

Haslemere Musical Society
Trustees' Annual Report

Charity name Haslemere Musical Society

Registered charity number 262696

For the financial year beginning 1 September 2023

For the financial year ending 31 August 2024

Charity's principal address c/o Mrs Sue Ecclestone Hon Secretary
The Warren
Tilford Road
Hindhead
GU26 6RA

Names of the charity trustees:

Name	Office (if any) and dates acted (if not for the full year).
Marion Bagshaw	Chairman
Patrick Callan	Vice-Chairman
Susan Ecclestone	Secretary
Simon King	Treasurer
Sarah Rogers	Orchestra Librarian
Johanna Sainsbury	Orchestra Librarian
Elizabeth Kerr	Choir Librarian
Sally Falk	
Charlotte Fentem	
Judith Ingham	
Ben Smithies	
Trevor Clarkson	

Governing document

Rules adopted 18 June 1971 as amended 17 October 1983, 8 October 2001, 17 October 2016 and 4 June 2024.

Appointment of trustees

Trustees are elected by and out of the membership at the Annual General Meeting of the Society. They receive no remuneration or other benefits from the charity.

Objects of the charity

To educate the public in the art and science of music, to enable members to make music together at regular rehearsals of choral and orchestral works under the direction of skilled musicians appointed for the purpose, to perform such works at public concerts and offer concertgoers good value for money, and from time to time to commission new works for performance by the Society.

Activities and achievements during the year

In planning our activities we have had regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

What joy it is to report on the year 2023 to 2024 and to be able to say we had four professionals who led the orchestra and choir through an amazing 100th year of the Society's existence. James Ross (Director of Music), Tom Horn (Orchestra Leader), Thomas Lydon (Chorus Master) and Clive Osgood, (Accompanist and Assistant Chorus Master) inspired and energised a season of exciting and enjoyable music

The first concert of the season began with an orchestral concert in St Christopher's Church on 14th October 2023. A full audience was treated first to the overture to Haydn's first oratorio *Il ritorno di Tobia*, a seldom performed work which has delightful melodies. James Ross explained the following work by Constant Lambert as being inspired when the composer was trapped in the Netherlands at the outbreak of the First World War. Then the evening's soloist, Ezo Sarici, a young Turkish violinist, excited the audience with her performance of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E Minor. After the interval the orchestra gave a good rendering of Charles Gounod's seldom played Symphony No 1 in D.

On Saturday 2nd December in the Haslemere Hall the Society started, as it had done in

1923, with a performance of Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony intended originally to be dedicated to Napoleon Bonaparte. After the interval the chorus joined the orchestra for Mozart's Coronation Mass with soloists Clare Loosley (soprano), Charlotte Tetley (alto), Timothy Dutton (tenor) and Thomas Lydon (bass). Finally the 100th Anniversary of the Society was aptly celebrated by a new work composed by Clive Osgood (Composer and Assistant Chorus Master and Accompanist) entitled *Sinfonia Cantiones*, described by our reviewer as 'easy on the ear' and constructed round the melodies and words of three medieval carols. It provided a fitting end to the Society's 100th Anniversary celebrations.

The new year (2024) began with the Society's traditional 'Come & Sing' on Saturday 3rd February. The HMS version starts with preparing some choral music accompanied by Clive Osgood and ends with a small orchestra accompanying a scratch performance to an invited audience. Thomas Lydon guided the singers who had signed up for selections from Haydn's 'Nelson Mass' and the renowned tea interval in St Christopher's Church.

Despite floods, fallen trees and temperatures plummeting the Saturday 2nd March concert went ahead starting excitingly with the Prelude to Act III of Wagner's *Lohengrin*. The Chorus sang brightly to match the daffodils on the lapels of their black tops. Janice Watson then demonstrated the power of her singing in Chausson's *Poème de l'amour et de la mer*. This beautiful piece was brilliantly performed but may have been a challenge for our audience. The second half was a romp through some of the most famous opera choruses by Verdi and Mascagni ending with the triumphal finale of the Easter Hymn.

