



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 May 2024

Period start date To 30 April 2025

Period end date

Charity name: East London Metropolitan Opera (ELMO)

Charity registration number: ELMO is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). It was entered on the Register of Charities kept by the Charity Commission on 13 September 2019 with the registered charity number of 1185310.

Objectives and Activities

| | SORP reference | |
|---|----------------|---|
| Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document | Para 1.17 | <p>According to its constitution, ELMO's objective is to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Greater London and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.</p> <p>ELMO operates in the fields of arts, culture, heritage and science and provides services and promotes participation in arts and crafts and in particular music. It operates in the London boroughs of Hackney and Islington. It aims to carry out its purpose by running projects in schools and prisons that provide participants with technical and practical musical education and performance opportunities.</p> |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>Para 1.17 and 1.19</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>Objectives and activities Since 2019, ELMO's principal focus, under the title Music in the Ville, has been on providing a programme of live music at HMP Pentonville with performances and workshops on the prison wings. 3-4 professional musicians run workshops and musical activities for the prisoners, engaging them through group songs and performances. These sessions improve the wellbeing of the prisoners and raise morale in the prison. Men are encouraged to make their own music and to perform to each other, boosting the self-confidence and morale of participants. Officers and staff are also encouraged to become involved, boosting staff prisoner relationships.</p> <p>Achievements and performance ELMO has continued to make significant progress in fulfilling its core aims in the year under review. The trustees have met eight times since April 2024. One resigned last year and 2 others appointed Sep 24 and Feb 25. This means there are currently seven trustees. We also have a consultant with lived experience of prison attending meetings. Since April 2024 we have managed to run classes weekly with only 1 week break at Easter. This has embedded us further into the prison regime and we have been given better spaces to work in and more access to all wings including the vulnerable prisoners and neurodiversity wings. Huge appreciation continues to be shown by the men and prison staff, including the Head of Reduction of Reoffending, and the Deputy Governor who has attended a class and is keen for us to continue to grow the project. As well as running workshops in classrooms, ELMO has continued to receive support from senior management and prison officers and thus to gain access directly onto the Wings, and has performed and engaged prisoners on all five wings of the prison, reaching on average 300 prisoners and staff on those monthly workshops. This has the huge advantage of</p> |
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| | | <p>reaching men and staff who would not attend classroom workshops. As in the previous financial year, ELMO's representatives have had ongoing consultation sessions with prisoners most weeks, collecting feedback and suggestions for development which were integrated into the work undertaken during the year. This year we have held 3 events with our weekly group in the Chapel at Pentonville and brought in another 40 men from other wings to watch plus 30-35 visitors from outside to each event. This gave the participants something to work towards and provided an enthusiastic audience for them to perform to and gain recognition. We were also able to present the 3 Koestler awards we had won to participants involved and they gained recognition. We had 2 instruments donated this year and were able to give them to men taking part in the project who were able to keep them and practice independently in their cells and then perform in the events.</p> <p>There is a pool of 10 professional musicians of diverse musical styles who come into the sessions at different times. Emma Dogliani, the main organiser, is at most sessions providing continuity and recruiting the men to join the group. The principal tutor is Kate Shortt, cellist, singer, composer and educator, who works in many different genres of music. Different professional musicians are brought in each week to stimulate and engage the men and staff and to keep the project constantly fresh. It is very important to us that these musicians come from a wide range of cultural backgrounds. We are constantly working to extend this to further reflect the diversity of the men currently living in Pentonville and of the staff working there. A substantial part of the music we work on in the sessions is written by the prisoners themselves.</p> <p>All the regular musicians at the prison have now been fully security trained and have access to keys. This means that classes can take place even when Emma Dogliani is not available and we are more able to avoid any gaps at holiday time or due to illness. As last year, ELMO took more visitors into the prison alongside the musicians to witness and gain a better</p> |
|--|--|---|

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | <p>understanding of the project. Many of the visitors have been inspired to help with fundraising and other practical sides of the project.</p> <p>Emma Dogliani continues to visit various other projects at three other UK prisons to gain ideas and make new contacts to help develop the project.</p> <p>2 successful fundraising events took place this year with participation by both former prisoners and prison staff. Funds raised from this alongside more individual donations and donations from grant giving bodies, is enabling ELMO to continue to grow and develop in a sector where there continues to be a huge need for positive input in the most challenging circumstances.</p> |
|--|--|---|

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| Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit | Para 1.18 | The Trustees have had regard in the year under review to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. |
|--|-----------|---|

