



Salomon Orchestra

74 Gibsons Hill, Norbury, London, SW16 3JS

Charity registration number: 256753

President: Martyn Brabbins

<https://www.salomonorchestra.org>

Committee Report for the 2024/25 Season

The objective of the Salomon Orchestra is “to rehearse orchestral music in order to foster public knowledge and appreciation of such music by means of public performance”. To that end, the 2024/25 season included three major self-promoted concerts at Smith Square Hall (formerly known as St. John’s, Smith Square), the provision of the orchestra for Martyn Brabbins’ conducting masterclass for Students of the Royal College of Music and the orchestra was engaged to play for John Landor’s conducting masterclass.

Salomon’s own concerts took place at Smith Square Hall with the following programmes and artists.

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 19/10/24 | Conductor: Johann Stockenbruck
Mahler: Symphony No 7 [Audience 156] |
| 09/02/25 | Conductor: Christopher Stark [Audience 72]
Baritone: Michael Ronan
Schuman: American Festival Overture
Copland: Old American Songs (Michael Ronan)
Beach: Gaelic Symphony |
| 16/06/25 | Conductor: Cathal Garvey [Audience 119]
Walton: Orb and Sceptre
Britten: Violin Concerto (Charlie Lovell-Jones)
Vaughan Williams: Symphony No 3 |

All the programmes provided significant musical challenges, but were rewarding musical experiences for the orchestra and audiences alike. Both our soloists - Charlie Lovell-Jones in Britten’s Violin Concerto, and Michael Ronan in Copland’s American songs – were very well received.

In November 2024, Salomon worked with John Landor by providing an orchestra for his conducting masterclasses. This outside engagement was essential in helping support Salomon’s own productions and keep losses to a minimum.

The rising hire costs of both rehearsal venues and Smith Square Hall (SSH) make it essential for the orchestra to earn outside income. Without outside engagements Salomon could only continue to play its current repertoire by substantially raising subscriptions. While we do need to sell more tickets for each production, the relatively small size of SSH makes it difficult-to-impossible to cover all our costs if we are to continue to perform the large symphonic repertoire. With average production costs of around £12,000 we need to sell about 180 tickets at full price to break even after accounting for subs, GiftAid, and OTR income.

The other option is play less costly "classical" repertoire and/or move our concerts to a less expensive venue.

In 24/25 the average audience was 116 but with a wide variation: from 72 in February, to 152 for Mahler 7 in October. The challenge is to sell at least 150 tickets per concert at SSH. The committee will continue to investigate alternative concert venues where the potential audience may be larger. In addition, everyone must work even harder to get an audience to attend our concerts.

In December 2024 Salomon provided the orchestra for an RCM Conducting Masterclass. Martyn Brabbins directed post graduate conducting students in performing the first movement of Elgar's Cello concerto and Sibelius' 5th Symphony.

In addition to the income from the Landor masterclasses, Salomon Orchestra was dependent upon members' subscriptions, Gift Aid, and Orchestral Tax Relief to make up the difference between the expenses incurred in producing our concerts and ticket income. Smaller sums from refreshments and donations were also welcome.

Salomon Orchestra's operating model of rehearsing and performing in central London remains a challenge. The cost of hiring both rehearsal and concert venues continues to rise, and small audience sizes have put the orchestra finances under extreme pressure. The committee will continue to work on obtaining outside engagements. It is essential that members of the orchestra support any engagements that we can arrange so that, in time, Salomon can build up a reserve and put the orchestra on a firmer financial footing.

The Committee and Trustees for the year ended 31st July 2025 were:

John Hackett (Chair/Treasurer)
Mike Aldren (Orchestral Manager)
Simon Astridge (Venues)
Libby Summers (Librarian)
Philip Austin
Tara Persaud (Orchestra Leader)
Peter Maniura

Many thanks are due to the members of the Committee and the Fixers for their continuing hard work in running the orchestra. Thanks are also due to everyone else who helped with administration, tea making, setting out the orchestra, etc., during the 2024/25 season.



John Hackett (Chairman)

The Salomon Orchestra

Registered Charity No. 256753

President : Martyn Brabbins

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the

YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

74 Gibsons Hill, Norbury, London, SW16 3JS

THE SALOMON ORCHESTRA

Profit and Loss Account for the year to 31 July 2025

		2024/25		2023/24	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income					
Ticket income	4		8,251		5,563
Engagement fees	5		2,838		5,000
Refreshment sales			37		165
Player subscriptions		12,582		10,767	
Other donations		5		901	
Total donations			12,587		11,668
Gift Aid on donations			2,535		2,488
Total income			26,248		24,884
Expenses					
Production fees payable to SPL	6		26,368		22,688
Advertising		80		80	
Artists' fees		400		550	
Music hire		0		287	
Instrument hire		300		0	
Rehearsal room hire		0		325	
Total engagement expenses			780		1,242
Bank charges		33		68	
Insurance		394		268	
Other		152		178	
Total administration costs			579		514
Total expenses			27,727		24,444
Net profit/(loss)			(1,479)		440

THE SALOMON ORCHESTRA

Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2025

		31/07/25	31/07/24
	Notes	£	£
Fixed assets			
Net book value	7	0	0
Current assets			
Debtors – Gift Aid expected from HMRC		0	2,420
Prepayments – advance fees paid to SPL	8, 9	13,049	11,603
Cash at bank		2,592	3,097
Total current assets		15,641	17,120
Total net assets		15,641	17,120
Capital and reserves			
Retained earnings brought forward		17,120	16,680
Net profit/(loss) for the year		(1,479)	440
Retained earnings carried forward		15,641	17,120



John Hackett (Chairman)

Approved by Trustees on 15/02/2026

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

1. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as described in FRS 102. All income and expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis.
2. The Salomon Orchestra ("the Orchestra") exists to rehearse and perform orchestral music. Its funds are applied for that purpose.
3. The Orchestra has a related entity called Salomon Productions Limited ("SPL") which exists to produce the Orchestra's concerts.
4. Ticket income represents income from the concerts produced by SPL (see note 3).
5. Engagement fees represent fees received from engagements with other organisations.
6. Production fees payable to SPL (see note 3) for 2023/24 were reported as £22,944 in the Orchestra's last financial statements. The comparative figure has been re-stated to correct for an overstatement of £256 in the costs reported in SPL's financial statements for that year.
7. The Orchestra owns music stands which cost £1,137 pre 2018. The cost of that equipment was depreciated in the accounts at an annual rate of 15% on a reducing balance basis and is now fully written off.
8. Advance production fees paid to SPL (see note 3) comprise:

	31/07/25	31/07/24
	£	£
Funding for SPL's loss while SPL claims Orchestra Tax Relief	8,601	8,340
Other working capital	4,448	3,263
	<u>13,049</u>	<u>11,603</u>

9. Prepayments at 31 July 2024 were reported as £5,746 in the Orchestra's last financial statements. The comparative figure has been re-stated in accordance with a new policy of treating all working capital in SPL as advance fees.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
The Salomon Orchestra

On accounts for the year
ended

31 July 2025

Charity no
(if any) 256753

Set out on pages

3 to 6

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 07 / 2025.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:

Date: 18 / 03 / 2026

Name:

Jeannie Okikiolu

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

None at present. Member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales between December 1988 and August 2024.

Address:

104 Ramillies Road, London, W4 1JA

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

The Salomon Orchestra

Registered Charity No. 256753

President : Martyn Brabbins

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