

fantasia orchestra

Report and Financial Statements

For the year to 30 September 2025

A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1191335

REGISTERED BY THE CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

CONTENTS:

	Page no.
TRUSTEE REPORT:	
- REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS	3
- STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT	3
- OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES	5
- ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE	4
- STATEMENT ON PUBLIC BENEFIT	6
FINANCIAL REVIEW	6
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	8
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	10
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REVIEW	13

TRUSTEE REPORT

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity Name:

Fantasia Orchestra

Charity Number:

1191335

Address of Principal Office:

115 Brondesbury Road, London NW6 6RY, United Kingdom

Trustees:

The trustees during this period were (in alphabetical order):

Tegan Eldridge

Susan Guy

Julian Hardwick

James Hobson (appointed 27 February 2025)

Jacqueline Ranawake (appointed 26 July 2025)

David Kerr (retired the Board 31 August 2025)

Charles Wolcott (retired the Board 2 September 2025)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which was registered on 17 September 2020.

Governing Document:

The charity has a Constitution (Governing Document), dated 22 June 2020.

Trustees:

The charity's policy on the appointment of trustees is to be found in the Constitution. The founding trustees have agreed role descriptions for their activities within the organisation.

New trustees are appointed based on their relevant skills and experience for the organisation. Nominations are discussed and appointed by the board of trustees.

Management:

The orchestra's affairs were managed throughout the period by its CEO and Artistic Director (Tom Fetherstonhaugh). This season saw the appointment of an Executive Director in January

2025, who worked alongside the CEO and an internal team consisting of an Operations Manager (to January 2025), Concerts Producer (from January 2025), Content and Communications Manager, and a PR Consultancy.

Bankers:

The orchestra's bankers are HSBC UK Bank plc, 1 Centenary Square, Birmingham B1 1HQ

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Fantasia Orchestra's Charitable Objectives (as stated in the charity's Constitution):

To advance the education of the public in the art of music, particularly but not exclusively through:

- 1) audience engagement with classical and/or contemporary compositions; and/or
- 2) broadening the reach and accessibility of music in the UK, particularly, but not exclusively, to young people.

Main Activities Undertaken:

Concerts:

18.11.24 - 'Strings and Serenades' Concert with Ben Goldscheider (horn) and Toby Spence (tenor); St Gabriel's Church, Pimlico, London

22.5.25 - Concert at Newbury Spring Festival with Zoë Tweed (horn); St Lawrence's Church, Hungerford, Berkshire

12.6.25 - Concert at Northern Aldborough Festival with Tamsin Waley-Cohen (violin); St Andrew's Church, Aldborough, North Yorkshire

21.6.25 - Concert at Proms at St Jude's with Dame Evelyn Glennie (percussion); St Jude's Church, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London

11.7.25 - Concert at Deal Music and Arts Festival with Lucy Crowe (soprano); St George's Church, Deal, Kent

Educational Activities:

4.2.25 - *Take Note* Strings Workshop in partnership with DaCapo Music Foundation (Brookland Junior School, Finchley, London)

29.4.25 - *Take Note* Percussion Workshop in partnership with DaCapo Music Foundation (St Mary's and St John's Primary School, Hendon, London)

26.6.25 - Proms at St Jude's Schools' Concert; St Jude's Church, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London

29.6.25 - Proms at St Jude's Family Concert; Henrietta Barnett School Hall, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

On the concert platform

The 2024-2025 season saw a varied range of concert activity for Fantasia Orchestra, following their televised BBC Proms debut in August 2024. With multi-genre programming at the centre of the orchestra's artistic life, Fantasia played boundary-breaking programmes with star soloists to audiences across the country.

The season started with an own promotion concert entitled 'Strings and Serenades', which featured at its heart Britten's *Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings*, with horn soloist Ben Goldscheider and tenor Toby Spence.

Fantasia was delighted to return to a number of festivals in the 2024-25 season. These include the Newbury Spring Festival (May 2025), where Zoë Tweed played Mozart's Horn Concerto no. 4; Northern Aldborough Festival (June 2025) with violinist Tamsin Waley-Cohen; and Proms at St Jude's (June 2025), where Dame Evelyn Glennie joined as soloist.

In July 2025 the orchestra made its debut at Deal Music and Arts Festival, Kent, with soprano Lucy Crowe. Themed on 'birdsong', this concert's repertoire featured a wide range of music from Mozart, Price and Strauss to Messiaen, Sherwin and Gershwin.

Broadening the reach and accessibility of music

Fantasia Orchestra's mission to broaden the reach and accessibility of music in the UK continued to thrive during the 2024-25 season.

The orchestra's partnership with The DaCapo Music Foundation enjoyed another successful year, with a number of projects being delivered together.

2024-25 saw the continuation of Fantasia's and DaCapo's *Take Note* scheme, a series of workshops in primary schools. Having piloted the series in the 2023-24 season, this year the workshops were rolled out into schools, and will continue to be throughout the 2025-26 season.

Fantasia's ongoing relationship with Proms at St Jude's saw two educational events take place during the 2025 festival. The annual Schools' Concert, always a highlight of Fantasia's season, took place on 26 June 2025 and saw hundreds of children from state schools performing alongside Fantasia's professional musicians.

