

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 00371316 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 250921

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024
FOR
BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD

Chariot House Limited
Chartered Accountants
44 Grand Parade
Brighton
East Sussex
BN2 9QA

BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

This year we made a conscious decision to gear up for our centenary in this our 99th season. This has produced a wonderfully diverse and ambitious programme for Brighton. By far our most ambitious programme for many years included concerts that focused on a range of composers from Wagner to Moondog.

It is our third season with music director Joanna MacGregor at the helm as we continue successfully developing the visibility and reputation of the orchestra. Not only has the orchestra benefitted from Joanna's leadership but also from her brilliant musicianship. This has seen her centre stage in many of our concerts featuring as a soloist performing Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F, Arvo Pärt's Lamentate, and Spiegel in Spiegel alongside leader Ruth Rogers, works by Sakamoto, and her album Deep River with saxophonist Andy Sheppard. Alongside this, she conducted concerts as diverse as Sidewalk Dances and Mighty River: Celebrating Women.

Our programme continues to grow the quality of the orchestra's performances. This is in part a result of often doubling rehearsal time before each performance resulting in exceptional performances for some of the most challenging work.

We opened to a very encouraging and enthusiastic audience for our first concert featuring the music of Bernstein, Gershwin, Ives and Adams. Our LoveMusic £12 tickets encouraged a fantastic turnout of walk-up audience with the feel good factor of Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from West Side Story setting the scene for the rest of the season.

Our next concert focused on the music of Joanna's arrangements of cult 'outsider' composer, Moondog's dances that bring us a unique sound of swing and counterpoint. The concert drew an audience of 1000 and featured acclaimed jazz soloists including one of the UK's best-known players, saxophonist Andy Sheppard. Despite being perhaps a fringe figure in the classical world, the event brought in a large new audience for the orchestra as well as delighting existing audiences with Moondog's enthralling music.

Our Winter Solstice concert successfully united all our audiences bringing together the composer Arvo Pärt and blending the more familiar through Sibelius' second symphony. This drew the largest audience of the season outside of the New Year's Eve Gala.

In December we continued our new tradition of performing a semi-staged version of a Christmas Carol with the brass of BPO. Unfortunately, covid struck our special featured guest actor Pip Torrens. Thankfully Paul Ryan stepped in at the last minute and with great success. We also thank Director Richard Williams for his excellent staging.

Continued season highlights included a sold-out New Year's Eve Viennese Gala with soprano Ellie Laugharne. We did two days of rehearsal with nearly 100 players on-stage for the epic de Vlioger adaptation of Wagner's Ring. We were extremely excited to experience the Dome's beautifully refurbished Corn Exchange for The Soldier's Tale again directed wonderfully by Richard Williams and featuring the brilliant Alistair McGowan as the Devil.

International Women's Day was celebrated by an outstanding concert featuring music by women composers and soloist Ayanna Witter-Johnston. Our season finale brought an inspiring programme of Britten, Tveitt, Sakamoto and Debussy.

This wonderful season has really given the Board confidence to continue to drive the programming and our aspiration forward for the centenary season.

In terms of orchestral personnel, we have enjoyed our players and principals rising to the challenge of the programme. A special mention should go to Leader Ruth Rogers and Co-Leader Nicky Sweeney for their brilliant playing. Likewise mustering the power of a Wagnerian horn section is no small undertaking John James and Alexei Watkins should be singled out for this success.

Our team has continued to work extremely hard behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the orchestra. Our general manager Guy Morley continues to work three days a week. His role is instrumental to support Joanna's programme and continue the great marketing that the orchestra enjoys. He is now joined by Gill Davies as Operations Manager, freelance Fixer Tom Wraith, and Kate Fargher who continues to provide excellent financial control ensuring the ongoing stability of the management team of the orchestra.

BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

In terms of fundraising, we have been extremely fortunate to continue to receive generous legacies. These legacies enable us to enter each new season with the confidence of cash flow and the ability to allow Joanna to be ambitious in her programming, building new audiences and stability for the orchestra into its second century.

Speaking of our centenary, we are delighted to have presented our programme for the year and got underway with marketing much earlier than usual. As I write, we have not quite had our opening concert, but sales are 25% ahead of where we were this time last year.

