

LUTON MUSIC CLUB

England & Wales · Charity number 264659

Details

Other names	MUSIC ON MONDAYS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1972-10-16
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	19 St. Bartholomews Court Riverside Cambridge CB5 8JB
Phone	01223311563
Email	LutonMusicClub@gmail.com
Website	www.lutonmusic.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE, IMPROVE, DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN AND APPRECIATION OF THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MUSIC IN ALL ITS ASPECTS BY THE PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC CONCERTS AND RECITALS. THE CLUB WILL OPERATE IN SUCH A MANNER AS TO BE REGARDED AS A CHARITABLE BODY.

Activities: Education and training in arts and culture

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Bedford
- Central Bedfordshire
- Hertfordshire
- Luton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£32,751	£34,329	-	-
2024-12-31	£30,465	£32,714	-	-
2024-04-05	£32,691	£29,937	-	-
2023-04-05	£13,755	£28,827	-	-
2022-04-05	£21,378	£20,521	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
RICHARD PHILIP SISSON	Chair	2012-09-24
Dr Wendy Butler		2023-06-20
JOAN MARGARET DRAGE		2016-05-09
James Wilson		2022-08-08
MIKE ATKINSON		2008-04-29
Paul James Cott		2022-08-12
Roy Jeffrey Barnes		2025-03-18

LUTON MUSIC CLUB

England & Wales - Charity number 264659

Accounts

Luton Music Club 31st December 2025

CHARITY COMMISSION REFERENCE NUMBER 264659

Information

Trustees

R. Sisson (Chairman)
J. Drage (Secretary)
M. Atkinson (Treasurer)
W. Butler (Membership Secretary)
M. Sugars
J. Wilson
P. Cott

Principal Address

19, St. Bartholomew's Court
Riverside
Cambridge
CB5 8JB

Independent Examiner

Paul O'Brien
34 King James Close
Fordham, Ely
CB7 5ZH

Primary Bankers

The Co-Operative Bank
P.O. Box 250
Delf House
Southway
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025

OBJECTS

The charity is established to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in the appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals.

TRUSTEES AND THEIR INTERESTS

The Trustees are set out on page 1.

The elected Trustees were appointed as Committee Members of the Club at the AGM on the 3rd March 2025. They are responsible for the arrangements for concerts and other events and the control of finance and safeguarding the assets of the Club.

The Trustees had no interests in the contracts of the Charity.

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

The following were elected at the AGM on the 3rd March 2025

President: Petroc Trelawny

Vice Presidents: Michael Berkeley CSE (Lord Berkeley of Knighton), Steven Beaven, Christine Bunning, Kelvin Hopkins, Monica McCabe, Sid Rutstein, and Cllr. Hazel Simmonds.

Review of the 79th season, 2025

The 2025 season of concerts under the banner *Music on Mondays* ran from 17th March to 8th December. The twenty fortnightly events provided an opportunity for people in Luton and the surrounding towns and villages to experience musical excellence from artists, many of whom enjoy international reputations. As usual an inter-seasonal break took place during the winter months.

All 20 concerts this year took place at Luton's Grade 1 Listed Church of St Mary. This venue is attractive and comfortable and can accommodate a very large audience. Most of the concerts feature small ensembles but St Mary's can also provide for a larger group such as a choir when necessary. In addition, it is reasonably convenient for car parks and public transport.

The theme that drew the 20 concerts together this year was *Anniversaries and New Beginnings* allowing the choice of programme content to reflect the anniversaries of such composers as Shostakovich, Ravel, Bliss and Coleridge-Taylor. The idea of *New Beginnings* was expressed in new compositions, and also by musicians at the early stages of their careers such as guitarist Jack Hancher and cellist Hugo Svedberg.

Although the majority of concerts featured piano recitals, trios and quartets, some included larger ensembles, one example being the English Chamber Choir conducted by Rufus Frowde. A very different example was a concert featuring the folk ensemble Moonrakers Celtic Music with the Oxus String Quartet. As usual the popular annual Opera Gala in August showcased the talents of young singers and instrumentalists from Bedfordshire. The musicianship demonstrated at each of the twenty concerts is of the highest calibre and much appreciated by our audiences. Some artists are very popular and are asked to return every year – pianist Simon Callaghan is a good example of this. Others are totally new to Luton Music but generally give an impressive performance.

The overall standard across each year is consistently good but certain concerts stand out in the minds of individual members. The five members of the Kaleidoscope Band playing baroque and classical violin, viola d'amore, recorders, viola da gamba, theorbo and baroque guitar were a very good example. Another was the song cycle by leading mezzo-soprano Helen Charlston accompanied by collaborative pianist Sholto Kynoch. A third example was the final concert on 8th December featuring the Dominic Alldis Trio who performed improvisations of well-known classical pieces.

