



Annual Report

01/01/2025 - 31/12/2025



Reference and administration

Charity name and number

London City Brass (1186265)

Principal address

249 Buckhurst Way
Buckhurst Hill
Essex
IG9 6JB

Trustees

Jack Boyles	11/11/2019-04/03/2026	Chair
Josephine Ashdown	11/11/2019-current	Secretary till 04/03/2026 Chair thereafter
Hannah Scales	11/11/2019-current	Treasurer
Laura Kirk	26/01/2022-04/03/2026	
Laura Fox	08/02/2023-current	Secretary from 04/03/2026
James Charnock	04/03/2026-current	
Jack Kay	04/03/2026-current	

Structure and governance

London City Brass (LCB) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered with the Charities Commission, registration number 1186265.

LCB is governed by a Constitution adopted 11 November 2019.

Trustees are appointed or re-appointed by election at an annual general meeting.





Charitable objectives

LCB set out the following charitable objectives in their constitution:

- To advance, improve, develop and maintain public education in, and appreciation of, the art and science of music in all its aspects by any means the trustees see fit, including through the presentation of public concerts and recitals.
- To support such other purposes deemed to be exclusively charitable within the laws of England and Wales as the trustees in their absolute discretion from time to time determine.

Activities undertaken for public benefit

In planning the activities of London City Brass, the Trustees have taken into account the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Over the course of 2025, we carried out a large number of performances for public benefit, as well as our usual schedule of rehearsals. Regular rehearsals are an essential feature for all members to feel part of a welcoming and sociable community. We also gained four new band members this year.

Our first performance of the year was at the London Landmarks Half Marathon, providing entertainment and encouragement to those running on behalf of charities; we were asked to perform by Tommy's, a pregnancy and baby loss charity. This year was no different to any other in our support for and collaboration with other charitable organisations.

This year, we put on three free indoor concerts in the heart of the City of London, the first of which was in the Spring. These concerts brought varied and entertaining programmes of music to a public audience, with free entry and informative, educational introductions to each piece from our conductor. Concerts are greatly enjoyed by members as they get a chance to learn new music to a high standard and to perform.

In the Summer, we performed on two bandstands in London, returning to Victoria Park and Clapham Common and bringing varied, entertaining programmes to audiences in different parts of London for free. Building on existing relationships with the community organisations and authorities that organise the musical events in these areas greatly benefits the band as well as the local areas. Each bandstand had a substantial audience of all generations who were introduced to the sounds of a brass band through popular music alongside traditional repertoire. The band was also booked to play Deal Memorial Bandstand, but unfortunately this was cancelled due to the weather.

This year, as well as playing for Victoria Park's LGBTQ+ Picnic, we provided music for Croydon's Pride March. As a band (with several LGBTQ+ members), we are proud to support these events that promote inclusivity and equality in our local area.



This year we travelled again to Devon for Bandamonium, a rapidly growing brass band festival which invites bands from around the country to tour around villages bringing music to the area. This was greatly enjoyed by members both with the social aspect and the musical opportunities. Thanks to fundraising throughout the year, the band was able to subsidise accommodation for the trip, which was already relatively affordable and accessible.

In October we held an Autumn concert, which gave the band an opportunity to refresh the repertoire and learn some new music between the summer bandstand programme and the Christmas season. All our larger-scale indoor concerts were held at St Mary-at-Hill church, with whom we have a positive, long-standing and mutually-beneficial relationship. In November, we were able to travel down to Lewes for Bonfire Night, a significant cultural event in the South of England which also enabled us to practice our marching, another brass band tradition. We joined a local band in the procession - this year with Bandamonium as well, we have really enjoyed meeting and playing with other bands around the country.

Christmas brought some of our traditional annual gigs and the opportunity to share our hard work with the public and with friends. Our free annual Christmas concert had another huge audience - once again, because of our central location and free entry, we attracted many audience members who had never heard of us before, as well as regular supporters. Other Christmas events included carolling at the O2 shopping centre, Stepney City Farm, St Margaret Pattens and St Barnabas' churches, and the Famous Royal Oak pub in Muswell Hill. Once again, we also supported other charities by playing for the Cricket Builds Hope and Surrey Cricket Foundation carol service. We really value these community events, which were attended by people of all ages and backgrounds. Children were able to take part with percussion, contributing to their understanding and enjoyment of music and brass bands. Members of the public could also join in with singing, giving them an opportunity to take part in the music-making. Our Christmas performances brought musical enjoyment and education to the public, as well as chances to perform for our members, which is a valuable part of musical education and personal development. With so many events in 2025, we learned lots of new music of different genres and styles, widening and growing members' musical skills and knowledge. We were also able to raise money through donations which support the activities undertaken by the band to benefit the public.

