

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
		Period start date			Period end date		
From	1	Aug	2024	To	31	Jul	2025

## Section A Reference and administration details

<b>Charity name</b>	Chester Orchestral Society
<b>Other names charity is known by</b>	Chester Philharmonic Orchestra
<b>Registered charity number (if any)</b>	1181355
<b>Charity's principal address</b>	c/o Mrs Susan Taylor
	77 Mill Lane
	Upton
<b>Postcode</b>	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		Until 11 November 2024	Members of Society
Miss Abbie Parr		Until 11 November 2024	Members of Society
Mrs Madeleine McCraith		From 11 November 2024	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
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## 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 November concert featured Richard Howarth conducting Vaughan William's Job : A masque for Dancing and it launched CPO's 2024-25 season of Song and Dance. The concert also included Doreen Carwithen's Men of Sherwood Forrest Overture thereby showcasing music by a female composer which had been requested by members. Lucy Holmes played Prokofiev's 1<sup>st</sup> Violin Concerto to complete the programme. Lucy is a talented violinist who had recently graduated in performance and composition from the Royal College of Music in London.

The Orchestra again joined forces with Chester Music Society Choir for their annual "Christmas Crackers" concert in mid-December , for which we were delighted that our new President, Dr Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason was the guest presenter . A large audience enjoyed the usual mix of seasonal music and readings.

Another young performer, Stefan Cucullo, played Mozart's 1<sup>st</sup> Flute Concerto in the March concert. Stefan was the winner of the 2024 RLPO international flute competition. Jonathan Small made his conducting debut with CPO for this programme in which he chose to guide the orchestra through Mahler's 1<sup>st</sup> symphony. This work is scored for very large forces and the performance was enjoyed by both performers and audience. The Concert opened with Suite Rustica by the talented but little-known female Czech composer Vitezslava Kapralova. The suite was based on Czech dance tunes.

Kapralova was influenced by Stravinsky and his Firebird Suite was one of the works featured in April's concert. Stephen Thelfall worked the orchestra very hard to get this piece to performance standard and, combined with music from Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet ballet suite and Khachaturian's Sabre Dance and Masquerade waltz, it made for a challenging concert. Feedback from the audience was very positive and the orchestra felt a collective and deserved sense of achievement after the performance.

By way of a complete contrast, June's concert was a programme of operatic overtures and arias conducted by Juan Orturno. Ukranian Soprano Khrystyna Makar and Norwegian-Australian Baritone Marcus Dawson enthralled the audience with operatic excerpts from Wagner, Puccini, Verdi, Mozart, Rossini and Donizetti. The concert was dedicated to the memory of Roger Gibson who had died shortly before the concert. Roger was a bassoonist in CPO for many years and served the orchestra as Chairman, treasurer and librarian. He also established links with the RNCM, Chetham's School of music and the BBC Young Musician's Charity, all of which have been of significant benefit to CPO.

We believe the 2024-25 season was another successful one whilst acknowledging that the inclusion of several challenging and lesser-known works led some members to comment that they had found it less enjoyable than other seasons. This feedback has been discussed by the Trustees in committee meetings and adjustments made for the current season's programme. Attendance at our concerts this year has been more variable and so we continue to review our marketing and publicity, as well as our programming, to try retain our current audience as well as to attract new people to the concerts.

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

**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.

Expenditure was related to mounting orchestral rehearsals and concerts with professional soloists and conductors and the associated administrative tasks required. In addition, we also improved the range of our percussion instruments, reducing potential future rental costs and provided improved storage solutions to protect these assets. These activities all fell within our charitable aims of furthering education and the public appreciation of music so were appropriate usages of our funds.

Our unrestricted reserves supported the expenditure connected with percussion improvements. However, operational changes in the Cathedral events business required us to pay VAT on nave hire from January 2025, increasing our budgeted costs significantly. In addition, slightly lower audiences for all our concerts led to a larger than planned reduction in unrestricted reserves. Thus, overall, although the Society continues to maintain a healthy level of reserves, it has not been able to plan for 2025/26 without an increase in both member subscriptions and ticket prices.

**Section F**

**Other optional information**

**Section G**

**Declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Diana Anderson

Digitally signed by Diana Anderson  
Date: 2025.11.02 14:41:07 Z

S. M. Taylor

<b>Full name(s)</b>	Diana Mary Anderson	Susan Margaret Taylor
<b>Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)</b>	Chairman	Treasurer
<b>Date</b>	29/10/25	





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
Chester Orchestral Society

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 July 2025

Charity no  
(if any)

1181355

Set out on pages

1 and 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:

3 Nov 2025

Name:

ANGELA MOULTON

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

FCA

Address:

3 HARESWOOD CLOSE

WINSFORD

CHESHIRE CW7 2TP

Section B

Disclosure

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	To	Period end date
	01-Aug-24		31-Jul-25

### 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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Ticket & programme sales	12,658			12,658	17,482
Concert fees	500			500	500
Member subs	7,298			7,298	7,691
Associate member subs	3,220			3,220	3,866
Bank interest	713			713	783
Gift Aid	1,474			1,474	1,584
Fund raising	349			349	357
Miscellaneous	207			207	-
Ear-marked donations	-			-	-
	<b>26,419</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,419</b>	<b>32,264</b>
<b>A2 Asset &amp; investment sales</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>£26,419</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£26,419</b>	<b>£32,264</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Professional artists: conductors/soloists/extras	9,644			9,644	10,803
Concert Hall costs	11,075			11,075	12,761
Rehearsal Hall costs	3,238			3,238	2,181
Instrument costs	90			90	144
Music costs:hire/postage	2,045			2,045	2,155
Printing & advertising	2,859			2,859	2,587
Fund raising	-			-	-
Making Music subscription & insurance	566			566	543
Bank fees	64			64	63
Miscellaneous	-			-	1,950
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>29,581</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>29,581</b>	<b>33,188</b>
<b>A4 Asset &amp; investment purchases</b>	3,216	-	-	3,216	
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>32,797</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,797</b>	<b>33,188</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 6,378</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 6,378</b>	<b>- 924</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	36,492	-	-	36,492	37,416
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>30,114</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,114</b>	<b>36,492</b>

## 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	CAF Cash Account	2,701	-	-
	CAF Gold Account	27,303	-	-
	Unbanked cash	110	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>30,114</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

(Note: B1 Cash funds should be split by bank account(s))

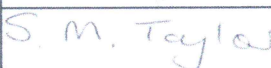
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	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	-	35
	Double Bass & bow	Unrestricted	-	118
	Staging & conductor's stand	Unrestricted	-	95
	Timpani/percussion	Unrestricted	-	581
	Keyboard amplifier (Jan 2019)	Unrestricted	-	252
	Percussion instruments (Oct 2021)	Unrestricted	-	191
	Bass drum trolley (April 2022)	Unrestricted	-	336
	Firebird Music (Jan 25)	Unrestricted	391	
	Percussion instruments (Feb 25)	Unrestricted	2,825	
	Note: 10% depreciation per year		-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	<b>Creditors</b>			
	Provision (Invoices not yet received)	Unrestricted	4,120	
	Associate income received in advance	Unrestricted	207	
	<b>Total creditors</b>		<b>4,327</b>	
	<b>Debtors</b>			
	Music hire for next season	Unrestricted	288	
	<b>Total debtors</b>		<b>288</b>	

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

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Digitally signed by Diana Anderson Date: 2025.11.02 14:43:43 Z 	Diana Anderson, Chairman	01-Nov-25
	Susan Taylor, Treasurer	