We continue to enjoy strong relationships with the Brighton Dome and Festival and look forward to welcoming Lucy Davies to her new role replacing Andrew Comben as CEO. We wish Andrew every success in his exciting new role at Aldborough.

Our marketing continues to grow with Gill's and Guy's experience. Our partnership with social media agency Social Firefly is increasingly providing a stable base for digital campaigns and is proving successful in getting the word out to a whole new audience, evident in the increased ticket sales. We have also launched a beautiful new website with designers Whitespace and Intro UK. We met overall sales targets for the 99th season. Our new look is ready to showcase our professional orchestra for the centenary and beyond.

I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for their support. Andrea Cifelli has handed over the 'baton' to me with the orchestra in a stronger and more stable position than she found it in. No mean feat considering the challenges of the Covid seasons. My thanks to her for her ongoing support and that she has agreed to stay on as company secretary, her knowledge and experience is invaluable.

I am very happy that we welcomed our principal viola, Caroline Harrison to the board this financial year. Her influence is already being felt bringing fantastic new thinking to the board. Bob Cook, our treasurer, has been extremely diligent in ensuring that we continue to build a stable financial position to ensure the healthy future of the orchestra. Norman Jacobs continues to provide invaluable experience to the Board and I welcome my colleague Laurie Cearley to the Board who joined when I did. I am grateful for all the time they give to the orchestra. It is still a very difficult time for the arts in the UK and the wealth of knowledge and experience on the board is far reaching and continues to help the orchestra to buck the trend as we go from strength to strength into the exciting new centenary season.

Chair of the board of Trustees statement for the year ending 31 March 2024

Brighton & Hove Philharmonic Society Limited

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Our Mission Statement, adopted in 2018, states that the purposes and activities of the charity are to enrich the lives of people in Brighton & Hove, and beyond, by delivering varied, innovative, engaging and accessible concert programmes, performed at the very highest level by the professional musicians of the Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Society was established to promote and assist the study, practice, knowledge and appreciation of music and generally to advance the cause of music. It aims to bring pleasure to the local community through providing high quality, varied classical music programme, professionally performed, at realistic prices to the audience, within the Society's available resources.

The Society's aims and objectives/purposes are achieved by presenting an annual concert programme. The programme seeks to include a mix of concerts and recitals of artistic value for the enjoyment and education of the local and wider community.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

As outlined in our Mission Statement (mentioned previously), our vision is to be recognised and valued as a key part of the rich cultural mix in Brighton and Hove, enriching the lives of people in the city and beyond.

Our artistic values are:

Inclusivity: We aim to demonstrate that music is truly inclusive, with an appeal that is diverse and relevant for all, while retaining respect for our musical heritage, and nurturing our Friends;

Excellence: We strive to provide music of outstanding quality that excites whoever hears us by bringing every note to life; with the Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra at the core of what we do, but embracing chamber music, recitals, and other musical genres;

Sustainability: We are committed to securing the future of the Society and the orchestra by adopting sound (and environmentally friendly) operating processes, and embracing technology to build our digital profile and extend our reach;

Collaboration: We will work with local, national and international communities, cultures and arts organisations to inspire, delight and grow audiences in Brighton & Hove;

Education: We seek to nurture musical growth, and generally to advance the cause of music, by inspiring our audiences and the musicians of the future, and by promoting and assisting the study, practice, knowledge and appreciation of music.

The trustees normally attend performances, and some rehearsals, at Brighton Dome in order to meet the musicians and audience, to share our artistic values and to hear, answer or address their views.

Concerts:

Our programme of activities is normally focused very much on holding concerts in Brighton and Hove, thereby bringing the arts to the local and wider community.

We were fortunate to be able to put on six concerts at the Brighton Dome. A further narrated concert was held at St Luke's Church in Brighton. Joanna MacGregor and our principal string players performed in chamber concerts at the Gulbenkian Arts Centre, Canterbury and the Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts at the University of Sussex. The concert at the Attenborough Centre was presented in association with Strings Attached. A third chamber concert with our brass ensemble, the Brighton Festival Chorus and the Brighton Festival Youth Choir was performed at All Saints Church, Hove.

Public benefit

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

The Society continues to arrange an annual programme of concerts, held in local venues and accessible to all members of the public. In setting the level of ticket prices and concessions, the trustees gave careful consideration to the accessibility for those on low incomes. Concessionary ticket prices are made available, with a particular emphasis on encouraging younger people to attend classical concerts.