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | SORP reference | |
|--|----------------|---|
| Policy on grant making | Para 1.38 | N/A |
| Policy on social investment including program related investment | Para 1.38 | N/A |
| Contribution made by volunteers | Para 1.38 | <p>We have had assistance from various volunteers including the head of the Official Prison Visitors, various chaplains particularly the Humanist Chaplains and chaplaincy counsellor who are all prison key-holders and come to help during our events or give us advice generally. We still have a man with lived experience of prison acting as a regular advisor to the trustees. Other members of the Chaplaincy team at Pentonville also offer advice and support in various elements of logistics or issues with participants. Some prison officers continue to give up their own time to attend our events and to take part.</p> <p>Many friends and supporters helped organise the fundraising events at Clerkenwell Church and also Mansfield Street. We have liaised with other departments in the prison providing music for the Staff reunion service and 2 education events. We have also had 2 creative producer/film makers working with us as volunteers to produce a short film to help us fund raise and publicise our work.</p> |
| 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>ELMO's Music in the Ville project has managed to continue in challenging circumstances and to increase the number of workshop sessions in HMP Pentonville. The regularity of weekly sessions has really embedded the project into the prison regime and as such we are receiving growing support from the staff and management of the prison.</p> <p>Pentonville is still struggling on many levels with overcrowding, low staffing and crumbling buildings. The report by HM Inspectors found many problems still ongoing making the need for projects like ours even greater. A major criticism was lack of purposeful activity for prisoners. Our access to the wings and taking music around the prison, makes a difference where other projects are unable to help. ELMO has also spread the word of the project and now many visitors have seen our work and witnessed at first-hand how badly needed this kind of project is in our current prison system. Supporting men living in prison with our project makes them more likely to engage with education and positive activities when they move on from Pentonville. Men are encouraged to express their emotions safely through music and text and to feel more positive about themselves. They are less likely to behave badly and thus less likely to reoffend on release. Our activities improve relationships between prisoners and prison staff making conflict less likely. We also boost flagging staff morale with our live performances on the wings and staff see prisoners in a different light when they are performing music and vice versa when staff join in themselves. We have also managed to send several men on to a music group outside the prison on their release which has great results at improving their mental wellbeing. We have also employed 3 of our ex participants at fund raising events on the outside. This helps to prevent reoffending and thus benefits society at large.</p> |

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----|
| Achievements against objectives set | Para 1.41 | |
| Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set | Para 1.41 | |
| Investment performance against objectives | Para 1.41 | N/A |
| Other | | |

Financial Review

| | | |
|--|-----------|--|
| Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period | Para 1.21 | As the attached financial statements show, ELMO started the year with a bank balance of £12,026. During the year it received £54,245 in donations and grants, which included £23,292 of restricted income, details of which are given in Note 2a to the accompanying financial statements, and £30,953 of other unrestricted income. Total expenditure incurred in the period amounted to £44,204, resulting in an overall excess of income over expenditure in the year of £10,041. Thus, at the year end, ELMO had £22,067 of funds carried forward, of which £13,756 were unrestricted funds and £8,310 were restricted funds. The restricted and unrestricted funds were all allocated to pay for a programme of musical events at HMP Pentonville in the first half of AY25/26. |
| Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held | Para 1.22 | £2,000 from unrestricted reserves is earmarked to cover the anticipated costs of any winding down or cessation of activity, although no such winding down or cessation are envisaged at present or in the foreseeable future. |
| Amount of reserves held | Para 1.22 | £2,000 |
| Reasons for holding zero reserves | Para 1.22 | N/A |
| Details of fund materially in deficit | Para 1.24 | N/A |
| Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern | Para 1.23 | At present, ELMO's continuing activities depend on receiving further awards and donations in order to continue and complete the programme of events planned for the remainder of the current financial year. |

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 | See details of major donations and awards in the receipts and payments account. |
| Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted | Para 1.46 | N/A |

| | | |
|---|-----------|--|
| A description of the principal risks facing the charity | Para 1.46 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial – failure to raise further funds to cover costs of the planned music programme. • Security/health – inability to deliver the planned programme of activity at the Prison because of access restrictions imposed by prison management for security or public health (e.g. pandemic) reasons. • Reputational risks • Key staff – the delivery of our planned programme of activity depends heavily on the continued involvement of our technical and artistic director, Emma Dogliani, and a small group of professional musicians and tutors which she has assembled. • Prison working – we and our musicians run risks by working in the Prison. We take all necessary steps to mitigate and minimise these risks by following our safeguarding policy and ensuring that prison staff are close by at all times. |
| Other | | <p>Since 30 May 2023, ELMO has been recognised by HMRC as a charity for tax purposes and is therefore able to reclaim Gift Aid on eligible donations.</p> |

Structure, Governance and Management

| | | |
|---|-----------|---|
| Description of charity's trusts: | | |
| Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter) | Para 1.25 | ELMO's governing document is a Constitution dated 28 April 2019 and registered 13 September 2019 as amended January 2025 which is based on the Charity Commission's CIO Foundation Model. In this model, trustees make the decisions and are only accountable to each other for any decisions made. |
| How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO) | Para 1.25 | ELMO is a CIO |
| 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 | Trustees are elected or re-elected by the existing Trustees. No external person or body is entitled to appoint one or more trustees. |