Membership of Luton Music stands at a total of 65 (Full subscription 44, Friends 21). Students under 18 years and in full time education are admitted free of charge. Attendance figures were generally in the 50s and 60s but for Margaret Fingerhut's recital on 4th August and for the final concert the audiences rose to over 70.

Our members show loyalty and are very supportive towards our programmes. There have been some generous donations this season with several members sponsoring the interval refreshments and others sponsoring whole concerts. There are individual members who are no longer able to attend through age or infirmity but still take out membership to support the Club. There is a friendly atmosphere at all concerts and several members seek out new faces in the audience in order to make them feel welcome.

Many of our members are elderly and so sadly there are always deaths to report. One of our longstanding members, Lillian Fountain died in June in her eighties after a period of declining health and Hilary Wilkinson who was 94 died in September.

Comments, both written and spoken, from members of the audience have been positive about the 2025 season and have indicated that they are looking forward warmly to the next season in March 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES



Joan Drage - Honorary Secretary

January 2026

Education Report for Music on Mondays 2025

Once again we were able to offer a season of 20 professional chamber music concerts in Luton. Attendance has remained steady and we have found the means to engage players of the highest calibre, ensuring that the quality of the concerts continues to be remarkable. It has been a particular pleasure over the year to welcome new faces to the club.

As usual we offered free admission to all students under 18 in full-time education. We continue our association with the Luton Sixth Form College and the students on their A Level music and dance courses. Our synergy with London's Royal College of Music has also developed and we have been nurturing our connections with the Royal Academy of Music, Trinity Laban in Greenwich and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. We continue to promote our concerts through our local music hub.

In preparation for our 80th Anniversary in 2026 our specific theme for this 2025 series has been *Anniversaries & New Beginnings*. This influenced the choice of artists and their repertoire, alongside our ongoing efforts to include music studied in A level courses throughout the country.

Our efforts to promote the series on social media have resulted in a significant number of audience members attending events for the first time.



Richard Sisson
(Chair of Luton Music)

The following 6 concerts were of particular educational significance:

CONCERTS

Monday 17th March 2025

Piatti String Quartet & Thomas Luke

Outstanding young British pianist, Thomas Luke, returned to Luton in a collaboration with the Piatti String Quartet. He had previously featured in one of our 'Stars of the Future' initiatives. This was now an opportunity for him to play Shostakovich with one of the finest quartets in the country. These regular 'Stars of the Future' programmes help us to identify young artists at the start of their careers and then to help them develop further performance skills. We had first come across Thomas as the winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year and then as a scholarship student at the Royal College of Music where he is currently studying.

Monday 31st March 2025

Moonrakers Celtic Music & OXUS String Quartet

The Music A level course taught in Luton involves study of the folk elements in the works of Ralph Vaughan Williams. This programme focussed on that aspect of the composer's output and was therefore of especially direct relevance to their studies. Students on the dance course at Luton Sixth Form College also choreographed a piece to one of the traditional folk songs that featured, which

they then performed live with the musicians in this concert. For most of the pupils this was their first opportunity to dance to live music. The performance was assessed and recorded as part of their A Level course work. The event, which was held in the beautiful local church of St Mary's, was widely supported by family members and fellow students.

Monday 21st July 2025

Greenwich Trio & Boris Bizjak

This was a programme featuring female composers and in particular Fanny Mendelssohn's Piano Trio; it was therefore of special interest to our Music A level students who study the piano trio of her contemporary Clara Schumann.

Monday 18th August 2025

Bedfordshire Youth Opera Gala

This Fundraising Benefit Concert is presented in collaboration with the annual summer course run by the Bedfordshire Music Trust. Young singers and instrumentalists work for three weeks in August to present a fully staged operatic production in Bedford, the rehearsals for which take place in Luton. As part of this highly feted course, the participants now also have this opportunity to perform a concert gala of operatic repertoire. Their professional guests for the event included the celebrated opera stars Kitty Whately and Simon Bailey, who performed in ensemble alongside the young singers. This was an inspirational occasion, attracting an audience of nearly 200 supporters and it raised over £1850 for the BYO organisation. It featured the remarkable playing of the young Bedford-based pianist Leo Little, whom we have been mentoring since his first appearance for us in a 'Stars of the Future' programme three years ago. An extract from a new opera, written by a member of the BYO chorus who studies at the Purcell School, also featured in the concert. The gala has become a favourite evening for regular members of *Luton Music*, and is now established as a significant show case for some 40 talented young local musicians.

Monday 1st September 2025

Soirée I

This programme featured two exceptional young performers. Cellist Hugo Svedberg was a finalist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year 2024 and played on this occasion accompanied by his father Jesper. Guitarist Jack Hancher also performed, the various contributions interspersed with poetry readings by Geraldine Clarkson. This unusual feature attracted an audience with an appetite for the spoken word; their feedback suggested that they were deeply impressed with the quality of these fine young artists.