The Family Concert at the festival featured Saint-Saëns's *Carnival of the Animals*, performed by Fantasia alongside illustrator and storyteller James Mayhew. It was a wonderful way to share music with young people, many of whom were attending their first ever concert.

Internal activity

The 2024-25 season saw a significant addition to the Fantasia internal team through the public recruitment of an Executive Director. Appointed in January 2025, the ED works alongside the Conductor and Artistic Director (CEO) to grow the orchestra's activity into the future.

Statement on Public Benefit

The trustees are satisfied that Fantasia Orchestra met its charitable objectives across the season, and that it was successful in discharging its aims and activities for the public benefit (according to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit).

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves and Financial Risks Policy:

Board meetings were held regularly, approximately every quarter. The Treasurer Trustee, in conjunction with the charity's management, kept the trustees informed of the organisation's financial position, allowing financial risk to be assessed on an ongoing basis.

In this fifth year, and with limited reserves available, the Board of Trustees and the management have a policy to build reserves steadily across the first few years of Fantasia Orchestra's charitable status. The aim is to try to build reserves to the level equivalent to at least the estimated expenditure required to cover the charity's core operational costs for a 6-month period.

This year was close to break even in terms of the financial results of charitable activities and donations/sponsorship.

Trustee commentary on finances:

The period to which these accounts relate is a twelve month period to 30th September 2025.

Fundraised income: a number of grants were received in the period, alongside a number of philanthropic donations. Gift Aid @ 25% on eligible amounts was claimed.

There was one 'own-promotion' event with direct ticket sales in the year. The majority of event income was fees received from the provision of charitable services, including concert/performance fees (for concerts which were presented by a third-party promoter).

The Board allocated £548 as Restricted Funds for 2024/25 for reinvestment into Fantasia's education projects. This has been fully utilised in the current year. This money was erroneously included in Unrestricted Reserves in the 2023/24 accounts and this has now been corrected.

Trustees' responsibilities:

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of these financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal controls as they determine necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable matters related to going concern.

The trustees are satisfied that the statements made herein represent a true and fair view of the financial position of the Charity and that it can continue as a going concern.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for preparing this annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

In preparing these Financial Statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.
- The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ascertain to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the regulations under the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees on 3 February 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Tegan Eldridge

Interim Chair

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Activities

For the period to 30 September 2025

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 £
Income				
Donations inc. gift aid	50,714	0	50,714	48,273
Charitable activities	40,878	0	40,878	84,448
Other	0	0	0	469
Total income	91,592	0	91,592	133,190
Expenditure				
Charitable activities	52,495	458	52,953	102,118
Other	40,070	0	40,070	30,614
Total expenditure	95,565	458	93,023	132,732
Net income/expenditure	(973)	(458)	(1,431)	458

Statement of Financial Position

30 September 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Assets		
Cash at bank	22,995	21,098
Debtors & prepayments	217	4,634
Total assets	<u>23,212</u>	<u>25,732</u>
Liabilities – less than one year		
Creditor and accruals	<u>1,113</u>	<u>2,202</u>
Net assets	<u>22,099</u>	<u>23,530</u>
Charity funds		
Restricted reserves	0	458
Unrestricted reserves	22,099	23,072
Total funds carried forward	<u>22,099</u>	<u>23,530</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 September 2025

Statutory Information

Fantasia Orchestra is a charity registered in England and Wales. The charity's details can be found within the Trustee Report.

Currency

The presentation currency is £ sterling.

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Material uncertainties

There are no material uncertainties about the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Charitable activities income includes performance fees, and Charitable activities expenditure includes performance fees, management costs, venue hire costs, and other related costs.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Other expenditure includes administration costs, memberships/ insurance and travel costs, and professional fees.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Net income/expenditure

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
Independent examiner's report	<u>£534</u>	<u>£450</u>

Trustee remuneration & benefits

No trustees received any financial benefit from the charity during this period (2024/25: £nil).

Average number of Employees

Average number of employees during the year was: NIL (2024 - £nil)

Debtors and prepayments

	2025	2024
Debtors	£0	£2,825
Prepayments	<u>£217</u>	<u>£1,809</u>
	<u>£217</u>	<u>£4,634</u>

Creditors and accruals

	2025	2024
Creditors	£0	£900
Accruals and deferred income	<u>£1,113</u>	<u>£1,302</u>
	<u>£1,113</u>	<u>£2,202</u>

Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30 September 2025.

Movement in funds

	01/10/24	Movement in funds	30/09/25
General fund	£23,072	(£973)	£22,099
	<u>£23,072</u>	<u>(£973)</u>	<u>£22,099</u>
Restricted funds	£458	(£458)	£0
	<u>£23,530</u>	<u>(£1,431)</u>	<u>£22,099</u>

Net movements in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Income	Resources expended	Movement in funds
General fund	£91,592	£92,565	(£973)
	£91,952	£92,565	(£973)
Restricted funds	£0	(£458)	(£458)
	£91,592	£93,023	(£1,431)

Fantasia Orchestra

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Fantasia Orchestra

For the year ended 30 September 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Fantasia Orchestra (the Trust) for the year ended 30 September 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2022 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records;
3. or the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and contents of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Cornfield Accountants Limited

.....
Cornfield Accountants Limited

Date: 03/02/2026

5 Cornfield Terrace
Eastbourne
BN21 4NN