

**CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 9th AGM OF CLASSICAL MUSIC ROCKS
on TUESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2025 (4pm)**

Julie Atkins

The single most important event of 24/25 was the appointment of Julie Atkins as Project Manager to take over most of the burdens of the Chair. After a gradual period of orientation during 2025, Julie has shown herself to be a highly capable administrator quickly gaining the respect of schools and musicians. The transfer has been almost seamless. She is a superb communicator and brings skills in diplomacy to this stressful role. Her thorough engagement with the task has enabled CMR to survive, coming out the other side of a very difficult period when closure of the charity seemed almost certain.

For this reason we have been able to deliver another splendid year of the CMR schools programme which included our most successful Big Zoom to date with 80 schools tuned in. Julie managed the whole process.

In 2026/27 Julie will lead the organisation. I will continue to offer advice and support with such frequency as is required. I will not be in a supervisor role and Julie will be accountable to the Trustees.

Trustees

It is important that Trustees offer Julie support on a regular basis thus ensuring that she is not isolated in coping with the complexities of CMR. Willingness to attend certain important meetings by zoom with key stakeholders would be much appreciated.

We have made valuable appointments in both Jo Rust and Fiona Mc Govern who bring formidable experience to their role. Many thanks to our departing Trustees, including our superbly reliable and committed Treasurer, Adrian Cosker (leaving April 26) and Hugh Hawkins (November 25) who helped to keep us above water in 24/25. Meanwhile our long serving journalist, classical music commentator and Alderman, Andy Tyler, is staying on board.

We need to rebuild our team in 2026 so that we remain a team of 6. A new Treasurer is a priority.

We need a current Trustee to move into the largely symbolic role of Chair.

Due to banking procedures and convoluted bureaucracy, it is quite likely that there may be a need for residual assistance from departing Trustees until we are 100% sure we can pay our musicians.

Funding

CMR has continued to be precariously funded as a direct result of West Norfolk as a whole not being prepared to offer more than minimal support. The expansion of the Norfolk Music Hub to include Suffolk has not led to any improvement in the size of our commission which remains at £9,000 pa. As a result we are now in a degree of conflict with managers who keep a low glass ceiling in place. News next year I hope.

Nevertheless, our direction of travel has to be to make modest moves into areas outside West Norfolk and into Suffolk, (see strategy document already issued) which will result in a shift away from our valued main base. A reduction to two visits to selected schools will also take place from April 26.

However, due to continued efforts by CMR to maintain income we can confidently say that our funds at bank will help us to deliver our full programme until April and beyond. Our 10th AGM is a strong possibility! I will continue to assist Julie in regard to fund raising if needed.

Ambitions to expand

As noted above, expansion geographically is a necessity, whilst building on the success of our recent zoom is a top priority. We also aim to create a trial high quality recording of a CMR duo, to be made available to all schools on a private YouTube channel. This may be achievable late in 2026. The high cost of £6,000 will require specific funding, but not at the expense of live visits to schools.

Musicians

No annual report is complete without praising our exceptional team of 12 musicians. Yu-Wei Hu, a stalwart since 2017, has excelled in her performances as a baroque flute soloist, though her work with Johan Lofving (theorbo) has also been a real delight. Siobhain O'Higgins (piano) and Kio Blonz (flute), also recruits from 2017, continue to enthrall children...and teachers. New musicians include Philippa Mo (violin), Emma Purslow (violin) and Sarah Williamson (our newest recruit, clarinettist and former Young Musician of the Year performs in February)

Children

Our informal feedback from schools remains excellent though we have now put to one side our requests for detailed information. Schools are just too busy. It would be good if somehow we could hear the voice of the child. Ideas welcome!

The Place of CMR in the UK

Since the creation of CMR in 2016, I have long wished to find a more mature version of our charity, or even a baby CMR just starting. This would have greatly helped us to plot our path through the numerous difficulties we have faced. But sadly, rather like the Earth, we are a lonely planet! Thus it is all the more extraordinary that potential funders ignore us. Possibly this is due to increasing ignorance about classical music as reflected in the lack of under 70 year olds attending classical concerts.

CMR's great strength since 2016 has been its support by volunteers. Setting up a CMR on the basis of paid staff would cost £20K pa, a fact entirely unrecognised by doubtful funders. We really do tread a lonely path.