Monday 13th October 2025

Soirée II

This was a second programme particularly featuring young performers at the beginning of their careers. Tom Winpenny played the magnificent organ in St Mary's Church; locally based saxophonist and composer Alistair Penman chose repertoire which included his own impressive works, and tenor Robert Folkes, who recently graduated from London's Royal Academy of Music, completed the line-up. The younger profile of these artists encouraged students from Luton to attend and they were clearly inspired by the achievements of these highly talented musicians.

The Accounts Reserves Policy Statement – 2025

The Committee of the Club plan concert programmes up to two years in advance. Artists are engaged, and programmes legally contracted, typically six months or more before a season starts.

Membership of the Club varies from year to year although, after several years of slow decline, has stabilised somewhat this year. However, audience figures have shown a slight decline this year. Grants and financial support from all sources are variable year on year. The Club is vulnerable to these changes, over which it has no control. Our approach to these circumstances is as follows.

We typically budget for 20 concerts per season at an average artist cost of £1200, and if all other costs were typical of the recent past, our commitments would sum to approximately £33,000. If all normal income halved, and no exceptional donations or bequests were received, the income would be approximately £14,000. The resulting deficit would amount to approximately 58% of budgeted costs. **We therefore consider a Reserves level of at least 60% of the budgeted expense to be a prudent policy.**

We could survive two consecutive years of these exceptional circumstances, which is in line with the lead time we operate to for concert planning. Whilst the committee will make its best endeavours to maintain the Reserves at this level, it retains a right to employ them as it sees fit for the benefit of the club's members to maintain programme quality, extent, audience numbers and the general good running of the club.

Mike Atkinson -Treasurer



December 2025

Accounts for Concert Season 2025		
	<i>INCOME</i>	
	Subscriptions & Tickets	£16,211
	Grants	£4,000
	Donations inc GA	£12,299
	Interest	£241
	Total	£32,751
	<i>EXPENDITURE</i>	
	Artists & Agents	£24,928
	Venues	£5,985
	Instruments Hire & Tune	£1,190
	New Commissions	£500
	Publicity	£573
	General operational expenses	£216
	Total Concert Expenditure	£33,392
	Admin Expenditure	£937
	Total Operational Expenditure	£34,329



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Luton Music Club

On accounts for the year ended

31 December 2025

Charity no (if any)

264659

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2025.

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 Charity'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: *Paul O'Brien*

Date: 23/01/2026

Name: Paul O'Brien

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

ICPA

Address: 34 King James Close

Fordham, Ely

CB7 5ZH

LUTON MUSIC CLUB

England & Wales - Charity number 264659

Accounts

2024 (6/4/24 - 31/12/24) EoY Accounts

INCOME **Trading Surplus/Deficit(-)** **-£5,560**
Overall Surplus/Deficit(-) **-£2,249**

<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Numbers</i>	
Subscriptions	43 Full + 28 Friends	£8,818
Tickets - door		£5,908
Total Concert Generated Income		£14,726

Grants

Steel Charitable Trust		£7,500
Wixamtree Trust		£4,000
Dodgson Charitable Trust		£928
	Total	£12,428

Total Trading Income **£27,154**

Reserve Account Income - Non-Trading

Donations		£1,952
Programme Donation		£407
Gift Aid (Cash & Programme Donations)		£745
Interest Received		£207
	Total	£3,311

EXPENDITURE

	Full Season Cost
Artists & Agents	£24,309
Instruments Hire & Tune	£1,652
Venues	£5,510
Publicity & Programme Printing	£490
Total Concert Expenditure	£31,961

Other Expenditure

Insurance	£155
Independent Examiner	£240
MM Membership & Card Charges	£358
	Total
	£753

Total Trading Expenditure **£32,714**

Cash and Assets at EoY

Petty	£150
Current Acc	£2,258
Deposit Acc	£5,717
Investment Acc	£15,000 Selling value £23882
Total	£23,125

Debtors	£937 (Gift aid + overpay at St. Mary's)
Creditors	£240 (Independent Examiner.)
Net Assets	£23,822

The Accounts Reserves Policy Statement – 2024

The Committee of the Club plan concert programmes up to two years in advance. Artists are engaged, and programmes legally contracted, typically six months or more before a season starts.

Membership of the Club varies from year to year although, after several years of slow decline, has stabilised somewhat this year. However, audience figures have shown a slight decline this year. Grants and financial support from all sources are variable year on year. The Club is vulnerable to these changes, over which it has no control. Our approach to these circumstances is as follows.