Thomas Lydon had trained the chorus well, the orchestra seemed exhilarated by all that was required of it and the audience went away happily humming a tune or two.

The Concert on 11th May 2024 was the last in our 100th Anniversary year. Works by Respighi, Stravinsky, Vaughan Williams and Haydn made for a scintillating programme which stretched the orchestra and chorus to pull out all the stops. The highlight of the first half was undoubtedly our Leader, Tom Horn playing magnificently in Vaughan Williams' masterpiece, The Lark Ascending. With the lark finally escaping into a clear blue sky the audience was sent into the interval feeling an inch taller! The second half was a carefully chosen selection of scenes from Haydn's dramatic oratorio The Creation. The Chorus was joined by soprano Clare Loosely, tenor Richard-Thesiger Pratt and bass Thomas Lydon. After the hushed opening, the sudden impact of the word 'Light' exploding from the chorus rocked everyone back into their seats. Wearing golden feathers on their lapels the singers showed obvious enjoyment as they told the story of the Glory of God with harps and lyres, rising suns and a new world springing up at God's command. This was a truly rousing concert which must inspire the orchestra and chorus to keep making music of a high standard to give pleasure both in the preparation and the performance.

Our final music-making took place in June with four successful Open Sessions with Orchestra and the Choral Open Session which was called 'Explore Your Voice'. The latter involved a new format which invited singers and prospective singers to try out and improve their voices.

Financial review

It is good to see that the funds have increased compared to the previous year and that the efforts taken in 2023/24 were successful to maintain the ongoing survival of the society. We were fortunate to receive increased donations in the Centenary season, though these donation levels will be difficult to repeat in future years.

Reserves policy

The Society's reserves policy is that we should maintain reserves at 125 - 150% of the prior year's expenditure on regular professionals and venues.

At 31st August 2024, the total reserve of £32,642 is in this region and the Society has done well to increase this from the previous year's figure of £26,625. The Trustees maintain close scrutiny on the ongoing operating costs, and will make changes as needed.

The Trustees remain dedicated to protect the Society to ensure its survival in its second century.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources						
Income from donations and fundraising activities						
Patrons' and Friends' subscriptions	1,730	1,110	1,655	1,525	1,632	1,915
Donations and grants	6,100	3,199	5,477	50	4,255	7,782
Other fundraising activities	2,520	1,996	573	109	1,331	1,974
Gift aid on donations & fundraising activities	1,220	271	279	311	253	325
Income from charitable activities						
Members' subscriptions	14,383	12,792	9,044	7,315	11,277	11,906
Gift aid on members' subscriptions	2,068	1,953	1,524	1,492	1,747	2,021
Concert income	9,145	7,617	6,346	0	6,519	9,407
Gain on sale of fixed assets	0	0	0	0	0	1,178
Other charitable activities	0	189	690	0	181	680
Investment income		0				
Dividends on investments	355	145	166	163	612	731
Interest income	329	306	25	3	47	45
	37,851	29,578	25,778	10,968	27,855	37,964
Resources Expended						
Expenditure on fundraising activities						
Costs of fundraising activities	410	524	584	0	1,024	862
Expenditure on charitable activities						
Costs of rehearsals	16,243	14,119	16,485	11,840	16,210	14,113
Costs of concerts	14,830	13,195	11,187	0	17,031	18,088
Costs of other charitable activities	173	809	54	0	0	1,339
Administrative & running costs	738	977	677	1,266	1,519	3,325
	32,394	29,624	28,987	13,106	35,784	37,727
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES	5,457	-47	-3,209	-2,138	-7,930	237
Realised loss on sale of investments					0	-83
Unrealised gain on investments	560	8	-403	1,060	1,037	1,504
NET MOVEMENT IN FUND	6,017	-38	-3,611	-1,078	-6,892	1,658
Fund balance brought forward	26,625	26,664	30,275	31,353	38,245	36,587
TOTAL FUND CARRIED FORWARD	32,642	26,625	26,664	30,275	31,353	38,245

