



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

Harlekin Studio Opera - Charity No. 1183089

The trustees of Harlekin Studio Opera present their annual report for the period 24th April 2022 to 23rd April 2023. The report follows the structure of the *Charity Accounts Template – Trustees' annual report for the period* published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Items are numbered using the SORP reference system, with optional items included where appropriate.

Period start date: 24/04/2022

Period end date: 23/04/2023

Charity name: Harlekin Studio Opera

Charity Number: 1183089

Objectives and Activities

1.17 Summary of purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document

To promote the art of opera music for the public benefit by:

- a) The organisation and/or presentation of performances of high educational and artistic merit.
- b) To advance the education of the public in the subject of opera music.

1.18 Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

The charity's trustees have read and understood the guidance on public benefit and have worked closely together to ensure that the charitable purposes have been met.

1.19 Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit

The 2022-2023 period saw the continuation of our weekly workshops, providing education in Opera through learning arias and choruses in a safe and supportive environment. The main vehicle for our work in this year was Purcell's opera, Dido and Aeneas.

Dido and Aeneas proved to be a great choice for our first completely staged opera as singers were able to work in their native language and instead focus on aspects of music that might have been lost to the time restrictions of working in a foreign language. Through the source material the singers were able to explore acting, dramatic pacing, musical phrasing and music theory amongst many other things.

In the months following our primary project for the year we took a deep dive into our core repertoire of choruses, ensemble and arias to facilitate further learning and development, of music Theory, interpretation, performance, and vocal production. Culminating in a concert of arias and choruses at St. Paul's church Whitley Bay which brought opera to a new audience and attracted further interest in participation, in particular the start of our next project Pagliacci, to be performed in late 2023.

For the production of Pagliacci the delivery team has been expanded to include Jamie Whitfield as Director, and our resident conductor Desmond Lau has been given greater control over Musical Direction. The themes that are being explored in our production include adultery, domestic violence, and workplace relations. Great care is being taken to make sure that the cast are comfortable, happy and safe throughout the rehearsal period. We have provided sessions on language coaching, the intricacies of Verismo Opera, and workshops on Chekovian and Brechtian Theatre.

Alongside our formal presentations we performed a short set of choruses at Fiesta Whitley Bay; a small local market, occurring quarterly, and run by the local business community and St Pauls Church. Fiesta is a lively, family-oriented event and has proven

to be a good opportunity for us to boost our performance opportunities and raise awareness of our presence in the North East.

Achievements and Performance

1.20 Summary of main achievements, examples of benefits to beneficiaries and society as a whole

The performances of Dido and Aeneas took place at Newcastle Castle keep and represents the first time in recorded history that opera has been presented at the venue. Singers felt boosted by working in such an ancient space at the heart of the city's Historic and Cultural Core. The project attracted new members to the company both through its rehearsal and as a result of the final performances. The production was well received by the audience with one audience member, active in local theatre scene, saying we have brought to the area something which hasn't been seen before.

Our winter concert allowed our participants to showcase their own personal repertoire, highlighting their vocal and musical development throughout the year. The programme was supplemented by the return of former participants, who no longer live in the area, and a selection of invited friends. This additional personnel boosted the presence of the chorus, and made for an engaging performance, attracting new members to the company.

In all, this year has seen a remarkable growth in the confidence and ability of our participants, and this shines through in their performances, and interactions with their colleagues in rehearsal. A number of our participants have faced personal hardships through the year, but our regular rehearsals have provided solace and a safe space for them to freely explore their voice, movement and creativity.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

1.21 Review of charity's financial position at the end of the period

The charity ended the year in a better financial position than the previous year. An increase in participants subscriptions and a successful opera run led to a small surplus of £612 and a closing balance of £1,491.

Although this provides the company with a reasonable buffer the trustees will look at ways to ensure the financial security of the company for the future and for ways to increase spending power for future projects.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

1.25 Type of Governing Document

The company is a Charitable Incorporated Society using the 'foundation' model. It is managed by a board of trustees in accordance with a constitution.

New trustees are nominated by existing trustees and admitted to the board following a vote at a meeting of the trustees in accordance with the constitution which states that:

(1) Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term not exceeding 5 years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

(2) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Name: Harlekin Studio Opera

Other name(s): HSO

Registered Charity Number: 1183089

Charity's Principal Address: 53 Bishops Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE15 6RY

Charity Trustees:

Mr. James Whitfield (Chair and Co-Treasurer)

Mr. Robert Hardiment (Co-Treasurer)

Dr. Susan Baker (Trustee)

Miss. Jolanda Grijpstra (Trustee)

Miss. Holly Zeffertt (Trustee)

Trustees declare that the trustee's report has been approved for submission to the Charity Commission.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J Whitfield', written over a horizontal line.

Name: James Whitfield

Position: Chair

Date: 01/04/2024

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	24-Apr-22	To	23-Apr-23
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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					
Membership Subscriptions	2,855	-	-	2,855	980
Ticket Sales - Concert	225	-	-	225	100
Ticket Sales - Dido and Aeneas Performances	1,071	-	-	1,071	-
Donations	375	-	-	375	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	4,526	-	-	4,526	1,080
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	4,526	-	-	4,526	1,080
A3 Payments					
Venue Hire	1,209	-	-	1,209	743
Musicians Fees	2,705	-	-	2,705	802
Making Music Membership	-	-	-	-	141
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
Sub total	3,914	-	-	3,914	1,686
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	3,914	-	-	3,914	1,686
Net of receipts/(payments)	612	-	-	612	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	1,104	-	-	1,104	-
Cash funds this year end	1,716	-	-	1,716	606

Section B Statement of assets and

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds				
	Lloyds Bank Account	1,491	-	-
	Cash	225	-	-
	Total cash funds	1,716	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets				
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets				
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B5 Liabilities				
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

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

Signature:  Print Name: James Whitfield Date of approval: 01/04/2024