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Mike Atkinson -Treasurer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. P. Atkinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

December 2024



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Luton Music Club

On accounts for the year ended

31 December 2024

Charity no (if any)

264659

Set out on pages

3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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I report in respect of my examination of the Charity'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
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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: *Paul O'Brien*

Date: 30/01/2024

Name: Paul O'Brien

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

ICPA

Address:

34 King James Close

Fordham, Ely

CB7 5ZH

Luton Music Club 31st December 2024

Information

Trustees

R. Sisson (Chairman)
J. Drage (Secretary)
M. Atkinson (Treasurer)
W. Butler (Membership Secretary)
M. Sugars
J. Wilson
P. Cott

Principal Address

19, St. Bartholomew's Court
Riverside
Cambridge
CB5 8JB

Independent Examiner

Paul O'Brien
34 King James Close
Fordham, Ely
CB7 5ZH

Primary Bankers

The Co-Operative Bank
P.O. Box 250
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Southway
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

CHARITY COMMISSION REFERENCE NUMBER 264659

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024.

OBJECTS

The charity is established to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in the appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals.

TRUSTEES AND THEIR INTERESTS

The Trustees are set out on page 1.

The elected Trustees were appointed as Committee Members of the Club at the AGM on the 20th May 2024. They are responsible for the arrangements for concerts and other events and the control of finance and safeguarding the assets of the Club.

The Trustees had no interests in the contracts of the Charity.

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

The following were elected at the AGM on the 20th May 2024

President: Petroc Trelawny

Vice Presidents: Michael Berkeley CSE (Lord Berkeley of Knighton), Steven Beaven, Christine Bunning, Kelvin Hopkins, Monica McCabe, Sid Rutstein, and Cllr. Hazel Simmonds.

Review of the 78th season 2024

December 9th 2024 marked the end of the 78th season of concerts providing opportunity for audiences in Luton and the surrounding towns and villages to enjoy performances from artists many of whom have international reputations. Luton Music continues to provide a season of 20 concerts, a number that far exceeds that offered by other local music societies. Concerts were at fortnightly intervals from March 25th until 9th December allowing an interseasonal break to take place during the darkest and coldest months of the year. Apart from the advantages to our own members the provision of concerts throughout the summer months gives an opportunity for members of other societies to join our audience during their concert break.

This year all but one of the 20 concerts were held at the same venue, the Grade 1 Listed Church of St Mary in the centre of Luton. This is an attractive, spacious and comfortable medieval building and is convenient for car parks, trains and buses. The concert on 24th

June featuring eight members of the Berkeley Ensemble and guitarist Laura Snowden was held at St Augustine's Church, another venue where we are always made welcome.

The theme that echoed through the 20 concerts was *The Relationship between Literature, Art and Music* and this was demonstrated in several concerts and especially highlighted on 5th August when artist Dr Elizabeth Haines talked about how her paintings are inspired by music. Another notable evening involved actress Joanna David reading the short story *Bliss* by Katherine Mansfield before a performance of Richard Sisson's commissioned ballet score based on the same story and performed by an ensemble of piano, clarinet, violin, viola, cello and double bass.

Although the majority of concerts featured piano recitals, trios and quartets, several included larger ensembles, examples being a concert by horn player Ben Goldscheider accompanied by the Heath String Quartet, and the Magnard Ensemble, a quintet of wind instruments. The annual Opera Gala in August showcased the talents of young singers and instrumentalists from Bedfordshire and was compered by BBC Radio 3 presenter (and President of Luton Music), Petroc Trelawny.

Membership of Luton Music stands at a total of 71 (Full subscription 43, Friends 28). Students under 18 years and in full time education are admitted free of charge. Our members show loyalty and are very supportive towards our programmes. There have been some generous donations in recent years and there are individual members who are unable to attend but still take out membership in order to support the Club. There is a friendly atmosphere at concerts and several members look out for new faces in the audience in order to make them feel welcome. Individual members take the opportunity to distribute our brochures whenever they visit other local concerts in order to encourage others to attend.

We have had some sad deaths during 2024. Norman Fox was one of the founders of Luton Music in 1946 and an enthusiastic member until ill health required him to move nearer his family. Several members attended his funeral in October. Donald Robertson was a long standing and regular audience member until a few months before his death in April at the age of 89. Tom Cole who died in July at the age of 79 was for many years an active member of the Luton Music Committee and attended concerts until declining health made this difficult.

Comments, both written and spoken, from members of the audience have been positive about the 2024 season and many were sad at the final concert in December. Several have indicated that they are looking forward warmly to the next season in March 2025.

BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES

Joan Drage - Honorary Secretary

January 2025



Education Report for *Music on Mondays* 2024

Once again we were able to offer a season of 20 professional chamber music concerts in Luton. Attendance has remained steady and we have found the means to engage players of the highest calibre, ensuring that the quality of the concerts continues to be remarkable. It has been a particular pleasure over the year to welcome a range of new faces to the club.