As well as our in-person engagements, we continued to foster a thriving online community through social media and our website. Sharing videos of rehearsals and performances helped to bring brass band music to a wider audience. Evidence of our extended reach includes over 1,100 Facebook followers and over 750 Instagram followers. We also continued to run our Friends of LCB programme. This initiative allows more of our followers to feel involved and engaged in the band's activities through our regular updates and quarterly newsletters, while providing financial support for our activities.



Main achievements

Over the course of 2025 we put on 19 successful, high-quality performances:

- London Landmarks Half Marathon
- Spring Concert
- Victoria Park Bandstand
- Croydon Pride
- Bandamonium
- Clapham Common Bandstand
- Autumn Concert
- Lewes Bonfire
- St Margaret Pattens Remembrance Service
- Chelsea Christmas Lights
- Kensington Christmas Market
- Stepney City Farm Christmas Market
- Cricket Builds Hope Carol Service
- Christmas Concert
- St Mary-at-Hill Christmas Carols
- St Margaret Pattens Carol Service
- Carolling at Famous Royal Oak
- Carols at the O2
- St Barnabus Carol Service

We reached a high standard of performance and saw members grow in confidence and in musical ability, a great achievement for us.

We have maintained a sense of community and belonging integral to our ethos as a band. This was achieved through regular social events in addition to weekly rehearsals and performances.

The continued development of our Friends of LCB scheme supports the work of the band financially as well as advancing the public understanding and appreciation of brass band music.

Plans for the future

LCB will be maintaining our charitable objectives in 2026 and our plans for the future continue to support these objectives.

We plan to continue supporting other charitable organisations through fundraising at events, in addition to spreading awareness and appreciation of the brass band music genre through free concerts and public performances across London.

In 2026, we will be returning to perform at a wide range of venues from recent years continuing to take brass band music to audiences for free across London and further afield. Confirmed new venues / events including the Amwell Society's 200 anniversary celebrations and a performance in Ramsgate.

We will continue to challenge and develop our members' and audiences' education and appreciation of brass band music with an expanded and varied repertoire and programme of events.



Financial review

Financial position

LCB continues to have strong finances. The band's income continues to exceed its costs on an ongoing basis, allowing for investment in band assets and activities as the Trustees deems appropriate. This year we have invested in new music stands and a percussion set to allow for a better experience for our members and audiences, which has resulted in a smaller net income for the year.

Subscriptions from our members remain the primary income stream for the band, and adequately cover the running costs of the band whilst remaining affordable and flexible to encourage participation. Although our venue hire costs have increased again in 2025, we have been able to absorb the increases with no requirement for increased subs. Performance income has also increased again this year. All these factors leave the band in a strong position coming into 2026, despite the increased asset expenditure.

In March 2025, the trustees opened an instant access savings account to invest carried forward surplus. In accordance with the policy on reserves to maintain sufficient funds in the current account, £5,000 was moved to this interest earning account. This carried forward surplus remains accessible to management as required for larger investments or to support the day-to-day running costs of the charity.

Policy on reserves

The trustees have set a policy to ensure an unrestricted reserve of £3,000 as a minimum is kept in the current account. This is to ensure short term commitments such as Musical Director expenses and hire of rehearsal premises can be sustained for at least 6 months.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Jack Boyles (Chair)



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
London City Brass

No (if any)
1186265

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01/01/2025

To

Period end date
31/12/2025

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					
Subs	6,090	-	-	6,090	6,075
Performance Income	4,377	-	-	4,377	3,379
Gift Aid	2,422	-	-	2,422	1,375
Donations	144	-	-	144	258
Socials	340	-	-	340	112
Competitions	1,952	-	-	1,952	3,050
Miscellaneous	391	-	-	391	-
Savings account interest	36	-	-	36	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	15,753	-	-	15,753	14,249
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	15,753	-	-	15,753	14,249
A3 Payments					
Venue Hire	4,830	-	-	4,830	3,596
Staff	50	-	-	50	-
Admin Costs	578	-	-	578	247
Incidentals	433	-	-	433	265
Charity Donations	-	-	-	-	-
Socials	1,494	-	-	1,494	811
Competitions	3,424	-	-	3,424	3,142
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	59
Member refunds	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	10,810	-	-	10,810	8,120
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Music, equipment, instruments					
	3,046	-	-	3,046	920
Uniform	1,255	-	-	1,255	-
Sub total	4,301	-	-	4,301	920
Total payments	15,111	-	-	15,111	9,040
Net of receipts/(payments)	641	-	-	641	5,209
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	10,676	-	-	10,676	5,467
Cash funds this year end	11,317	-	-	11,317	10,676

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	Main Bank Account YE 2025	6,282	-	-
	Savings Account YE 2025	5,036	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	11,317	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	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	
	<i>H. Scales</i>	Hannah Scales	20/03/2026	
	<i>J. Boyles</i>	Jack Boyles	20/03/2026	