Volunteers

Up to twelve volunteers (most of whom are members of the Society) assist with various office-related tasks, distribute publicity materials and programmes, and steward events and performances, enabling lower staff costs than would otherwise be the case

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The Society has taken the decision to invest in an ambitious and high quality concert programme to build audiences and reputation. The Society is also preparing for its Centenary Season in 2024/25, which celebrates 100 years since the first concert was held by the 'Symphonic String Players' in Hove Town Hall on 18 May 1925.

In recent years the Society has been in receipt of substantial legacies. It has been possible to support annual concert costs from legacies received each year, but the Society is concerned to achieve a sustainable long term financial position.

Concerts continue to be subject to cost pressures, particularly for more ambitious and larger scale works which require longer rehearsal time and suitable rehearsal venues (generally in London). The strengthening of the office team reflects the level and complexity of administrative support required for concerts and events.

Income from concert ticket sales in 2023/24 has matched previous years, but sales for some concerts fell short of expectations. The Society seeks to achieve a balance in its programme in order to appeal to existing and new audiences. The holding of concerts in the evenings and on different days of the week (rather than traditionally Sunday afternoons) is part of finding an optimum pattern to attract audiences.

The 2023/24 was the second season during which a complete programme was held following the pandemic. Audiences have welcomed the return of live performances, but there is some evidence that the numbers attending live events has reduced somewhat from pre-pandemic levels as new patterns of cultural and leisure activity have become established.

The 2023/24 financial year includes the final concert of the season, Sea Songs, which was held on 7 April 2024.

The programmes for 2024/25 and subsequent years will continue to evolve, in seeking to increase audience numbers. The Society is also refining its marketing and advertising strategy to better direct its limited resources in attracting audiences - much greater emphasis is now given to social media.

The reputation of the Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra continues to be enhanced following a further successful concert season under the direction of Joanna MacGregor.

The Board has enjoyed a period of stability, with each member bringing experience from wider artistic and cultural sectors. The further strengthening of the Board remains a priority. During the years, the operation of the Society benefited from its experienced and committed staff, comprising a General Manager, Operations Manager and Finance Manager.

A focus continues to be the development of new marketing initiatives, with a particular emphasis on social media. This has replaced more traditional marketing and advertising, which have proved less effective in recent years. A new logo and design identity have been successfully introduced for concert programmes, newsletters and the Society's web site.

We remain very grateful to our sponsors and donors for their continued support, both through financial donations and attendance at virtual meetings to conduct the Society's business.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Investment performance

The Society continues to hold a current account with CAF Bank for its day-to-day purposes. A current account has been opened with Lloyds Bank for Brighton Orchestral Productions Limited.

The Society has taken advantage of increased interest rates by placing funds not required to meet costs in the year ahead in term deposits with the Nationwide Building Society and Virgin Money. These term deposits provide worthwhile returns on short term investments, while ensuring capital preservation.

Investment policy remains under review, particularly as only a limited number of high street banks are prepared to accept deposits where a current account is not also held. It is likely to be necessary to broaden the range of short term investments, while maintaining the policy of capital preservation.

The Society is not yet in a position to consider longer term investments. It is intended to develop a policy for longer term investments in 2024/25 and to appoint an external investment manager. A cautious policy will be adopted which seeks to maintain the value of investments in real terms.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The results for the year to 31 March 2024 and the preceding financial year are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities below.

The Society holds an annual concert programme which is similar in scope and scale one year to the next. The overall cost of the concert programme therefore remains broadly at the same level.

As concert expenses are generally not covered by ticket sales, a relatively significant net cost arose in the year from the programme. The administrative and overhead costs of the Society also increased in the year, partly reflecting investment in re-branding and marketing. Within these costs, a higher level of expenditure on contract staff was required in support of the concert programme. General administration costs were largely unchanged.

Legacies

The Society has continued to benefit from substantial legacies. A significant legacy of £310,000 was received in the year from the estate of the late Sylvia St John. This legacy was unexpected and has greatly assisted the financial position of the Society in the year. Some residual payments were received from a number of estates during the year, totalling £60,500. Further residual amounts totalling £117,000 are expected in 2024/25.