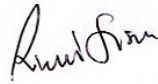
As usual we offered free admission to all students under 18 in full-time education. We continue our association with the Luton Sixth Form College and the students on their A Level music and dance courses. Our synergy with London's Royal College of Music has also developed and we have been nurturing our connections with the Royal Academy of Music, Trinity Laban in Greenwich and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. We continue to promote our concerts through MIX, our local music hub.

Our specific theme for this series has been *The Relationship between Literature, Art & Music* and this influenced the choice of artists and their repertoire. This has presented an opportunity to promote the series with two local poetry societies and various local painting groups. The specific content of many of our programmes also relates to the music studied in A level courses throughout the country.

Our efforts to promote the series on social media have resulted in a significant number of audience members who are attending events for the first time.

Richard Sisson

(Chair of Luton Music)



The following 11 concerts were of particular educational significance:

CONCERTS

Monday 25th March 2024

Fidelio Trio

This was the first of two substantial outreach projects for our 2024 season. In the autumn of 2023 London's Conway Hall ran an international competition for young composers. The prize was a workshop and subsequent performance for the six best entries of a new piece for Piano Trio. We invited those six young composers to Luton for a further performance of their works and our members then voted for their favourite pieces offering an 'audience prize'. It was a great success with music students from Luton able to meet successful semi-professional composers and learn from their experiences.

Monday 22nd April 2024

Engegård Quartet

The Music A level course taught in Luton has a special module focussing on female composers. This programme featured pieces by Maja Ratkje and Fanny Mendelssohn and was of particular relevance therefore to their studies.

Monday 13th May 2024

Symphonia Academica & Kwanyee Chan

This was an opportunity to offer a concert to a young graduate from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She played the Chopin Piano Concerto No.2. The concert was sponsored by two music club members who this year have donated £1000 specifically to develop opportunities for young players. (This was the second of three years of this generous gift to *Music on Mondays*.) Under this same arrangement we were also able to offer a concert to a double bass graduate from Guildhall.

Monday 10th June 2024

Tom Hicks

Tom Hicks returned to Luton for a full recital. He had previously featured in one of our 'Stars of the Future' initiatives. This was an opportunity for him to play an entire programme for our audience. These 'Stars of the Future' programmes help us to identify young artists at the start of their careers and then to help them develop further performance skills.

Monday 8th July 2024

Kitty Whately & Simon Lepper

This was another programme particularly featuring female composers and therefore of special interest to our Music A level students.

Monday 5th August 2024

The Relationship between Literature, Art & Music

This was the second of our substantial outreach projects for 2025. Pursuing our season's theme of *The Relationship between Literature, Art & Music*, Dr Elizabeth Haines ran a three hour Painting/Drawing workshop in the afternoon. This was attended by art students from Luton and by members of local painting clubs. The work they created was then displayed for the audience at the later concert. The evening began with an interview with Dr Haines and a graduate student composer from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama; this was followed by an extended concert given by young performers from London colleges. Much of the music for the programme had been used earlier in the day at the workshop. The event attracted many new faces and integrated our season with other aesthetic enterprises within our community.

Monday 19th August 2024

Bedfordshire Youth Opera

This Fundraising Benefit Concert is presented in collaboration with the annual summer course run by the Hertfordshire Music Trust. Young singers and instrumentalists work for three weeks in August to present a fully staged operatic production in Bedford, the rehearsals for which take place in Luton. As part of this highly feted course, the participants now also have this opportunity to perform a concert gala of operatic repertoire. Their professional guests for the event included the celebrated opera stars Andrew Slater and

Rachel Nicholls, who performed alongside the young singers. This was an inspirational occasion, attracting an audience of nearly 200 supporters and it raised over £1700 for the BYO organisation. It has become a favourite evening for regular members of *Luton Music*, and is now established as a significant showcase for some 40 talented young local musicians.

Monday 16th September 2024

Delphine Trio

In this concert three recent alumni of the Royal College of Music were enabled to gain concert experience and an opportunity to showcase their remarkable talents. The pianist Roelof Temmingh is another young artist who first came to perform for us whilst still a student at the Royal College of Music.

Monday 30th September 2024

Ben Goldscheider & Heath String Quartet

Now the French horn player of his generation, Ben Goldscheider, returned to Luton for this his fourth concert for us. He played for us originally in a 'Brass Stars of the Future' event; this was shortly before he won the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition in 2016. Every one of his concerts for *Music on Mondays* has proved inspirational and highly memorable.

