

THE WESTMORLAND ORCHESTRA
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1201505

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS 47 Sandes Court
Sandes Avenue
Kendal
LA9 4LN

TRUSTEES	J Donally	Chair
	J Crossley	Hon Secretary
	B Starling	Hon Treasurer
	J Gascoigne	
	H Milligan	
	E Williams	
	L Hunter	
	A Lockley	
	A Robb (co-opted to the committee 13/04/2025)	

MUSIC DIRECTOR M Tay

LEADER P Redman

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER G Clifford-Perkins FCA

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

The 2024/25 Season saw the Westmorland Orchestra continue in its mission to educate its members and the wider Westmorland and Cumbria community. New Music Director Melvin Tay's first full season with the orchestra is already demonstrating results in terms of a bold choice of a repertoire and in the enthusiasm of members' attendance and numbers. In its three concerts, the orchestra tackled major symphonic masterpieces in works by Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich and Stravinsky as well as introducing a new soloist to Kendal audiences with Leora Cohen giving a masterful performance of the Sibelius Violin Concerto. The December Family/Christmas concert was also a huge hit with the orchestra and an audience of all ages, with the much delayed Scary Fairy finally delivered together with local narrator Matt Berry.

The concerts were reasonably well attended and it seems that the members and audience enjoy the ambience and acoustics of Kendal Parish Church, where two of the concerts were played. Critical acclaim noted "the orchestra clearly enjoys a good relationship with Melvin Tay and the success of this concert was due to his clear direction and players' response". A number of new Patrons were recruited during the year, helping to boost income and to spread the word of the orchestra's activities.

The orchestra now boasts a regular membership of around 60 players, making it Cumbria's largest classical ensemble. Under the leadership and direction of Melvin Tay and Leader Pamela Redman, we increased the number and range of 'sectional' rehearsals. Individual sections of the orchestra were tutored and mentored by expert professional practitioners and these were well attended.

The 2024 summer playing sessions tackled important symphonies by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov as well as some lighter orchestral favourites under two conductors. These sessions are a vital way to keep the members active during the summer break from concerts as well as a means to attract new members. 175 musicians attended over the four sessions. A full day study and play through of Shostakovich's 5th Symphony was also well attended in Grange-over-Sands in September, getting the new season off to a blazing start.

The successful season is attributed to the hard work of the Trustees and other volunteers amongst the membership who enable the smooth running and delivery of our concerts; the many logistical elements

include rehearsal scheduling, sourcing music and additional players, publicity, website management, ticketing, production of excellent programmes, financial management. All these activities are conducted by our dedicated and loyal volunteer members without whom we could not deliver the quality performances that our members and public enjoy so much. Particular thanks this year go to outgoing Treasurer Bridget Starling for all her efforts over recent years.

We look forward to increasing our number of concerts to four in the coming season and hope to spread the joy and value of taking part in, or listening to, orchestral music to an even larger audience in 2025/26.

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

- Grant applications
- "Fixing"
- Programme and poster design
- Public relations
- Ticketing
- Staging
- Patrons
- Programme notes
- Poster/banner printing and hanging
- Rehearsal (and concert) refreshments

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.

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 funds equivalent to one year of expenditure, or £24,000. Reserves are considerably higher than this and the Committee has been able to fix members' subscriptions and ticket prices as well as trying out a different pattern of concerts with ambitious programming in the coming season.

The importance of adequate insurance was demonstrated during the previous year and the policy was upgraded on renewal. Costs this year have not reduced – when do they ever? - but seem to have stabilised for now.

The Summer of 2024 saw the fourth series of Open Playing Sessions. This was a slightly quieter year, but still positive in financial terms as well as musically. (2025, since the end of the reporting period, has been excellent).

As foretold in last year's Report, the remainder of the Orchestra's funds was transferred from the old charity in September 2024, resulting in apparently very high receipts in the year. Setting that aside, receipts have increased in total and in all areas apart from grant, which is most satisfactory.

Principal sources of income

Charitable Activities remain the main area of income generation. This year, ticket sales of £10,613 have comfortably overtaken membership subscriptions. It must be remembered that the cancellation of the December 2023 concert did depress the ticket sales in the comparative period.

Subscriptions did not increase this year, so the higher figure reflects continued growth in active membership. This has been obvious at concerts in the wonderful large string section, which suits our repertoire well.

Income from Grants is very variable as they are individually large sums of money. The Orchestra continues to take opportunities to apply for grants as this extra source of income supports ambitious repertoire choices. The first claim for Orchestra Tax Relief, based on rehearsal costs of three concerts in the year to June 2024 (even though one was cancelled) contributed £5,150 which compensates for the reduction in grants received. This will be a continuing source of income, but the rate of Relief has reduced during the year which will restrict next year's receipt.

Future Developments

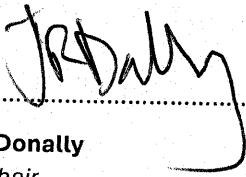
As noted last year we have developed plans for change in the 2025/26 season. There will be four concerts, instead of the traditional three, but with 8 rather than 10 rehearsal each. Thus rehearsal costs will be broadly similar. The inevitable increase in concert day costs should be balanced by ticket takings for 4 concerts.