In recent years, the Society has benefitted from substantial accumulative legacies - the most significant has been £940,000 from the estate of Don Newbold. Other notable legacies have been £454,000 from the late John Bullock, £328,000 from the late Doreen Taylor, £125,000 from the late Mavis Reynolds and £120,000 from the late Jean Ellard. All gifts to the Society, small and large, help towards the longer term sustainability of the Society and the continuation of the annual concert programme.

Surplus/(deficit) for year

Largely as a result of legacies, the net financial result for the year would have been a substantial surplus before taking in to consideration the production costs. With production costs having increased significantly for 2024, the net outturn for the year was a deficit of £(11,561) (2023 surplus of £147,922). The underlying operating deficit of the Society before legacies was £382,061 (2023: £187,078).

Comparative figures

In the previous year costs incurred in the subsidiary, Brighton Orchestral Productions Ltd were included as a single figure. This year, the costs have been reflected in the accounts of the charity under the type of costs incurred (see note 6 and 7).

Sources of income

Total income for the year at £548,557 (2023: £508,702) reflected the full concert programme held in the year. The principal funding sources of the Society in the year were:

- £119,921 (2023: £130,463) from ticket sales;
- £58,136 (2023: £43,239) in investment income, sponsorship, grants and donations received from trusts and individuals;
- £370,500 (2023: £335,000) from legacies.

Expenditure

A full analysis of expenditure on charitable activities is given in note 7. Total expenditure amounted to £243,354 for BHPS alone, (2023: £190,174), but overall £560,118 (2023: £360,780) taking in concert costs spent under Brighton Orchestral Productions Ltd on behalf of the Society.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between the spending and receiving of resources, and to cover unplanned emergencies and other expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves should be maintained at a minimum level of £250,000, based on six months' operating costs in an average operating year.

Actual free reserves are £1,700,485 at 31 March 2024, which is largely attributable to legacy income in the previous year being bolstered by further legacy income of £370,500 this year.

The Society is essentially calling on reserves to fund the annual concert programme, operating costs and overheads. The underlying operational deficit (before legacies) in 2023/24 was £382,061. Due to the receipt of legacies of £370,500 the reduction in reserves in the year was limited to £11,561.

Going concern

The Society is in the fortunate position of being in receipt of substantial legacies, which allowed it to continue during the period of the pandemic and to resume and enhance its annual programme of concerts.

The level of legacies received and expected provides some certainty that the Society will be able to meet its future financial obligations for some years ahead. Consequently, the Society will be able to continue operating successfully as a going concern and the accounts have therefore been prepared on a going concern basis.

The Production Company

After the end of the year, it became apparent that the production company would be required to account for vat on any costs recharged to the parent charity, and the charity would be unable to recover this vat. For future periods, the charity will be able to claim any tax reliefs due under Orchestra Tax Relief and as such the separate production company is not required.

The parent charity therefore decided that once the production company had claimed and received any tax reliefs due up to 31 March 2024, and settled any vat liability and any other obligations, it would be wound up.

As a result, it was decided that the costs incurred in the production company for the year ended 31 March 2024 would be more properly reflected in the accounts of the charity (see note 6 and 7)

FUTURE PLANS

The Society has adopted the strategy of investing in its concert programme to build reputation and to extend its audience. Its aspiration is to transition to a position where its annual programme of concerts is sustainable from ticket sales, sponsorship, fundraising and investment income, but recognising that some application of reserves is likely to be necessary.

Operationally, the Society will continue to review and enhance its general administrative, financial and organisational processes. In particular, over the next year it is intended to:

- continue to develop a strategic business plan for the next 5 years;
- build upon the fundraising initiatives which are planned for the 2024-25 centenary year;
- further develop our communication and marketing strategy;
- reach new audiences through performances in venues outside the immediate Brighton area;
- further develop our web presence and promote our brand.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Society is a company limited by guarantee, registered at Companies House (registration number 371316) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 250921). The Society is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 9 December 1941 and last amended on 6 November 2022.

Membership of the Society is open to everyone. The ordinary members are the Friends of the Society. In the event of the winding up of the Society, each member undertakes to contribute to any liabilities and costs, subject to a limit of two guineas (two pounds and ten pence).

The Society adopted revised Memorandum and Articles of Association at its Annual General Meeting on 6 November 2022. The revised articles closely follow the Charity Commission model form

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

As set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the business of the Society is managed by a Board of Management consisting of up to nine elected members.

