious March concert, but due to the success of this concert, we used less of our reserves than budgeted for. Thus, overall, the Society maintained a healthy financial position. We have therefore been able to plan an interesting series of concerts for 2024/25 and not increase member subscriptions or ticket prices.

Section FOther optional information

Section GDeclaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<div>Diana Anderson</div> <div>Digitally signed by Diana Anderson Date: 2024.10.17 09:55:43 +01'00'</div>	<div>S. M. Taylor</div>
Full name(s)	Diana Mary Anderson	Susan Margaret Taylor
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairman	Treasurer
Date	15 October 2024	



Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name

Chester Orchestral Society

On accounts for the year
ended

31 July 2024

Charity no
(if any)

1181355

Set out on pages

1 - 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/07/2024

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 (~~other than that disclosed below *~~) 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Angela Moulton

Date:

22.10.2024

Name:

ANGELA MOULTON

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

FCA

Address:

3 HARESWOOD CLOSE

WINSFORD

CHESHIRE CW7 2TP

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



Charity Name	No (if any)
Chester Orchestral Society	1181355

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01-Aug-23	To	Period end date 31-Jul-24
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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					
Ticket & programme sales	17,482			17,482	15,705
Concert fees	500			500	500
Member subs	7,691			7,691	7,587
Associate member subs	3,866			3,866	3,867
Bank interest	783			783	321
Gift Aid	1,584			1,584	1,888
Fund raising	357			357	708
Miscellaneous	-			-	1,330
Ear-marked donations	-			-	-
	32,264	-	-	32,264	31,907
A2 Asset & investment sales					
	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	£32,264	£0	£0	£32,264	£31,907
A3 Payments					
Professional artists: conductors/soloists/extras	10,803			10,803	9,906
Concert Hall costs	12,761			12,761	9,876
Rehearsal Hall costs	2,181			2,181	3,002
Instrument costs	144			144	1,847
Music costs:hire/postage	2,155			2,155	2,196
Printing & advertising	2,587			2,587	2,636
Fund raising	-			-	105
Making Music subscription & insurance	543			543	508
Bank fees	63			63	60
Miscellaneous	1,950			1,950	179
Sub total	33,188	-	-	33,188	30,315
A4 Asset & investment purchases					
	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	33,188	-	-	33,188	30,315
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 924	-	-	- 924	1,592
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	37,416	-	-	37,416	35,824
Cash funds this year end	36,492	-	-	36,492	37,416

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	Current account	4,708	-	-
	Gold account	31,604	-	-
	Uncleared cheques/unbanked cash	180	-	-
	Total cash funds	36,492	-	-


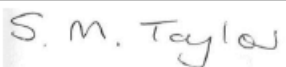
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	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	Music	Unrestricted	-	39
	Double Bass & bow	Unrestricted	-	131
	Staging & conductor's stand	Unrestricted	-	105
	Timpani/percussion	Unrestricted	-	646
	Keyboard amplifier (Jan 2019)	Unrestricted	-	280
	Percussion instruments (Oct 2021)	Unrestricted	-	212
	Bass drum trolley (April 2022)	Unrestricted	-	373
			-	-
	Note: 10% depreciation per year		-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Creditors			
	Provision (Invoices not yet received)	Unrestricted	2,959	
	Associate income received in advance	Unrestricted	360	
	Total creditors		3,319	
	Debtors			
	Music hire for next season	Unrestricted	733	
	Total debtors		733	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Diana Anderson 	Diana Anderson, Chairman	15-Oct-24
	Susan Taylor, Treasurer	