

THE WESTMORLAND ORCHESTRA

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

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.

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER      1201505

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS      47 Sandes Court  
Sandes Avenue  
Kendal  
LA9 4LN

TRUSTEES	G Perkins	Chair
	J Crossley	Hon Secretary
	B Starling	Hon Treasurer
	J Gascoigne	
	H Milligan	
	E Williams	

MUSIC DIRECTOR      M Tay

LEADER      P Redman

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER      J Bloomer

## THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY

The Articles state that the Objects of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) shall be:

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.

## PUBLIC BENEFIT

In making decisions on the work of The Westmorland Orchestra, the Committee has had regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission.

The Orchestra serves the public in generally, but in practice those who live in or near Kendal. It provides opportunities for people to participate in making music to a high standard by playing with the orchestra and to enjoy it by attending concerts in the area.

## CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

### Report of the Chair on behalf of the Committee

Summer, Snow, a new MD and another hit in the church...

This is the first report of The Westmorland Orchestra CIO, reg No. 1201505, following the smooth transition from registered charity No. 502339. The old bank accounts will be closed after transfer of all funds to the new account has been completed.

Open Summer Sessions have become a regular and popular fixture since they marked the return to playing after lockdown in 2021. They provide an opportunity for members and guests – would-be members, youngsters and holidaymakers! – to play in a relaxed atmosphere for the pure enjoyment of music-making. In 2023 we had four sessions, two conducted by Martin Budgett and two by Melvin Tay – they were on our shortlist to be our new Music Director and Conductor, a decision deferred as both were booked as guest conductors. Our September Come and Play Day was terrifically well-attended with players travelling from Manchester and Birmingham to tackle Vaughan Williams' London Symphony.

The Autumn term saw Melvin Tay work the orchestra hard as we mastered the crazy rhythms of "Scary Fairy Saves Christmas" – (think Peter and the Wolf meets Rumpelstiltskin!) The fairy tale theme of the concert continued with The Firebird and Sleeping Beauty Suites. There was great interest in the concert and players were excited but it was not to be. A major incident was declared in Cumbria the night before the concert as a weather bomb deposited snow on Kendal and there was no option but to cancel the concert. Tickets were refunded but costs were covered by a grant and an insurance claim.

After canvassing the orchestra, the preferred candidate for MD (although most members would have been happy with either) was Melvin – and he was delighted to accept the position.

Melvin had been due to conduct the orchestra in May of 2020, cancelled by Covid, so when the December concert couldn't go ahead there was a certain anxiety... but it was third time lucky! Our March concert featured the wonderful Angela Barnes playing Richard Strauss 2<sup>nd</sup> horn Concerto; also on the programme was Berlioz' King Lear Overture and a well rehearsed and moving performance of Vaughan Williams' London Symphony closed the concert. It was lovely to see a number of our patrons and friends joined by Kendal's Mayor, Julia Dunlop, after the concert, meeting our members as well as Angela and Melvin.

In June we returned to Kendal Parish Church; after the reception last year's concert (featuring Rachmaninoff's 2<sup>nd</sup> piano concerto) received we thought we should return and make use of the organ. The concert opened

with Wagner's Prelude and Leibestod- a beautiful piece of music played superbly – many members of the audience were moved to tears – then Grieg's Norwegian Dances. Kendal is blessed with a very fine organist in Andy Plowman and he opened the second half playing the first movement of Widor's 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony. Andy then joined the orchestra for Saint-Saens magnificent Symphony No.3. The church trembled with the opening chord of the Maestoso and at the end of the piece the orchestra was greeted with a standing ovation... Feedback from the audience was wonderful to hear and read...

"We hugely enjoyed the concert on Saturday night – terrific!" "The orchestra just gets better and better!" And from the review: "Ambitious programme planning seems to be a feature of the Westmorland Orchestra's concerts these days... But the successful concert in Kendal Parish Church on Saturday June 15 proved that the orchestra can rise to the challenge of presenting large-scale works." "....ably directed by conductor Melvin Tay who must have been immensely proud of what he had achieved."

A few thank-yous as always... to the officers and other Trustees who willingly put in extra time and effort, to Mike Cook and Ann Robb for designing, managing and distributing posters and programmes, Andrew Lockley for administering the website as we slowly become more competent, to Su Lockley for securing grant funding and to Alice Hurley, Becki Clifford-Perkins and Gill O'Connell who have put themselves forward for managing listings, ticketing and patrons. Special thanks this year, though, to Rachel Townsend who has taken on with considerable success the challenging role of Fixer!

I'll finish with the final line of the review from the summer concert, with the rider that by and large we all LOVE giving up our time to play music!