The members of the Board of Management are the directors of the charitable company and its trustees for the purposes of charity law. The elected members who have served during the year as directors and trustees were as noted on page 10.

The Board of Management is responsible for the overall governance of the Society. The Board meets six times a year. Sub-committees are established as required, mainly covering finance and income generation/marketing.

At each AGM one third of the directors retire in rotation and may then stand for re-election by the members. No member of the Board may serve for more than nine consecutive years (two years must elapse before such a member is eligible for re-election).

The trustees have the power to fill a casual vacancy in the Board of Management and to appoint a person as an additional member. Those appointed must then stand for election at the next AGM and are subject to the general rules covering retirement and election of directors.

All members of the Society are circulated with invitations to nominate members to the Board prior to the AGM and advising them of the retiring members. The Board has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed when considering appointing an additional member.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

The staffing arrangements of the Society are subject to continuous review to ensure that a professional approach is taken to delivery of an ambitious concert programme.

The Society is managed by a General Manager, whose key responsibility is the coordination of all aspects of the annual programme of performances. The General Manager is supported by an Operations Manager, whose responsibilities include sponsorship and membership activities. An Operations Coordinator was appointed in August 2024 to further strengthen the office team, recognising the level of work required to successfully deliver an annual programme of orchestral concerts.

The office team also includes a Finance Manager, who is responsible for the financial affairs of the Society, including payment of musicians and preparation of management and financial statements.

The Society also employs a concert 'Fixer', who is responsible for arranging the services of musicians for rehearsals and performances

All of the staff of the Society are part-time appointments, with some on a contract basis.

Casual staff are employed as required, to assist particularly with events and some routine office tasks.

Music Director

The Music Director of the Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra is Joanna MacGregor CBE. The Music Director is responsible for the overall artistic direction of the Orchestra, including the selection and programming of the annual concert season.

This is a paid part-time appointment, on the basis of a three-year contractual term. Joanna MacGregor has been appointed for a second three-year term, commencing with the 2023/24 season.

Our volunteers

Volunteers (most of whom are members of the Society) distribute publicity materials and programmes, and steward events and performances, enabling lower staff costs than would otherwise be the case.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees undergo an orientation briefing covering their legal obligations under charity and company law, the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Wider network

Friends of the Society

The Friends are the members of the Society and have their own regular newsletter and benefit from priority booking arrangements for tickets, as well as special discounts and events.

The number of Friends at 31 March 2024 was 336 (31 March 2023: 362). The Society is grateful for the continued support of the Friends. The Friends are key to the success of our future plans.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Related parties

The Society set up a subsidiary company 'Brighton Orchestral Productions Limited' on 22 August 2022 for the purposes of claiming Orchestral Tax Relief on rehearsal costs.

This is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Society. The Society has provided the company with sufficient funds to meet rehearsal costs (including the hire of premises and musicians' fees). The company has no income, other than tax reclaimed from HMRC. The net costs of the company are met by the Society at the end of the financial year.

One of our trustees is a musician and performs with the Orchestra. They receive the same remuneration as an equivalent player in the Orchestra. Complimentary concert tickets are provided to trustees who wish to bring guests as part of the promotion of the Orchestra. The trustees receive no other benefits from their work with the Society.

Any connection between a trustee or employee of the charity with a production company, performer or venue must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. In the current year no such related party transactions were reported.

The charity has a close relationship with the John Carewe Brighton Orchestra Trust, a charity which shares the Trust's passion for orchestral concerts, and with Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival Ltd, which operates the Brighton Dome Concert Hall where the Orchestra performs.

Risk management

The trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- an annual review of the risks the charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

This work has identified that medium and longer term financial sustainability is the major financial risk for the charity. A key element in the management of financial risk is the continuing review of the reserves policy of the Society and the retention of sufficient working capital.