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 | |
| The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works | Para 1.51 | N/A |
| Relationship with any related parties | Para 1.51 | N/A |
| Other | | |

Reference and Administrative details

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Charity name | East London Metropolitan Opera (ELMO) |
| Other name the charity uses | N/A |
| Registered charity number | 1185310 |
| Charity's principal address | Flat 40 Chelsfield Point Penshurst Road Hackney London E9 7DY Main contact: Emma Dogliani |
| | Email: info@eastlondonmetropolitanopera.com Website: www.eastlondonmetropolitanopera.com |

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 | Victoria Eze | Chair | N/A | |
| 2 | Olivia Kilmartin | Secretary | N/A | |
| 3 | Louise Walport | Treasurer | N/A | |
| 4 | Paul Julian | | N/A | |
| 5 | Bill Miller | | N/A | |
| 6 | John Northover | | 22/10/19 – 2/6/25 | |
| 7 | Diana Sternfeld | | 9/9/24 onwards | |
| 8 | Emily Ward | | 5/2/25 onwards | |
| 9 | | | | |
| 10 | | | | |
| 11 | | | | |
| 12 | | | | |
| 13 | | | | |
| 14 | | | | |
| 15 | | | | |
| 16 | | | | |
| 17 | | | | |
| 18 | | | | |
| 19 | | | | |
| 20 | | | | |

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

| | | |
|---------------|--|--|
| Director name | | |
| | | |
| | | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

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

Additional information (optional)**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|-----------------|------|--|
| Bankers | HSBC | 50-52 Kilburn High Road, London, NW6 4HJ |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

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

N/A

Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

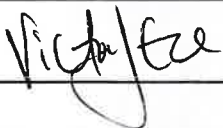

Other optional information

ELMO has no employees. However, we do use a number of self-employed musicians to assist with the planning, administration and delivery of our programme of musical events in the Prison.

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) | Victoria Eze | Louise Walport |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|

| | | |
|--|-------|-----------|
| Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc) | Chair | Treasurer |
|--|-------|-----------|

| | |
|------|---------|
| Date | 10/2/26 |
|------|---------|



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
East London Metropolitan Opera (ELMO)

No (if any)
1185310

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

Period start date
01/05/2024

To

Period end date
30/04/2025

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 | | | | | | |
| Trusts and Foundations (<£5000) | 13,788 | 4,000 | - | 17,788 | - | 2a,c |
| Postcode Society | 8,000 | - | - | 8,000 | - | 2a |
| National Lottery Community Fund | - | 14,982 | - | 14,982 | - | 2a |
| Corporate donations | 3,000 | - | - | 3,000 | - | |
| Largest Individual Donation | 500 | - | - | 500 | - | |
| Other Individual Donations | 3,081 | - | - | 3,081 | - | |
| Gift Aid | 2,584 | - | - | 2,584 | - | |
| Big Give Fundraiser | - | 4,310 | - | 4,310 | - | 2a |
| Sub total (Gross income for AR) | 30,953 | 23,292 | - | 54,245 | 25,574 | |
| A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table). | | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Sub total | | | | | | |
| Total receipts | 30,953 | 23,292 | - | 54,245 | 25,574 | |
| A3 Payments | | | | | | |
| Musician's Payments | 12,198 | 17,657 | - | 29,855 | 21,845 | |
| Administration, planning and travel | 3,965 | 5,720 | - | 9,685 | 9,230 | 3 |
| Bank and Accounting Charges | 166 | - | - | 166 | 60 | 4 |
| Other expenses including insurance and fundraising | 3,913 | - | - | 3,913 | 2,275 | |
| Charity Evaluation | - | 325 | - | 325 | 755 | |
| Catering costs | 260 | - | - | 260 | 417 | |
| | - | - | - | - | - | |
| | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Sub total | 20,502 | 23,702 | - | 44,204 | 34,602 | |
| A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table) | | | | | | |
| | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Sub total | | | | | | |
| Total payments | 20,502 | 23,702 | - | 44,204 | 34,302 | |
| Net of receipts/(payments) | 10,450 | 410 | - | 10,041 | 9,028 | |
| A5 Transfers between funds | | | | | | |
| A6 Cash funds last year end | 3,306 | 8,720 | - | 12,026 | 21,054 | 2b |
| Cash funds this year end | 13,756 | 8,310 | - | 22,067 | 12,026 | |

10/02/2026

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 | Bank balance | 13,756 | 8,310 | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | Total cash funds | 13,756 | 8,310 | - |

