

**CHARITY NUMBER 1202139**

**READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA**  
**(FORMERLY FRIENDS OF READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA)**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**  
**UNAUDITED**

**READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

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**READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

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The trustees submit their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2024.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the governing documents and 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).

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The objects of the Orchestra shall be:

1. To provide an inclusive, welcoming and sociable musical environment for young orchestral players.
2. To advance the musical education of young people who live in and/or attend school in the Reading or surrounding areas through the provision of orchestral training and the opportunity to perform in public.
3. To further such community or musical purposes as the Committee shall think fit.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

Across the year, there were between 34 and 38 members, which is a good level of growth from last year (31-32 members). We provided our young players with termly performance opportunities during the year:

- End of term performance in December 2023, featuring a mixture of orchestral pieces, carols and pieces by soloists and small groups of students.
- Celebrated our 80th Anniversary in a prestigious concert alongside Reading Symphony Orchestra in April 2024. Our orchestra played music from Lord of the Rings, then joined the adult orchestra on stage for a huge performance of Elgar's Enigma Variations.
- Invited parents and supporters to an end-of-term celebration of our students' work in June 2024, featuring orchestral pieces plus solos and small groups from the young players.

In addition to performing, our members also benefit from social events such as watching the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra perform, and games and quiz nights. Our continued relationship with the Aldworth Philharmonic Orchestra, and our new relationship with Reading Symphony Orchestra, have continued to open doors for several members to play as part of local adult orchestras in several of their concerts.

We continue to build our students musical knowledge and repertoire, providing esteemed local musicians for coaching and support. We seek out works to learn by both well-known and lesser-known composers, such as Verdi, Elgar, Von Suppe, and De Beriot, as well as performing works by our RYO alumni.

We also maintain our ongoing relationships with local schools The Abbey and St Joseph's, the latter providing us with our rehearsal venue.

**READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

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## **FUTURE PLANS**

Without any major anniversaries or projects planned for this year, we have a 'regular' season ahead, with end of term performances for parents in the Autumn and Summer, and our formal Spring Concert planned for March 2025. We are continuing with our successful format of inviting orchestra members to form small ensembles for these performances, and are looking into how we can support their rehearsal process further.

We will continue to organise social events throughout the year, and have established a Social Committee as a sub-group of the main committee for this purpose, including representation from our young members.

Behind the scenes, the rollout of our new Google Workspace is planned for September, which includes email and storage for committee members, allowing for more efficient and smoother operations and communication with members.

## **PUBLIC BENEFIT**

The Trustees have considered the guidance notes provided by the Charity Commission on "Charities and Public Benefit" when deciding on the activities for the year. In assisting develop both the musical talent and self-confidence of young people, the charity hopes to improve their lives and their contribution to Reading society.

**READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

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**RESERVES POLICY**

In the development period of the charity reserves must be held to ensure that sufficient funds are available to commit to the hire of rehearsal venue space costs as well as being able to meet any shortfall in the event that a concert performance fails to attract sufficient ticket sales. Our reserves at the balance sheet date of £17,789 have achieved the £15,000 target level previously set by the trustees. The Trustees are aware that significant inflation will erode these reserves, and as the orchestra grows, the demands for larger space to operate should increase the level of reserves put aside to manage the charity in a responsible and resilient way. The Trustees consider a reserve level of up to £25,000 appropriate at the current time.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Income for the year totalled £10,767 (2023:£9,091). This includes £500 share of income from the joint concert (2022: *concert ticket sales* £1,032). Our concert generated a surplus of £380 (2023:£462) which has been added to our reserves. The funds available increased from £11,980 to £17,789.

**INVESTMENT POLICY**

The charity holds insufficient reserves to hold them in any other form than cash. Short term surplus cash is placed in an interest-bearing deposit account.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Reading Youth Orchestra can trace its roots back to before the end of the war in 1944. The Orchestra was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission on 2 March 2023 with charity number 1202139.

The current constitution was amended by EGM special resolution dated 6 April 2022.

**Reference and administrative details**

The operations of the charity are directed from the following address: -

27 Gipsy Lane  
Wokingham  
Berkshire  
RG40 2 BN

**READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

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**TRUSTEES**

The trustees who have served during the year were as follows:

Melanie Le Breuilly	Chair
Becky Stewardson	Secretary
Alastair Lyon	Treasurer
Natacha Chenchery	Committee member
Agnieszka Debicka	Committee member
Pippa Moore	Committee member
Seohyeon Baek	Playing member of the Orchestra (appointed 7 Sept 2023, resigned 31 July 2024)
Iulia Pantea	Committee member (appointed 4 November 2023)
Abi Saxton	Playing member of the Orchestra (appointed 22 Sept 2024)

From time to time, trustees are invited to join the board based on their passion for the charity's activities and the skills they can bring to strengthen the skills of the board. New trustees are inducted through a mix of briefings on the workings of the charity and guidance documents provided by the Charity Commission.