Attention has also been focussed on non-financial risks arising from health and safety of our members, musicians and audience.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

00371316 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

250921

Registered office

Community Base
113 Queens Road
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 3XG

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Trustees

J A Brigden
Ms L B Cearley
Ms A T Cifelli
R E Cook
Ms C S Harrison (appointed 18/5/2023)
N G Jacobs
J Gill (appointed 15/7/2024)

Independent Examiner

Dr Shona F Wardrop C.A.
Chariot House Limited
Chartered Accountants
44 Grand Parade
Brighton
East Sussex
BN2 9QA

Officers

Joanna MacGregor, CBE (Music Director)
Barry Wordsworth (Conductor Laureate)

Honorary Officers

Position vacant (President)
John Carewe (Vice-President)
David House (Vice-President)
Jackie Lythell, OBE (Vice-President)
Ronald Power, MBE (Vice-President)
Karen Platt (Vice-President)

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 21 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
J A Brigden - Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD**

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Brighton & Hove Philharmonic Society Ltd ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.


Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.



Dr Shona F Wardrop C.A.
The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland

Chariot House Limited
Chartered Accountants
44 Grand Parade
Brighton
East Sussex
BN2 9QA

Date: 9/12/24

BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	381,786	-	381,786	348,633
Charitable activities					
Dome concert season	5	119,921	16,200	136,121	145,663
Other trading activities	3	-	-	-	6,362
Investment income	4	30,650	-	30,650	8,044
Total		<u>532,357</u>	<u>16,200</u>	<u>548,557</u>	<u>508,702</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities					
Dome concert season	6	<u>530,229</u>	<u>29,889</u>	<u>560,118</u>	<u>360,780</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		2,128	(13,689)	(11,561)	147,922
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		<u>1,698,457</u>	<u>15,489</u>	<u>1,713,946</u>	<u>1,566,024</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>1,700,585</u></u>	<u><u>1,800</u></u>	<u><u>1,702,385</u></u>	<u><u>1,713,946</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD (REGISTERED NUMBER: 00371316)**BALANCE SHEET****31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	12	100	-	100	100
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	85,031	-	85,031	80,608
Cash at bank and in hand		1,636,516	1,800	1,638,316	1,647,883
		<u>1,721,547</u>	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,723,347</u>	<u>1,728,491</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(21,062)	-	(21,062)	(14,645)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>1,700,485</u>	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,702,285</u>	<u>1,713,846</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>1,700,585</u>	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,702,385</u>	<u>1,713,946</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>1,700,585</u>	<u>1,800</u>	<u>1,702,385</u>	<u>1,713,946</u>
FUNDS	15				
Unrestricted funds				1,700,585	1,698,457
Restricted funds				1,800	15,489
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>1,702,385</u>	<u>1,713,946</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2024

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 21 November 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
J A Brigden - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(40,217)	54,650
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		(40,217)	54,650
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of fixed asset investments		-	(100)
Interest received		30,650	8,044
Net cash provided by investing activities		30,650	7,944
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(9,567)	62,594
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,647,883	1,585,289
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		1,638,316	1,647,883

The notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(11,561)	147,922
Adjustments for:		
Interest received	(30,650)	(8,044)
Movement in intercompany balance	(5,849)	(41,625)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	1,426	(9,397)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	6,417	(34,206)
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations	<u>(40,217)</u>	<u>54,650</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1/4/23 £	Cash flow £	At 31/3/24 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	1,647,883	(9,567)	1,638,316
	<u>1,647,883</u>	<u>(9,567)</u>	<u>1,638,316</u>
Total	<u>1,647,883</u>	<u>(9,567)</u>	<u>1,638,316</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, 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 Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

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.

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 of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation 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.

Taxation

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK Corporation Tax purposes. Accordingly the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	1,346	2,522
Gift aid	1,895	4,540
Legacies	370,500	335,000
Membership fees	8,045	6,571
	<u>381,786</u>	<u>348,633</u>

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fundraising events	-	6,362
	<u>-</u>	<u>6,362</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deposit account interest	30,650	8,044
	<u>30,650</u>	<u>8,044</u>

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2024	2023
		£	£
Ticket sales	Dome concert season	119,921	130,463
Sponsorships	Dome concert season	15,300	15,200
Education project	Dome concert season	900	-
		<u>136,121</u>	<u>145,663</u>

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 7)	Support costs (see note 8)	Totals
	£	£	£
Dome concert season	368,345	191,773	560,118
	<u>368,345</u>	<u>191,773</u>	<u>560,118</u>