PETER BARKER

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Matters Arising

- 4. Elections/Confirmation of Trustees and Officers – PB will continue to chair the meeting.**
- 5. Chair's Report**
- 6. Financial Report by Adrian Cosker**
- 7. Report by Project Manager, Julie Atkins**
- 8. News from schools – Fiona McGovern**
- 9. Safeguarding – comments by JA. Sharing of any concerns.**
- 10. Local government changes – insights from Jo Rust**
- 11. Observations about the media (Andy Tyler)**
- 12. Suggested dates for meeting in 2026. : 24/02, 12/05, 08/09, 10/11 AGM - TBC.**

**CMR Accounts Summary prepared for 24/25 AGM and for submission to Charities Commission
(1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025). Classical Music Rocks charity no 1185672
2 Pages**

Filename: accounts to sign 24 25 updated 19 11 25			
	General	Restricted	TOTALS
CASH RECEIPTS actual			
private donors- monthly	£ 654.00		£ 654.00
grant Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub	£ 9,000.00		£ 9,000.00
HMRC gift aid tax relief	£ 530.93		£ 530.93
other donations/grants:	£ 750.00		£ 750.00
sundry income	-		-
7 and 9 24 guildhall shows+25/26 yr			
Norfolk Comm'y Foundation restricted funds 15000 received for 25/6 year		£ 15,000.00	£ 15,000.00
3992.98 rec and spent in 24/25 for guildhall PLUS 5830 c/f from 23/24 (see below bal c/f)	-	£ 3,992.98	£ 3,992.98
TOTAL RECEIPTS (a) actual	£ 10,934.93	£ 18,992.98	£ 29,927.91
CASH PAYMENTS actual			
artistic director honorarium	£ 810.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,810.00
Admin and mktng director honorarium	£ -		£ -
School events:	£ -		£ -
payment to artistes fees/travel/expenses	£ 16,258.68	£ 626.83	£ 16,885.51
artiste's subsistence (if provided by CMR)	£ 729.29	£ 278.15	£ 1,007.44
mileage and subsistence for Chair/CMR helpers	£ -		£ -
IT website leaflets publicity	£ 514.63		£ 514.63
insurance	£ 397.37		£ 397.37
accommodation paid directly by cmr	£ -		£ -
concerts: inc guildhall	£ -		£ -
artiste's fees		£ 3,340.00	£ 3,340.00
coach hire		£ 3810.00	£ 3,810.00
venue hire and expenses		£ 768.00	£ 768.00
sundry expenses	£ 65.00		£ 65.00
KLF sponsorship	£ 527.00		£ 527.00
travel; for chair	£ -		£ -
TOTAL ACTUAL PAYMENTS(b) (vertically)	£19,301.97	£ 9,822.98	£ 29,124.95
	GENERAL	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
OPENING BANK BAL 01/04/24 b/f	£ 23,479.76	£ 5,830.00	£ 29,309.76
PLUS RECEIPTS(actual)	£ 10,934.93	£ 18,992.98	£ 29,927.91
LESS PAYMENTS (b)	£ (19,301.97)	£ (9,822.98)	£ (29,124.95)
BALANCE to c/f into 2025/6 fin yr ie closing bank balance 31/3/25 of which 15,000 is restricted (to be spent 25/6)	£ 15,112.72	£ 15,000.00	£ 30,112.72
NET (DEFICIT) /SURPLUS FOR YEAR	£ (8,367.04)	£ 9,170.00	£ 802.96

Signed:

Peter Barker Chair CMR DATE:

21/11/25

Signed:

Adrian Cosker Treasurer CMR DATE:

21/11/25

These accounts are certified to be a true and fair account and were presented to trustees on 16 Sept and have been prepared for approval at the Classical Music Rocks (CMR) AGM to be held on 18 November 2025, then to be submitted to the External Examiner in preparation for submission to the Charities Commission. CMR holds no assets, fixed or otherwise, other than at the bank as shown above, and has no liabilities carrying over. All funds carried forward, other than as indicated above, are for the charity's aims of bringing live music to young people and, apart from timing of usage, and are unrestricted beyond that.

The accounts were approved by Trustees at the AGM 18/11/25 and this was minuted.

Signed:

Signed:

Peter Barker Chair CMR

DATE: 21/11/25

Adrian Cosker Treasurer CMR

DATE: 24/11/25

Countersigned by external examiner:

KM Hubbard C.F.F.R.

KENNETH MALCOLM HUBBARD

22/11/25

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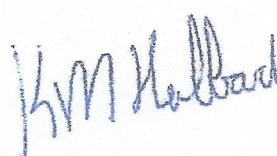




Peter Barker Chair CMR DATE: 21/11/25

Adrian Cosker Treasurer CMR DATE: 21/11/25

Countersigned by external examiner:

 C.P.F.A.

KENNETH MALCOLM HUBBARD

22/11/25

EXTERNAL EXAMINER REPORT:

I can confirm, as the external examiner, that on the information provided to me and by best checking sample entries to the accounts - that the accounts for 2024/25 are compliant.

During the examination, I recommended to the Treasurer and Chair, that financial procedures needed to be expanded, to help with continuity and to ensure that Office Bearers are aware of their responsibilities.

 C.P.F.A.

11, EASTFIELD CLOSE

GAYWOOD

KINGS LYNN

NORFOLK, PE30 4HQ

22/11/25