



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

**From 1 September 2024 To 31 August 2025**

**Charity name: Romsey Chamber Music Festival Trust**

**Charity registration number: 1182043**

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	To promote education and appreciation of music and the arts for the public benefit, particularly by the presentation of the Romsey Chamber Music Festival.
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 1.19s	The principal activities of the Trust are to organise public concerts which are designed to educate the wider public, the elderly, children, and music students in high quality chamber music. The festival also runs workshops in schools, designed to introduce and further educate school children in chamber music and provide access to performances to those who would not normally attend a concert.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Trustees confirm that they are complying with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

## Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	Not applicable
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	Not applicable
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	The charity benefits enormously from a Friends membership scheme and the assistance of a number of volunteers in such areas as promotion, audience interface and artists' accommodation.
Other		

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
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.	Para 1.20	<p>Romsey Chamber Music Festival continued to expand its programme of artistic activity during the 2024–2025 season. Alongside the annual summer festival, the organisation presented additional events including an autumn fundraising concert and the WinterFest weekend. These activities help sustain artistic activity in Romsey throughout the year while strengthening the Festival's relationships with audiences, musicians and the local community.</p> <p>The Festival's autumn fundraising concert explored repertoire for two violins spanning the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. As well as providing an engaging artistic event for local audiences, the concert served as an important fundraising initiative supporting the Festival's continuing work.</p> <p>WinterFest 2025 took place in January with two concerts and a masterclass in Romsey and a concluding fundraising concert in London. The concerts reflected the Festival's commitment to presenting living composers alongside established chamber repertoire. A public masterclass formed a central educational element of the weekend, allowing selected young musicians to work with the Festival artists in front of an audience.</p> <p>The 2025 Romsey Chamber Music Festival, titled 'Coda' took place from 31 May to 8 June and presented eleven events across several venues including in and around Romsey. The Festival brought together an outstanding international group of performers, many of whom are prize winners at major international competitions and hold leading positions in orchestras and musical institutions across Europe. The theme explored music that speaks to endings, transformation, and the strength of the human spirit. Across the week audiences experienced a wide range of repertoire, from early music to contemporary works. Highlights included Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time, Crumb's Black Angels and Beethoven's String Quartet No. 15, Op. 132. The Festival also presented the world premiere of Five Vignettes by Martin Butler and a rare complete performance of Paganini's 24 Caprices, given by Luke Hsu.</p> <p>Community engagement continued to be central to the Festival's work, including:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• public masterclasses, providing opportunities for young musicians to work directly with visiting artists in front of an audience,</li> <li>• Side-by-side performances with young musicians and amateur players from the community joined Festival artists in the opening concert of the 2025 Festival, an experience that proved both musically rewarding and inspiring for participants.</li> <li>• Collaboration with a local children's choir through a dedicated workshop in which Festival musicians worked with the young singers. The choir then performed as part of the Festival's family concert, allowing children to take part directly in the Festival and introducing younger audiences to live chamber music.</li> <li>• School visits - Festival musicians visited a number of local primary schools, presenting concerts and workshops designed to introduce children to classical instruments and chamber music. Work with the string players at one of the primary school formed part of this activity, demonstrating the Festival's ongoing commitment to supporting young musicians in the local area.</li> </ul> <p>The festival continued to attract a dedicated local audience while also drawing visitors from across the UK and Europe, reinforcing RCMF's growing international reputation, reflected in strong press coverage, which praised the festival's ambitious programming and commitment to accessibility.</p>
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**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	Both the public performance and educational objectives were met.
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	We are very grateful to have been supported by the Marchus Trust, the Hindrichsen Foundation, the Charlotte Bonham Carter Trust, Scope Arts Trust, the Samuel Gardner Memorial Trust, Test Valley Borough Council, Friends of Music in Winchester, Romsey Chandler's Ford and District Round Table and Romsey and Test Rotary during this period. These grants, together with the memberships and donations from Friends and supporters, made this last Festival possible.
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	Not applicable
Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	The charity had an account balance at the bank of £37,605 at the end of the period, with net assets after liabilities of £37,605.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	The Trustees' reserves policy aims to maintain sufficient funds to pay the costs of the artists' fees and other costs in a timely fashion.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£37,605
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	Not applicable
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	Not applicable
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Not applicable

### 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	The charity receives some grants from local sources and some national organisations. A festival friends and patron's scheme also contributes financial support, in addition to ticket sales.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	Not applicable
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	The charity relies heavily on the continued support of grant awarding bodies which in current financial circumstances are unpredictable, but the charity continues to raise its profile and demonstrate its value to win support and has been successful in balancing the need to make tickets affordable to encourage as wide an audience as possible while still attracting performers of a very high calibre.
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		Romsey Chamber Music Festival Trust has no subsidiaries
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	CIO - FOUNDATION Registered 15 Feb 2019
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
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	Appointed by the current trustees after consideration of skills, knowledge and experience.

### 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	No new trustees appointed in this period.
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	In this period, performance fees of £2,550, education fees of £600 and an artistic direction fee of £3,000 were paid to Laura Rickard. No other payments were made to Trustees other than expenses.
Other		

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Romsey Chamber Music Festival Trust
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1182043
Charity's principal address	Monkswood, Winchester Road, Ampfield Romsey SO51 9BU

### **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	Huw Evans	Chairman		
2	Laura Rickard	Artistic Director		
3	Kathryn Rickard	Administrator		
4	Louise Woods			
5	David Haigh			
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17				
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19				
20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

[illegible]

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

[illegible]

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

### 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)

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## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information


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## 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)	Huw Evans	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	29/4/26	



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

ROMSEY CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL TRUST

1182043

## Receipts and payments accounts


CC16a

For the period from	01/09/2024	To	31/08/2025
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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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Income from Events	22,991	-	-	22,991	18,182
Friends Scheme and Donations	11,671	-	-	11,671	5,879
Gift Aid	2,672	-	-	2,672	1,261
Grants	13,000	-	-	13,000	10,250
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>50,334</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,334</b>	<b>35,572</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>50,334</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,334</b>	<b>35,572</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Artists Costs	25,104	-	-	25,104	23,270
Event Costs	12,125	-	-	12,125	8,358
Marketing Costs	1,224	-	-	1,224	553
Administration and Sundry	245	-	-	245	87
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>38,698</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38,698</b>	<b>32,268</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>38,698</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>38,698</b>	<b>32,268</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>11,637</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,637</b>	<b>3,305</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>25,968</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,968</b>	<b>22,663</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>37,605</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>37,605</b>	<b>25,968</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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Current account	37,605		-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>37,605</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>		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
			Huw Evans	29/04/2026



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
Romsey Chamber Music Festival

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31/8/2025

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1182043

**Set out on pages**

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 31/08/2025

**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:**

**Date:**

10/4/26

**Name:**

Carl Dowthwaite

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

**Address:**

Mulberry, 1 Ladies Walk Drive, Wilmslow, Cheshire. SK9 5GG

**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.

None