The expenditure figures for year ended 31 March 2024 include £316,764 of expenditure incurred by Brighton Orchestral Productions Limited, the subsidiary company. The expenditure has been reflected in the above figures as the costs were directly incurred in putting on the concerts and therefore in generating the ticket sales in the charity. This amount is included in the breakdown of costs in note 7.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Orchestra and artists	163,529	174,097
Concert manager	8,760	25,460
Programmes	-	313
Marketing and communications	480	15,568
Other direct expenses	6,244	654
Equipment hire	2,458	62
Travel	21,243	164
Music Director	41,400	36,000
Instrument hire	13,892	-
Instrument insurance	289	-
Venue hire	68,065	-
Production costs	41,985	-
	<u>368,345</u>	<u>252,318</u>

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management
	£
Dome concert season	<u>191,773</u>

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

	2024	2023
	Dome concert season	Total activities
	£	£
Wages	48,454	14,651
Pensions	1,329	434
Office maintenance	11,650	10,300
Insurance	1,916	1,453
Telephone and postage	147	144
Print and computer costs	23,477	5,890
Marketing	63,953	38,390
Bank charges	264	172
Legal and professional	23,456	7,022
Travel	135	161
Miscellaneous	10,038	2,892
Governance costs	6,954	26,953
	<u>191,773</u>	<u>108,462</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

10. STAFF COSTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	48,454	14,651
Other pension costs	1,329	434
	<u>49,783</u>	<u>15,085</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

2024	2023
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

Key Management Personnel, who are considered to be the trustees, the general manager and the operations manager, received remuneration (including employers national insurance and pension contributions) for year ended 31 March 2024 of £49,783 (2023: £15,085).

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	348,633	-	348,633
Charitable activities			
Dome concert season	130,463	15,200	145,663
Other trading activities	6,362	-	6,362
Investment income	8,044	-	8,044
Total	<u>493,502</u>	<u>15,200</u>	<u>508,702</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Dome concert season	<u>360,169</u>	<u>611</u>	<u>360,780</u>
NET INCOME	133,333	14,589	147,922
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	1,565,124	900	1,566,024

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued**

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>1,698,457</u>	<u>15,489</u>	<u>1,713,946</u>

12. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Shares in group undertakings £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	<u>100</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	<u>100</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>100</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

13. DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	24,057	22,601
Amounts owed by group undertakings	47,474	41,625
Other debtors	1,889	4,540
Prepayments and accrued income	10,754	10,985
	<u>84,174</u>	<u>79,751</u>
Amounts falling due after more than one year:		
Other debtors	857	857
	<u>857</u>	<u>857</u>
Aggregate amounts	<u>85,031</u>	<u>80,608</u>

Debtors due after more than one year relates to the rental deposit recoverable on the charity's leased offices.

BRIGHTON & HOVE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY LTD**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	16,170	12,263
Social security and other taxes	915	-
Other creditors	677	-
Accrued expenses	3,300	2,382
	<u>21,062</u>	<u>14,645</u>

15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/23	Net movement in funds	At 31/3/24
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,698,457	2,128	1,700,585
Restricted funds			
Sponsorships	14,589	(14,589)	-
Education project	900	900	1,800
	<u>15,489</u>	<u>(13,689)</u>	<u>1,800</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,713,946</u>	<u>(11,561)</u>	<u>1,702,385</u>

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

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	532,357	(530,229)	2,128
Restricted funds			
Sponsorships	15,300	(29,889)	(14,589)
Education project	900	-	900
	<u>16,200</u>	<u>(29,889)</u>	<u>(13,689)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>548,557</u>	<u>(560,118)</u>	<u>(11,561)</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued****Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1/4/22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,565,124	133,333	1,698,457
Restricted funds			
Sponsorships	-	14,589	14,589
Education project	900	-	900
	900	14,589	15,489
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,566,024</u>	<u>147,922</u>	<u>1,713,946</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	493,502	(360,169)	133,333
Restricted funds			
Sponsorships	15,200	(611)	14,589
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>508,702</u>	<u>(360,780)</u>	<u>147,922</u>

16. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024.

17. PENSION NOTE

During the year the charity made contributions of £1,329 to defined contribution pension schemes. At 31 March 2024 £677 was due to pension providers.

18. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

After the end of the year, it became apparent that the production company would be required to account for vat on any costs recharged to the parent charity, and the charity would be unable to recover this vat. The parent charity therefore decided that once the production company had claimed and received any tax reliefs due, and accounted for the vat liability and any other obligations, it would be wound up. For future periods, the charity will incur all production costs and will claim the tax relief due.