"We look forward to more concerts by the talented and dedicated players who, week by week, give up their time to prepare large orchestral works for the benefit of residents of South Lakeland."

## CONSTITUTION

### Governing documents

The Westmorland Orchestra is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, governed by its constitution which follows the "Association model" of the Charity Commission.

The Westmorland Orchestra CIO was registered on 5 January 2023 in order to take over the assets and operations of The Westmorland Orchestra (registered number 502339), the predecessor charity. The new constitution reflects as closely as possible the Constitution of the predecessor, unincorporated association.

The members of the Orchestra pay a membership subscription and are eligible to vote at General Meetings of the Orchestra. Almost all members also play in the Orchestra.

### Trustees

The Westmorland Orchestra is governed by a committee elected by the Orchestra Membership from amongst their number. The Constitution requires that there be at least three Trustees.

The committee meets several times in each term, at the discretion of the members, in order to manage the Orchestra.

In accordance with the constitution a Chair is appointed who will chair meetings of the Committee and of the Membership. In accordance with the established practice of the Westmorland Orchestra, the Chair also co-ordinates the running of the Orchestra.

In accordance with the established practice of The Westmorland Orchestra (and the constitution of the predecessor charity), an Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer are also appointed.

### Organisation structure

In addition to the work of the Committee, some significant tasks are undertaken by other members which helps with the management of the Westmorland Orchestra

- Librarian
- Webmaster
- Grant applications
- "Fixing"
- Programme and poster design
- Public relations
- Ticketing

### Wider Network

The Westmorland Orchestra is a member of Making Music, an organisation which "helps leisure-time music to flourish". The committee greatly appreciates guidance from Making Music on constitutional and administrative matters. During this year the website and the new "platform" has been developed and two claims have been made on our insurance.

The Orchestra rehearses at Castle Street Community Centre in Kendal. The Centre Manager is always supportive and accommodates last-minute changes of plan and extra requirements whenever possible.

Concerts have traditionally been held at Kendal Leisure Centre and more occasionally at Kendal Parish Church. The service provided by the Leisure Centre has declined but the cost has increased; in the short term more concerts are likely to be at the church.

Contacts are maintained with other musical groups in the area, including Lakeland Sinfonia, Cumbria Festival Chorus, Haffner Orchestra, Lake District Music Summer Festival and others.

## RISK ASSESSMENT

The Committee has considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and sought to address them. This is done by keeping policies up to date (led by the Honorary Secretary) and maintaining insurance cover.

Following the experiences of Winter 2023-24, the Committee has decided to increase the level of insurance cover.

The growth in membership and successful grant applications have strengthened the financial position of the charity and Reserves are healthy.

Changes to classical music provision across Cumbria are being monitored. Lakeland Sinfonia are working less closely with Northern Sinfonia, who are now being promoted by Better (Kendal Leisure Centre/The Sands) and professional orchestras are doing outreach work in the county.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Reserves Policy

The Committee intends to retain a prudent level of funds in the bank such as will enable the Orchestra to continue for some time in the event of a cessation of income or sudden expense. The importance of adequate insurance has been demonstrated during the year, but growth in costs continues to require vigilance.

The Summer of 2023 saw the third and most successful series of Open Playing Sessions, realising a small financial surplus and strengthening the orchestra as new members were recruited.

At 30 June 2024 the predecessor charity still held £41,408.97 of cash funds. This will be transferred to the new charity within the first quarter of the new accounting period. The balance held by the new CIO and disclosed in these accounts, following the transfer of a mere £500 to open the new bank account, is most satisfactory.

#### Principal sources of income

Charitable Activities remain the main area of income generation. Within that, Membership Subscriptions is the highest figures, at £8,755. Total from Ticket Sales, £6,803, related to only two concerts following the last minute cancellation of the Christmas concert. The insurance claim for that concert, if added to Ticket Sales, restores the balance to being slightly in favour of Ticket Sales.

Income from Grants is now a very significant part of the total for the year and encourages the Orchestra to continue seeking more ways to extend the repertoire and the audience, further advancing the Objects of the Charity.

#### Future Developments

The Westmorland Orchestra appointed a new Musical Director, Melvin Tay, at the beginning of the season. The Committee and the MD have begun to discuss ideas for possible changes, each time referring to the wider membership to "sense-test" their suggestions.

The 2024/25 season will continue with our traditional structure of three concerts with ten weekly rehearsals for each. Bringing two major pieces back from the concert-which-never-was has allowed an ambitious approach to the programme for the year.

From a sound financial footing we are able to bring in more "sectional" rehearsals, facilitating concentration on detailed corners of challenging works. This also allows the Orchestra to continue to programme larger works requiring professional "Extras" for the concerts.