Monday 14th October 2024

Bliss with Joanna David

The unusual element of an extended reading in this programme allowed us to reach out to different groups in promoting this event – poetry groups and amateur dramatic societies. This was also another concert offering a mentoring opportunity for a young player – the double bass player from earlier in the season returned for a further performance.

Monday 11th November 2024

Solem String Quartet

This was the third of our programmes particularly featuring female composers (Lili and Nadia Boulanger) and therefore of special interest to our Music A level students.

LUTON MUSIC CLUB

England & Wales - Charity number 264659

Accounts

Luton Music Club 5th April 2024

Information

Trustees

R. Sisson (Chairman)
J. Drage (Secretary)
M. Atkinson (Treasurer)
J. Savage – Retired May 2023
W. Butler - Co-opted June 2023
M. Sugars
J. Wilson
P. Cott

Principal Address

19, St. Bartholomew's Court
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Independent Examiner

Paul O'Brien
34 King James Close
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The Co-Operative Bank
P.O. Box 250
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CHARITY COMMISSION REFERENCE NUMBER 264659

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees present their Report and Accounts for the year ended 5th April 2024.

OBJECTS

The charity is established to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in the appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals.

TRUSTEES AND THEIR INTERESTS

The Trustees are set out on page 1.

With the exception of J. Savage and W. Butler, the elected Trustees were appointed as Committee Members of the Club at the AGM on the 15th May 2023. They are responsible for the arrangements for concerts and other events and the control of finance and safeguarding the assets of the Club.

The Trustees had no interests in the contracts of the Charity.

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

The following were elected at the AGM on the 15th May 2023

President: Petroc Trelawny

Vice Presidents: Michael Berkeley CSE (Lord Berkeley of Knighton), Steven Beaven, Christine Bunning, Kelvin Hopkins, Monica McCabe, Sid Rutstein, and Cllr. Hazel Simmonds.

Review of the 77th season 2023

December 4th 2023 marked the end of another enjoyable season of 20 concerts, each of which demonstrated the top quality performances that Luton Music audiences have come to expect and value. Our members continue to approve of our post pandemic change to holding concerts at fortnightly intervals from March to December with a slightly earlier start time of 7.30pm. A side advantage of this is that *Music on Mondays* offers concerts over the summer months when other local music societies are in-between their season so there is the opportunity to attract new audience members. The venue chosen for all but two of the concerts was the attractive Grade 2 listed St Mary's Church with car parks, rail and bus services located nearby. For the remaining two concerts we received a warm welcome at St Augustine's Church in the Limbury area of Luton.

The theme for the 2023 season was *The Ties between Pupil and Teacher* and this was demonstrated clearly at the first concert on 20th March by pianist John Lenehan whose pedagogical lineage can be traced back through Yonty Solomon to Charles Rosen to Moriz Rosenthal to Franz Liszt to Carl Czerny and finally to Ludwig van Beethoven himself! Another example later on in September was pianist Margaret Fingerhut who can also trace her teachers back to Beethoven via Leon Fleisher, Artur Schnabel, Theodor Leschetizky and Carl Czerny.

Much of the programming during the season delivered performances by traditional quartets and trios such the Piatti Quartet and the Eblana String Trio, and also return visits by pianists Leon Mccawley and Simon Callaghan. There were also some unusual concerts and one in particular featured the Berkeley Ensemble who gave a performance of *Façade* by the eccentric Edith Sitwell and composer William Walton. It has to be acknowledged that this event was not to everyone's taste! Other less usual performances were by James Gilchrist and the Linarol Consort of Viols, the Mēla Guitar Quartet and accordionist Miloš Milivojević. A particular treat was the Bedfordshire Youth Opera Gala in which young singers from Bedfordshire performed highlights from a variety of operas. We were delighted that baritone Roderick Williams took a prominent part in the evening. It was also an opportunity for the President of Luton Music, Petroc Trelawny, to attend and introduce the performances throughout the evening. Towards the end of the season a further evening highlighting the talent of young musicians took place on 27th November when teenage violinists Edward Walton and Madeline Grambow performed demanding music by Bartók, Szymanowski, Saint-Saëns and Bach. An extra treat for the audience was welcoming Edward and Madeline's teacher, Tasmin Little, to introduce the recital. The final concert on 4th December provided a delightful climax to the season with appearances by a young saxophone quartet, Opus Sax, cellist Caroline Ridout, pianist Lucy Parham and actor Robert Glenister.

The average attendance of Full and Friends attending in 2023 was 59 which was a slight increase on the season before. Full subscribers in 2023 totalled 41 whilst those taking out Friend's membership added up to 20.

Marketing channels continued as before involving the use of printed brochures, notices in the local press and with regular use made of social media. The email mailing lists to members and non members have continued to be well received and those few members who do not have access to email receive paper communications about important matters such as the date of the AGM. The exchange of concert information between local music societies continues to be promoted by the Secretary, and some Members helpfully take a bundle of Luton Music brochures to distribute when attending other concerts. Nine new regular members of the audience have been noticed throughout the season.

