

The Hastings Music Festival Limited

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended 30 June 2025

**Registered under the Companies Act, number 167243
(A company limited by guarantee)**

Charity registration number:261351

The Hastings Music Festival Limited

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The Hastings Music Festival Limited
Festival Office, White Rock Theatre
Hastings TN34 1JX

Officers

Hastings Music Festival Limited is both a limited company and a charity.

Lesley Moore, Chair of Trustees and Director

Charlotte Beale, Trustee and Secretary of the Company

Hannah Deeble, Trustee and Director

Kenneth Roberts, Trustee and Director

Dr Richard Wray, Trustee and Director

John Hart, Trustee and Director (Resigned 14 November 2024)

Jenny Griffiths, General Secretary (Resigned 30 June 2025)

Marie White, General Secretary (Appointed 1 April 2025)

Manningtons
Independent Examiner
8 High Street, Heathfield
East Sussex, TN21 8LS

The Hastings Music Festival Limited

Report of the Trustees

The trustee, who are directors for the purpose of company law, present the annual report, together with the financial statement of the charitable company for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Objects and aims

The object for which the charity was formed and its principle activity remains the organisation of a competitive festival of music, elocution, drama and dance on an annual basis and to promote education in these fields. This competitive festival, takes place each year in February/March at the White Rock Theatre. The charity aims to provide opportunities and support to young people of all ages, aiming for participation or careers in the performing arts, by using proceeds from the annual festival to provide grants for them. In May 2019, an additional fund, the Molly Townson Bursary Fund, was established for this purpose and received donations in memory of our former Chair, Molly Townson.

Hastings Music Festival provides opportunities to prize-winners of the Festival through organising events and partnerships with other local organisations.

The charity also aims to support local schools in providing performance opportunities for their pupils and encouraging participation in the performing arts.

Public benefit

In setting the charity's objectives and planning its activities, the trustees have given consideration to and complied with the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Results of the year

The Statement of Financial activities shows that expenditure exceeded income by £1,042 (2024: deficit of £2,268) for the year and the Balance Sheet shows funds of £67,564

Reserves policy

The charity retains sufficient funds in reserves that at least exceed the yearly amount of administration and support costs and the fees of the independent examiner.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 8 May 1920 and registered as a charity with The Charities Commission.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

New trustees are required to familiarise themselves with the charity and the context within which it operates, covering:

- The obligations of the trustees
- The documents that set out the operational framework for the charity
- Resourcing and the current financial position per the latest published accounts.

The Hastings Music Festival Limited

Report of the Trustees (continued)

Organisational structure

The day to day operations of the charity are run by a part time General Secretary, supported by "sections secretaries" and a safeguarding officer who reports to the management committee that meet regularly. The Board of Trustees meets quarterly to manage the affairs of the charity and to provide strategic and financial governance of the charity.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks - financial, legislative and operational - to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to mitigate those risks and to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Financial risk

The charity aims to diversify its sources of funding which are primarily from its operation, that include ticket sales and competition entry fees, private donations and grants. The charity actively pursues grants, particularly from local organisations, to assist with its outreach plans that emphasise the increased participation of local school children.

Legislative risk

Most of the competitors in the Hastings Musical Festival are aged under 18 and therefore subject to extensive child protection requirements. The charity has a team of Child Protection Officers who liaise with the relevant County Councils and the British International Federation of Festivals, to ensure that the charity is compliant with the current interpretation of the law as it applies to festivals, while also lobbying for greater clarity. Hastings Musical Festival maintains Risk Registers for health and safety at their events. Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with child protection, health and safety, volunteers, competitors, adjudicators and audience members.

Operational risk

As well as the risks outlined above, the charity faces additional operational risks, including the risk of unavailability of venues on desired dates, lack of competitors, unavailability of adjudicators and reduced audience members. These risks are mitigated in the development of our strategic plan, which allowed for the diversification of funding, activities and venues and in the agile management of our operations.

Approved by the trustees on.....

Signed:

Lesley Moore
Chair, Board of Directors
Date:

The Hastings Music Festival Limited

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Hastings Music Festival Limited For the year ended 30 June 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Hastings Musical Festival Limited for the year ended 30 June 2025.

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 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 Charities 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 giving me cause to believe that:

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

.....
A J Thomson
Manningtons
8 High Street
Heathfield, East Sussex
TN21 8LS

The Hastings Music Festival Limited

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	2025	2024
INCOME		
Donations and Gifts	16,268	18,060
Charitable Activities		
Festival entries	31,345	28,459
Memberships	4,527	4,519
Ticket and programme sales	9,811	14,434
Other Income		
Fundraising and advertising	2,265	2,335
Interest Received	1,788	1,288
	66,002	69,095
 EXPENDITURE		
Charitable Activities		
Grants	12,696	15,534
Prizes and Trophies	6,231	5,602
Adjudicators fees and expenses	12,590	10,650
Administration and support costs	26,981	24,428
Projects	6,075	13,449
Lotteries and competitions	600	450
Governance costs - Independent Examiners fees	1,870	1,250
	67,043	71,363
 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	- 1,042	- 2,268
 FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	68,606	70,874
 FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>£67,564</u>	<u>£68,606</u>

The Hastings Music Festival Limited

BALANCE SHEET 30 JUNE 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
CURRENT ASSETS			
Trade Debtors		8,114	
Investment		26,000	26,000
Deposit			
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>56,933</u>	<u>58,604</u>
		91,047	84,604
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year			
	3	<u>-23,482</u>	<u>-15,998</u>
		67,564	68,606
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>67,564</u>	<u>68,606</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds as per Statement of Financial Activities		67,564	68,606
		<u>67,564</u>	<u>68,606</u>

DIRECTORS STATEMENT

1. The Company is entitled under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 to be exempt from a statutory audit relating to small companies.
2. No notice requiring an audit has been deposited under section 476 in relation to these accounts.
3. The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts
4. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and were approved by the Board on

Signed on behalf of the board of Directors

Chair, Board of Trustees

Date:

The Hastings Music Festival Limited

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

30 JUNE 2025

1 Accounting Policies

- (a) These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and, being of a charitable company that is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and with the Charities Act 2011.
- (b) Grants to students, who take part in a year's festival, are included in expenditure of the accounting year that ends on 30 June, although they may not have been decided upon or paid until after 30 June of that year

2 Administration and support costs-including salaries

No employees received employee benefits of more than £60,000.

3 CREDITORS

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	£	£
Deferred income	10,632	6,248
Trade Creditor	100	
Accruals	12,750	9,750
	<u>23,482</u>	<u>15,998</u>

4 Average number of part-time employees

<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

5 Trustees Remuneration, Benefits and Expenses

There were no payments to trustees during the year (2024: Nil)