The old charity will soon be closed and funds still held there transferred to the CIO.

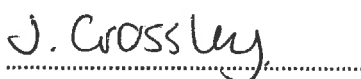
## STATEMENT OF COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Constitution. 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 Committee and signed on 23/09/2024



G Perkins  
Chair



J Crossley  
Hon Secretary

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WESTMORLAND CHARITY (Number 1201505)

On accounts for the period ended 30 June 2024.

Set out on pages 6 and 7

**Responsibilities and basis of the report**

I report to the members on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the CIO") for the period ended 30 June 2024.

The Committee of the CIO is 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 CIO's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed J Bloomer

Date 25/9/24

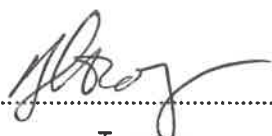
Name J Bloomer

Period ended 30 June 2024			
	Restricted Funds	General Funds	TOTAL
	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
<b>Grants and donations</b>			
Transfer from Westmorland Orchestra	35	545	580
Grants		6,240	6,240
Donations	300	2,173	2,473
Playdays and summer sessions		2,002	2,002
Gift Aid		786	786
<u>Total receipts from grants and donations</u>	<u>335</u>	<u>11,746</u>	<u>12,081</u>
<b>Charitable Activities</b>			
Members' Subscriptions		8,755	8,755
Choir subscriptions re Beethoven 9			
Subscriptions re previous year		100	100
Concert tickets		5,310	5,310
Patrons' & Subscribers' tickets		1,493	1,493
Advertising		610	610
Insurance claims (Christmas concert and flute)		2,623	2,623
<u>Total receipts from charitable activities</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,890</u>	<u>18,890</u>
<u>Interest</u>		<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS IN THE PERIOD</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>30,649</b>	<b>30,984</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
<b>Concerts</b>			
Conductor and Leader		710	710
Soloists & Extra players		2,569	2,569
Music		532	532
Venue		1,708	1,708
Ticket sales commission		-	-
Printing & Publicity		697	697
Programmes		489	489
Performing Rights		71	71
Other concert expenses		431	431
<u>Payments for concerts</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,207</u>	<u>7,207</u>
<b>Summer &amp; Play Day</b>			
Conductor and Leader		930	930
Venue		388	388
Music & other		307	307
<u>Payments for Summer Sessions &amp; Play Day</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,625</u>	<u>1,625</u>
<b>Other orchestral expenses</b>			
Hire of rehearsal room		3,165	3,165
Rehearsal fees		5,735	5,735
Extras for rehearsals		2,495	2,495
Other rehearsal costs		655	655
Music costs for previous season		378	378
Subscriptions		391	391
Publicity		113	113
Ukraine donation			
Administration costs		668	668
<u>Payments for other orchestral costs</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,601</u>	<u>13,601</u>
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS IN THE PERIOD</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,433</b>	<b>22,433</b>
<b>SURPLUS IN THE PERIOD</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>8,216</b>	<b>8,551</b>
Transfers between funds (seat sponsorship)	(245)	185	(60)
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>8,401</b>	<b>8,491</b>
<b>CASH FUNDS AT THE START OF THE YEAR</b>			<b>-</b>
<b>CASH FUNDS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>8,401</b>	<b>8,491</b>

Period ended 30 June 2024

		at 30/06/24		
		Restricted Funds	General Funds	TOTAL
ASSETS		£	£	£
<b>Bank Accounts</b>				
	CAF Current Account	90	8,461	8,551
<b>CASH FUNDS AT THE END OF THE YEAR</b>		<b>90</b>	<b>8,461</b>	<b>8,551</b>
<b>OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Debtors</b>				
	<u>Gift Aid</u>			-
	<u>Music Hire</u> Wise Music	579		579
<b>Other Assets at the end of the year</b>		<b>579</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>579</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
	<u>Music Hire</u> Cumbria Library late invoice	326		326
	<u>Meeting room hire</u> Castle St late invoice	45		45
<b>Liabilities at the end of the year</b>		<b>370</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>370</b>

Signed

  
 .....  
 Honorary Treasurer

  
 .....  
 Chair

Date

**NOTES****Funds**Restricted FundsSeat Sponsoship

Donations received to support members who would otherwise not be able to play with the orchestra. £300 was received during the period and £35 was transferred from the predecessor charity. £245 transferred to General funds represents support for 4 members for part of the year or part of the subscription.

General Funds

Other assets of the Orchestra are to be used at the discretion of the Committee in pursuance of the Objects of the Charity as explained in the Trustees' Annual Report.