

THE BLUE LIGHT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 July 2025

Charity Registration No. 1184720

1. Reference and Administrative Information

Charity details

Full name	The Blue Light Symphony Orchestra (BLSO)
Registered charity no.	1184720
Registered address	305A Goldhawk Road, London, W12 8EU
Financial year	1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year are listed below. All trustees serve in a voluntary capacity and none received remuneration or other benefits in respect of their trustee role during the year.

Name	Role	Appointed
Peter Sebastian Rex Valentine	Chair	1 August 2019
David Austin Smith	Treasurer	29 January 2023
Amanda Thorpe	Trustee	25 January 2023
Simon Thomas Robinson	Trustee	26 January 2023
Graham John Caley	Trustee	1 July 2023

Advisers

The charity does not currently retain professional advisers. Banking is conducted through Barclays Bank.

2. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The Blue Light Symphony Orchestra is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated and registered in England and Wales. The charity is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the charity's governing document. New trustees are recruited through personal networks and by invitation, with an induction process covering the charity's activities, governance responsibilities and financial position. The Charity Commission's guidance for new trustees is made available to all incoming trustees.

Organisational structure

The charity is governed by its board of trustees, which meets regularly to oversee strategy, finances and compliance. Day-to-day administration and the coordination of musical activities are carried out by volunteers. The charity has no paid employees and is not part of any wider group structure.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to manage those risks. The principal risks identified include reliance on volunteer capacity, the availability of suitable venues, and fluctuations in income from events and workshops. The charity maintains a financial reserves policy to provide a buffer against unexpected costs or income shortfalls.

Governance policies

The following governance policies and procedures were in place during the year:

Policy	Status
Internal financial controls	Yes
Safeguarding	Yes
Financial reserves	Yes
Complaints	Yes
Serious incident reporting	Yes
Internal risk management	Yes
Trustee expenses	Yes
Trustee conflicts of interest	Yes
Investing charity funds	Yes
Campaigns and political activity	Yes
Bullying and harassment	Yes
Social media	Yes
Engaging external speakers at charity events	Not applicable

3. Objectives and Activities

Charitable purposes

The Blue Light Symphony Orchestra exists to promote the musical arts for the benefit of the public and to support the wellbeing of those serving in the emergency services and blue light community.

The orchestra brings together musicians from across the blue light services to perform, rehearse and connect through music.

Activities undertaken

In furtherance of its charitable purposes during the year, the charity carried out the following activities:

- Regular orchestral workshops — five workshops were held during the year, providing regular playing opportunities for members and supported by professional paid musicians.
- Concerts and events — the charity performed at a number of events and concerts open to the public, including the Annual Concert at St John's Smith Square, London, which was a significant milestone for the orchestra.
- Fundraising activities — a programme of fundraising was undertaken, including joint events with London Fire Brigade (LFB) and digital fundraising through Paypal Giving Fund and Gift Aid-eligible donations.
- Community engagement — the charity continued to build its profile within the blue light community through sponsorship, donations and outreach.

The charity confirmed that it does not make grants to individuals or other organisations as its main activity, does not operate outside England and Wales, and received no income from government contracts or grants during the year.

Volunteers

The charity is entirely volunteer-led. Approximately 5 volunteers (excluding trustees) carried out charitable activities on behalf of the charity in the United Kingdom during the year.

4. Achievements and Performance

Annual Concert — St John's Smith Square

The highlight of the year was the Annual Concert at St John's Smith Square, London. This was the orchestra's most ambitious public performance to date and was well received. The concert generated ticket and event income of £3,738, making it a significant contributor to the charity's overall income for the year. Costs associated with the concert included hire of the hall (£2,044), production and other costs (£3,252), instrument hire (£350), fixers (£75) and music hire (£28), reflecting the scale and ambition of the event.

Workshops

Five workshops were held during the year, continuing the charity's core programme of regular musical activity. Workshop income totalled £1,968 (including £1,435 from regular workshop fees and £533 from associated donations). Expenditure on workshops grew substantially year-on-year, reflecting investment in professional musicians, increased instrument and music hire, and higher participation levels.

Fundraising and income

Total income for the year was £14,550 (2024: £8,040), representing an 81% increase on the prior year. This was driven primarily by the Annual Concert, growth in event income, and a significant

increase in Gift Aid reclaims (£2,284 versus £521 in the prior year). Sponsorship income doubled to £1,000. The charity is grateful to all its donors, sponsors and supporters.

Looking ahead

The trustees look forward to building on the success of this year. Planning is underway for a further annual concert at The Forum in August 2026, and the workshop programme will continue. The trustees are mindful of the increased cost base and will manage expenditure carefully to ensure the charity remains financially sustainable.

5. Financial Review

Overview

The following is a summary of the charity's Receipts and Payments account for the year ended 31 July 2025, with comparative figures for the prior year.

	2025 £	2024 £
Receipts		
Donations and gift aid	5,221	5,071
Event and concert income	5,330	850
Workshop fees and donations	1,968	1,863
Annual Concert (St John's Smith Square)	3,738	—
Joint fundraising (LFB) — net	(1,530)	—
Other revenue	(176)	256
Total Receipts	14,550	8,040
Payments		
Annual Concert costs	5,749	—
Workshop costs	4,582	1,670
Advertising and marketing	35	1,185
Travel, events and music costs	647	1,182
Administration (insurance, IT, postage, etc.)	805	1,006
Stripe fees (admin)	57	—
Total Payments	11,875	6,063
Net surplus for the year	2,675	1,977

Reserves policy

The trustees maintain a reserves policy to ensure the charity holds sufficient funds to meet its commitments and to provide resilience against unexpected events or income shortfalls. The net

surplus for the year of £2,675 (2024: £1,977) will be carried forward as free reserves. The trustees consider the current level of reserves to be appropriate for a charity of this size and nature, and will review this policy annually.

Going concern

The trustees are satisfied that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of the accounts.

Income from outside the UK

The charity received no income from outside the United Kingdom during the year.

6. Declaration

The trustees confirm that they have approved this Trustees' Annual Report and authorise it to be signed on their behalf.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

DA Smith

David Smith, Trustee and Treasurer

Date: 5th May 2026