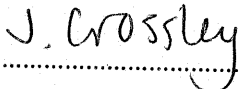
In order to accommodate four concerts, we have lost the traditional Christmas slot! – The first concert of the next season will be in November. But we do have a "family concert" in January. Freed from Christmas constraints this will be "Around the World in 80 Minutes", featuring music from different cultures. This enhances the delivery of the charity's Educational Objective.

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 15th September 2025


.....
J Donally
Chair


.....
J Crossley
Hon Secretary

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

On accounts for the period ended 30 June 2024

Set out on pages 6 to 8

Responsibilities and basis of the report

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the CIO") for the period ended 30 June 2025.

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 G. Clifford-Perkins

Date 15 SEPTEMBER 2025

Name G Clifford-Perkins FCA

	YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025				Period 5 January 23 to 30 June 24			
	Restricted Funds	General Funds	TOTAL	£	Restricted Funds	General Funds	TOTAL	£
RECEIPTS								
Grants and donations								
Transfer from Westmorland Orchestra		41,516	41,516		35	545	580	
Grants		1,200	1,200			6,240	6,240	
Donations	150	3,399	3,549		300	2,173	2,473	
Playdays and summer sessions		1,942	1,942			2,002	2,002	
Gift Aid		1,951	1,951			786	786	
Orchestra Tax Relief		5,150	5,150					
<u>Total receipts from grants and donations</u>	150	55,158	55,308		335	11,746	12,081	
Charitable Activities								
Members' Subscriptions		8,945	8,945			8,855	8,855	
Concert tickets		9,480	9,480			5,310	5,310	
Patrons' & Subscribers' tickets		1,539	1,539			1,493	1,493	
Advertising		100	100			610	610	
Insurance claims (Christmas concert and flute)		-	-			2,623	2,623	
<u>Total receipts from charitable activities</u>	-	20,064	20,064		-	18,890	18,890	
<u>Interest</u>		519	519			13	13	
TOTAL RECEIPTS IN THE PERIOD	150	75,741	75,891		335	30,649	30,984	

THE WESTMORLAND ORCHESTRA CIO

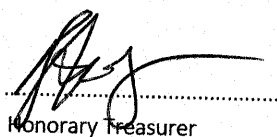
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

		YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025		
		Restricted Funds	General Funds	TOTAL
PAYMENTS				
Concerts	Conductor and Leader		650	650
	Soloists & Extra players		2,732	2,732
	Music		649	649
	Venue		783	783
	Printing & Publicity		776	776
	Programmes		336	336
	Performing Rights		250	250
	Other concert expenses		384	384
<u>Payments for concerts</u>				
		-	6,560	6,560
Summer & Play Day	Conductor and Leader		1,120	1,120
	Venue		313	313
	Music & other		146	146
<u>Payments for Summer Sessions & Play Day</u>				
		-	1,579	1,579
Other	Hire of rehearsal room		2,435	2,435
orchestral	Rehearsal fees		6,701	6,701
expenses	Extras for rehearsals		2,746	2,746
	Other rehearsal costs		649	649
	Music & Venue costs for previous and next seasons		966	966
	Subscriptions		346	346
	Professional fees		300	300
	Administration costs		1,351	1,351
<u>Payments for other orchestral costs</u>				
		-	15,495	15,495
TOTAL PAYMENTS IN THE PERIOD			23,633	23,633
SURPLUS IN THE PERIOD				
		150	52,107	52,257
		(115)	115	-
Transfers between funds (seat sponsorship)				
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS				
		35	52,222	52,257
CASH FUNDS AT THE START OF THE YEAR				
		90	8,461	8,551
CASH FUNDS AT THE END OF THE YEAR				
		125	60,683	60,808

ASSETS	YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025			Period ended 30 June 2024		
	Restricted Funds £	General Funds £	TOTAL £	Restricted Funds £	General Funds £	TOTAL £
Bank Accounts						
CAF Current Account		4,702	4,702	90	8,461	8,551
CAF Deposit Account	125	55,981	56,106			-
CASH FUNDS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	125	60,683	60,808	90	8,461	8,551
OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES						
Debtors						
<u>Gift Aid</u>			-			-
<u>Orchestra Tax Relief</u>		5,313	5,313			-
<u>Venue deposits</u> Parish Church (November & March)		206	206		5,150	5,150
<u>Music Hire in advance</u> Bartok (November)		434	434			-
Summer Sessions		20	20			-
Wise Music			-			-
Other Assets at the end of the year	-	5,973	5,973	579		579
				579	5,150	5,729
LIABILITIES						
<u>Music Hire</u> Weber & Tchaik estimate			-	326		326
<u>Concert venue hire</u> Kendal Leisure Centre (Dec)		1,500	1,500			
<u>Programmes</u> MTP Media late invoice		146	146			
<u>Meeting room hire</u> Castle St late invoice			-	45		
Liabilities at the end of the year	-	1,646	1,646	326	-	326

Signed



Honorary Treasurer



Chair

Date

15 September 2025

NOTES

Funds

Restricted FundsSeat Sponsorship

Donations received to support members who would otherwise not be able to play with the orchestra. £150 was received during the period. £85 transferred to General funds represents support for 3 members for part of the year or part of the subscription.

General Funds

Other 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.