Members were sorry to hear of the deaths of three members during 2023. Marjorie Williams and Gillian Robertson who were both loyal, lively and regular members of the audience died early in the year then David Foster died in November. David was a longstanding and supportive member whose contribution to the Club over the years included 'meeting and greeting' the artists and making them welcome. Not long after the 2023 Season ended came the sad news that another very supportive and longstanding member had died. This was Ken Boyes who had been a founder member of Luton Music Club and a regular member of the audience until poor health made this difficult. Despite the sadness of these deaths, the 2023 Season has been a rewarding one with musical excellence demonstrated at each one of the 20 concerts. We look forward as always to the delights of the next season.

BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES



Joan Drage - Honorary Secretary
March 2024

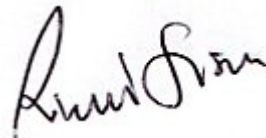
Education Report for *Music on Mondays* 2023

Once again we were able to offer a full season of 20 professional chamber music concerts in Luton. Attendance has improved by almost 20% and we have found the means to engage players of the highest calibre ensuring that the quality of the concerts continues to be remarkable. We are also attracting a wider range of audience members.

As usual we were able to offer free admission to all students under 18 in full-time education. We continue our association with the Luton Sixth Form College and the students on their A Level music and dance courses. Our synergy with London's Royal College of Music has also continued and we have also developed new connections with the Royal Academy of Music, Trinity Laban in Greenwich and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. It is also perhaps worth noting that the content of many of our programmes relates to the music studied in A level courses throughout the country.

Our specific theme for this series has been *The Ties between Pupil & Teacher* and this has clearly influenced the choice of artists and their repertoire. As a direct result this has led to a considerable increase in the number of youngsters attending the concerts, both as performers and audience members.

Our increased efforts to promote the series in new ways have resulted in steady growth in the number of audience members attending events for the first time.



Richard Sisson
(Chair of Luton Music)

The following eleven concerts were of particular educational significance:

CONCERTS

Monday 3rd April 2023

Stars of the Future

Leo Little; Ety Ashton; Polina Sosnina; Thomas Luke

These four young instrumentalists represent some of the most promising artists in the country. Prize-winners in a variety of local and national music competitions (including BBC Young Musician of the Year), their performances were inspirational to those in our own town hoping to emulate such achievements. Ety was only 14 and Leo 16 years old; Polina and Thomas are both students at London's Royal College of Music. It was an evening of truly remarkable achievements.

Monday 22nd May 2023

Delphine Trio

Roelof Temmingh is a student of mine from the Royal College of Music. His trio is formed with two colleagues, all three of them prestigiously having been awarded Junior Fellowships. The concert provided a platform for them to develop some repertoire before going into the studio to record it. They will also return next season as we support them in building up a portfolio of performance opportunities.

Monday 3rd July 2023

Edward Picton-Turbevill with Theano Papadaki, Rosa Herwig, Jonathan Hyde & Michael Lafferty

Edward attended a masterclass that I gave at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. As a consequence of this collaboration, he then put together a programme showcasing four young singer colleagues; this was also an opportunity for him to programme his own remarkable compositions.

Monday 31st July 2023

Off The Wall Ensemble

This group is led by viola player Josh Law. He was joined by five other young virtuoso players from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. The audience for this concert contained many of the student singers from the Bedfordshire Youth Opera course, as Josh had played in the orchestra for their 2022 production.

Monday 21st August 2023

Bedfordshire Youth Opera

This Fundraising Benefit Concert is presented in collaboration with the annual summer course run by the Hertfordshire Music Trust. Young singers and instrumentalists work for three weeks in August to present a fully staged operatic production in Bedford, the rehearsals for which take place in Luton. As part of this highly feted course, the participants now also have this opportunity to perform a concert gala of operatic repertoire. Their professional guests for the event included the internationally celebrated opera stars Roderick Williams and Rachel Nicholls. This was an inspirational occasion, attracting an audience of nearly 200 supporters and it raised over £1800 for the BYO organisation. It is fast becoming a favourite evening for regular members of *Luton Music*, and it has established itself as a significant show case for some 40 talented young local musicians.

Monday 18th September 2023

Serenades for Winds

In this concert five experienced professional wind players invited the young student bassoonist, Bruce Parris, to join them on stage. This mentoring process has been sponsored by two club members, who are donating £3000 over three seasons to help develop opportunities specifically for young artists.

Monday 16th October 2023

Piatti String Quartet

This was another concert offering mentoring opportunities for young players. (See above.) This time it featured the Asaka Quartet, Performance Fellows studying at London's Royal Academy of Music. Mendelssohn's Octet for Strings received a passionate and very memorable performance.