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK

OK

OK

| Categories | Details | Unrestricted funds to nearest £ | Restricted funds to nearest £ | Endowment funds to nearest £ |
|--------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| B2 Other monetary assets | None | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |
| | | - | - | - |

| Categories | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|----------------------|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| B3 Investment assets | None | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |

| Categories | Details | Fund to which asset belongs | Cost (optional) | Current value (optional) |
|---|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use | None | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |
| | | | - | - |


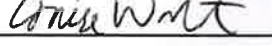
| Categories | Details | Fund to which liability relates | Amount due (optional) | When due (optional) |
|----------------|---------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| B5 Liabilities | None | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |
| | | | - | |

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

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

| | | |
|---|----------------|---------|
|  | VICTORIA EZE | 10/2/26 |
|  | LOUISE WALPORT | 10/2/26 |

Notes

1. Accounting policy

The financial statements are drawn up on a receipts and payments basis.

2. Restricted and unrestricted funds and reserves

2a) New restricted income in AY24/25 of £23,292 represents 4 awards received during the year under review which were made subject to specific conditions. Details are as follows:

In December 2024, ELMO received an award of £14,982 from National Lottery Awards for All England, a part of the National Lottery Community Fund. The award was made in order to fund 13 half day and 4 full day monthly music sessions at HMP Pentonville. These funds were fully utilised in this financial year ending 30 April 2025.

In March 2025, ELMO received a grant of £4,000 from The Lucille Graham Trust. These funds are expected to be fully utilised in AY25/26.

In March 2025, ELMO took part in the Big Give's matched funding Arts for All Campaign. A total of £7680 was raised of which £4310.42 was received into our bank account in April 2025. The award was made in order to fund weekly and monthly music sessions at HMP Pentonville from July 2025. These funds are expected to be fully utilised in AY25/26.

2b) Restricted income from grants of awards received during the previous financial year AY23/24

In March 2024, ELMO received a donation of £10,000 from HM Prison and Probation Services. £1280 was spent in AY23/24. The award was made in order to fund eight half day and three full day music sessions at HMP Pentonville and additional evaluation costs of £570. One full day workshop and initial evaluation was delivered in AY23/24. The remainder contributed towards the cost of delivering workshops and evaluation in HMP Pentonville in this AY24/25. These funds were fully utilised in AY24/25.

2c) Unrestricted income from grants or awards received during the financial year AY24/25

Unrestricted funds and reserves are not subject to specific conditions and can therefore be used by the Trustees for any of ELMO's charitable purposes.

In July 2024, ELMO received an award of £8,000 from The Postcode Society Trust, a charity registered in Scotland which uses funds raised by the People's Postcode Lottery to support smaller charities and good causes in the south of England. The grant was made to contribute towards the costs of employing freelance musicians at HMP Pentonville in the year ending 30 April 2025. These funds were fully utilised in this financial year ending 30 April 2025.

In November 2024, ELMO received an award of £5,000 from The Hilden Trust. The award was made towards the costs of the Music in the Ville project (£10,000 awarded in total, £5,000 in the previous financial year with a second £5,000 awarded this AY in Nov 2024). The first year of funding was fully utilised in AY23/24. The second year of funding was fully utilised in AY24/25.

In April 2025, ELMO received a grant of £2,500 from The Leathersellers Foundation. These funds are expected to be fully utilised in AY25/26.

Across AY24/25 ELMO was awarded 4 other unrestricted grants. £3,000 was received from Trinity Street Asset Management, £5,000 from Chance to Change Foundation, £1,160 from The Hadley Trust and £127.50 from Hastings International Piano.

There have been no transfers of funds between restricted and unrestricted funds in the period under review.

3. Bank and accounting charges

These increased this year due to adoption of Xero accounting software for which we are provided a charity subscription rate.

4. Other expenses

This includes £1,750 of expenses for a fundraising concert held in AY25/26.

5. Reserve policy

In April 2023, the Trustees implemented a new reserve policy. £2,000 of unrestricted reserves are designated to cover the anticipated costs of winding down or cessation of activity although no such winding down or cessation are envisaged at present or in the foreseeable future.

EASBY HOUSE HIGH STREET
GREAT CHESTERFORD SAFFRON WALDEN
ESSEX CB10 1PL
Telephone +441799 530473 Mobile +447785 790951
Email mpdbullock@gmail.com

The Trustees
East London Metropolitan Opera CIO (ELMO)
Flat 40, Chelsfield Point
Penshurst Road
Hackney, London E9 7DY

13th February 2026

Dear Sirs,

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of East London Metropolitan Opera CIO

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of East London Metropolitan Opera CIO (ELMO) for the year ended 30th April 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity 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 Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Bullock
Fellow of Chartered Institute of Financial Services
Easby House, High Street, Great Chesterford, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1PL