**BANKING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Fund operates a current account and business instant access deposit account, both accounts are held at Barclays Bank plc.

Signed on behalf of trustees:



Becky Stewardson  
Trustee and Secretary

Date: 11 October 2024

**READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA**  
**TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

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The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards) and applicable law. Under charity law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its net incoming resources for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- ensure that the most suitable accounting policies are established and applied consistently;
- make judgements and estimates which are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the applicable accounting standards and statement of recommended accounting practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on a 'going concern' basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate systems and controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which 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 2011 Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and for their proper application as required by charity law, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- all assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition and are properly applied;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity, or for publication, is reliable;
- the charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 3.

**READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**  
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations Received	1,675	54
Memberships and ticket sales	8,547	7,623
Music hire and other income	356	1,380
Bank Interest Received	<u>189</u>	<u>34</u>
	<b>10,767</b>	<b>9,091</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Rehearsals and concerts	4,225	3,684
Memberships, insurance and administration	419	325
Other costs	<u>314</u>	<u>1,060</u>
	<b><u>4,958</u></b>	<b><u>5,069</u></b>
Net incoming resources for the period	<b><u>5,809</u></b>	<b><u>4,022</u></b>
Net Movement in funds	<b>5,809</b>	<b>4,022</b>
Balance brought forward at 1 August 2023	<b><u>11,980</u></b>	<b><u>7,958</u></b>
Balance carried forward at 31 July 2024	<b><u>17,789</u></b>	<b><u>11,980</u></b>
All operations are continuing.		
All income was unrestricted in the period.		
All funds were unrestricted in the current and preceding year		

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these accounts




# READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA

## BALANCE SHEET

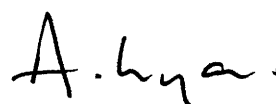
31 JULY 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors		-	-
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>17,789</u>	<u>12,694</u>
		17,789	12,694
<b>CREDITORS: Amount falling due within one year</b>			
Creditors		-	(714)
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<u>17,789</u>	<u>11,980</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>			
Unrestricted	3	16,789	11,980
Designated		<u>1,000</u>	-
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>17,789</u>	<u>11,980</u>

Approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 11 October 2024  
and signed on their behalf by:



MELANIE LE BREUILLY  
Trustee



ALASTAIR LYON  
TREASURER

The notes on pages 8 to 11 form part of these accounts

**READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

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**1. CHARITY INFORMATION**

The principal activity of the entity is the operation of Reading Youth Orchestra. The Orchestra is registered with the Charity Commission England and Wales. The principal address of the entity is 27 Gipsy Lane, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 2BN.

**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**a) Basis of Accounting**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2019.

The accounts have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Reading Youth Orchestra meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

The trustees have considered the current financial reserves and anticipated cash flows for the coming year and believe it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements

**c) Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 2, trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimation and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects the current and future periods.

In the view of the trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting the assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

**READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

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**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**d) Financial Instruments**

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

**e) Income**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the entity is entitled to the income, receipt is probable, and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified. Gifts-in-kind have been included at market value. The value of service of volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

**f) Expenditure**

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis.

**i) Value Added Tax**

The Trust is precluded from registering for VAT as its activities are exempt under legislation. Expenditure is stated inclusive of VAT.

**j) Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

**k) Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised when the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

**READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

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**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**l) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value

**m) Taxation**

HM Revenue & Customs has agreed that the entity is entitled to exemption from income tax, being established for charitable purposes only. Accordingly, no tax liability arises on any surplus derived from the entity's activities.

**3. ACCUMULATED FUND**

The fund and its income and expenditure are unrestricted within the boundaries of the objectives as shown in the Trustees' Report.

During the year the trustees have established a designated fund of £1,000 to support students develop their musical talent, or provide musical opportunities which they may not otherwise be able to afford.

**4. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION**

No trustees received any remuneration for services as a trustee during the year (2023: none).

One trustee was paid £1,200 (2023: £1,200) for her role as artistic director and conductor to the orchestra. This payment was authorised in accordance with strict rules associated with such payments set out in accordance within the constituting documents.

Donations, including related Gift Aid, received from Trustees totalled £nil (2023: £nil)

**5. CREDITORS**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Accrued costs	_____ -	_____ 714
	_____ -	_____ 714

**6. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	<b>17,789</b>	8,458
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	-	500

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise other creditors and accruals.

**READING YOUTH ORCHESTRA**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024**

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**7. Analysis of assets and liabilities between funds**

Fund balances at 31 July 2024 are represented by :

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cash at bank	<b>17,789</b>	<b>12,694</b>
Other current assets	<b>-</b>	<b>(714)</b>

Designated funds are held in cash.