Monday 30th October 2023

Gildas String Quartet

Once again this was another concert offering mentoring opportunities for a young player. (See above.) Young viola player, Erin Vinter, currently studying at the Birmingham Conservatoire, joined the quartet for a performance of Mozart's G minor Quintet. It was a truly thrilling occasion for this young player and her family.

Monday 13th November 2023

Milos Milivojevic & Simon Callaghan

Students on the dance course at Luton Sixth Form College choreographed a piece to the music of Piazzolla's *Libertango*, which they then performed live with the musicians. For most of the pupils this was their first opportunity to dance to live music. The performance was assessed and recorded as part of their A Level course work. The concert, which was held in the beautiful local church of St Mary's, was widely supported by family members and fellow students.

Monday 27th November 2023

Edward Walton, Madeline Grambow & John Lenehan

This was the final concert being supported by the grant to encourage young musicians particularly. The celebrated violinist, Tasmin Little, came to Luton to present two of her most accomplished young students in concert. Audience members were perhaps already familiar with the playing of Edward Walton, having seen him as a finalist in the recent BBC Young Musician of the Year competition. Both of these exceptional players benefited hugely from the guidance of John Lenehan at the piano and their performances served as an inspiration to young Luton based instrumentalists.

Monday 4th December 2023

Christmas Concert

This final concert was one last exploration of our series' theme of *The Ties between Pupil & Teacher*. A young saxophone quartet from Trinity Laban featured, led by Amadea Topalli, a former student of Luton Sixth Form College. Caroline Ridout, an exceptional cello teacher from Luton, also played and there was a fine contribution from one of our Vice-presidents, Christine Bunning, another remarkable teacher here in the Beds/Herts area. The success of this event has led to a new initiative to programme a yearly concert presented entirely by young musicians from Luton.

The Accounts

Reserves Policy Statement – 2023/24

The Committee of the Club plan concert programmes up to two years in advance. Artists are engaged, and programmes legally contracted, typically six months or more before a season starts.

Membership of the Club varies from year to year although, after several years of slow decline, has stabilised somewhat this year. However, audience figures have shown a slight decline this year. Grants and financial support from all sources are variable year on year. The Club is vulnerable to these changes, over which it has no control. Our approach to these circumstances is as follows.

We typically budget for 20 concerts per season at an average artist cost of £1200, and if all other costs were typical of the recent past, our commitments would sum to approximately £33,000. If all normal income halved, and no exceptional donations or bequests were received, the income would be approximately £14,000. The resulting deficit would amount to approximately 58% of budgeted costs. **We therefore consider a Reserves level of at least 60% of the budgeted expense to be a prudent policy.**

We could survive two consecutive years of these exceptional circumstances, which is in line with the lead time we operate to for concert planning.

Whilst the committee will make its best endeavours to maintain the Reserves at this level, it retains a right to employ them as it sees fit for the benefit of the club's members to maintain programme quality, extent, audience numbers and the general good running of the club.

Mike Atkinson -Treasurer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. P. Atkinson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

April 2024

Simplified Version

2024 EoY Accounts			
INCOME		<i>Trading Surplus/Deficit(-)</i>	-£3,555
		<i>Overall Surplus/Deficit(-)</i>	£2,754
Revenue	Numbers		
Subscriptions	41 Full + 20 Friends		£7,927
Tickets - door			£6,456
Total Concert Generated Income			£14,383
Grants			
Steel Charitable Trust			£7,500
Wixamtree Trust			£4,000
Dodgson Charitable Trust			£500
		Total	£12,000
Total Trading Income			£26,383
Reserve Account Income - Non-Trading			
Donations (Inc Gift Aid)			£5,447
Programme Donation (Inc Gift Aid)			£599
Interest Received			£262
		Total	£6,309
EXPENDITURE			
		Full Season Cost	
Artists & Agents		£21,910	
Instruments Hire & Tune		£880	
Venues		£5,315	
Publicity & Programme Printing		£732	
Total Concert Expenditure		£28,837	
Other Expenditure			
Insurance		£151	
Independent Examiner		£240	
Miscellaneous		£709	
		Total	£1,100
Total Trading Expenditure		£29,937	
Cash at EoY			
	Petty	£150	
	Current Acc	£13,982	
	Deposit Acc	£5,532	
	Investment Acc	£15,000	Selling value £22,796
	Total	£34,664	So if sold, total assets = £42,460



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Charity Name Luton Music Club		
On accounts for the year ended	05 April 2024	Charity no (if any)	264659
Set out on pages			

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 05/04/2023.

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 Charity'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:**

Name:

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

Address:

Section B**Disclosure**

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.