BALANCE SHEET at 31st August 2024

	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
	£	£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	0	0	0	0	0	0
CURRENT ASSETS						
Prepayments	0	0	0	0	0	736
Investments	6,646	6,086	6,077	6,480	5,420	19,747
Cash at bank	21,665	16,774	12,578	17,265	18,524	10,454
Cash in hand	2	0	0	0	208	0
COIF Deposit Fund	5,450	5,450	5,450	5,450	5,450	7,450
Accrued Income	0	2,685	3,303	1,500	2,000	0
	<u>33,762</u>	<u>30,995</u>	<u>27,409</u>	<u>30,695</u>	<u>31,603</u>	<u>38,387</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors	0	0	0	0	250	34
Deferred Income	1,120	4,310	380	420	0	0
Accruals	0	60	365	0	0	108
	<u>1,120</u>	<u>4,370</u>	<u>745</u>	<u>420</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>142</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>32,642</u>	<u>26,625</u>	<u>26,664</u>	<u>30,275</u>	<u>31,353</u>	<u>38,245</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>32,642</u>	<u>26,625</u>	<u>26,664</u>	<u>30,275</u>	<u>31,353</u>	<u>38,245</u>
REPRESENTED BY:						
Fund carried forward	<u>32,642</u>	<u>26,625</u>	<u>26,664</u>	<u>30,275</u>	<u>31,353</u>	<u>38,245</u>

HASLEMERE MUSICAL SOCIETY

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 - CONCERTS

Concert	Oct-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	May-24	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Box Office					
Tickets	904	2,789	2,461	2,501	8,655
Commission	(-108)	(-335)	(-295)	(-300)	(-1,039)
Funding/Donations	200	2,500	2,750	1,550	7,000
	996	4,955	4,915	3,751	14,616
Programmes					
Sales	0	0	0	0	0
Adverts	0	0	0	0	0
Printing	(-105)	(-129)	(-163)	(-146)	(-543)
	(-105)	(-129)	(-163)	(-146)	(-543)
Professional Fees					
Regular Professionals	(-799)	(-1,069)	(-1,069)	(-1,069)	(-4,006)
Soloists	(-232)	(-400)	(-500)	(-480)	(-1,612)
Professional aid	(-320)	(-610)	(-1,270)	(-710)	(-2,910)
Gifts	0	0	0	0	0
	(-1,351)	(-2,079)	(-2,839)	(-2,259)	(-8,528)
Other Costs					
Hire of Hall	(-145)	(-710)	(-710)	(-710)	(-2,276)
Hire/purchase of music	(-118)	(-85)	(-360)	(-50)	(-613)
Performing rights/royalties	0	(-161)	0	(-195)	(-356)
Orchestra tea	0	0	0	0	0
Printing posters and mailshot	(-51)	(-95)	(-154)	(-117)	(-417)
Other	0	(-500)	0	0	(-500)
	(-314)	(-1,551)	(-1,224)	(-1,072)	(-4,161)
Hospitality					
Sales and contributions	491	0	0	0	491
Costs	(-88)	(-179)	(-68)	(-79)	(-414)
	403	(-179)	(-68)	(-79)	77
Net Gain (Loss) on Concerts	(-371)	1,016	621	194	1,460

Simon King
Treasurer
Haslemere Musical Society
RE: Annual Accounts 2023-2024

Date: 23rd September 2024
Copperfields
Weydown Road
Haslemere
GU27 1DT

Dear Simon,

I have examined the above accounts as presented to me on 17th September 2024, and find them to be an accurate representation of the financial position of the Haslemere Musical Society for the accounting period 01 September 2023 to 31 August 2024.

Best wishes,

Geoff Martin

Geoff Martin
Retired Accountant