

DEVON BAROQUE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2024

REGISTERED CHARITY No. 271219

Devon Baroque
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Devon Baroque**Reference and Administration Details Year Ended 31 March 2024**

Registered Charity number	271219
Trustees	James Hudson Angus Gordon Anne-Marie Scott-Masson Basil Butler Ian Graham-Jones Laura Carstairs Andrew Wilson-Dickson
Address	Binneford House Yeoford Crediton Devon EX17 5EZ
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 King Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Independent Examiner	Stephanie Busby BA(Hons) MICB PM.Dip 26 Naseby Drive Heathfield Newton Abbot TQ12 6SE

Devon Baroque
Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Devon Baroque

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Devon Baroque ("the Charity") for the year ended 31st March 2024 which are set out on pages 5 to 7

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the Charity, 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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Stephanie Busby BA(Hons) MICB PM.Dip
Member Institute of Certified Bookkeepers

Busby's Bookkeeping Services
26 Naseby Drive
Heathfield
Newton Abbot
Devon
TQ12 6SE

Date: 12 July 2024

Devon Baroque

Trustees Report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024. The financial statements comply with the current statutory requirements, by the governing document and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP) 2015.

The objective of the Charity as set out in the Trust document, shall be to educate the Public in the Art and Science of Musice (with particular reference to Baroque music) by establishing and maintaining facilities for the study and performance of Baroque music played on period specific instruments for the benefit of the Public.

Organisational Structure

The Charity's Governing document was updated in line with current best practice and approved by the trustees and members of the charity on 12 September 2002. The charity is governed by a Board of seven trustees. Trustees are elected by members of the Charity at the Annual General Meeting.

The following trustees acted during the year: Mr J Hudson (Chair), Mr A Gordon, Mr B R R Butler, Mrs A Scott-Masson, Dr. A Wilson-Dickson, Mr I Graham Jones & Mrs Laura Carstairs.

CHAIR'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that the last 12 months have seen a more stable financial period for the charity. We have taken the difficult decision not to play in speculative venues which offered significant risk of financial loss and instead have concentrated our performances towards Tiverton to the north of the county and the Totnes area to the south. We are aware that our remit allows us to cover the neighbouring counties of Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset but shifting too far away from our current audience base presents significant difficulties given the support resources that we have available to us. We have also reintroduced the concept of doubling up a concert over a single weekend. This means that we can rehearse a concert on a Friday, play in one venue on the Saturday and the same concert in a different location on the Sunday, saving costs of travel, rehearsal time and programme printing.

CONCERT PERFORMANCES

As in the previous financial year, the orchestra performed five concerts. In June we were at St Mary's, Totnes for a rerun of Seasons and Windmills, which had been played in Tiverton the previous November. St Mary's has the advantage of being in the centre of town with good parking and an excellent acoustic but as a venue it leaves a lot to be desired. The building is not in good order, regular audience members know to bring cushions to alleviate the discomfort of the seating and the toilet facilities are far from satisfactory. Despite extensive publicity the audience numbers were disappointing and it is hard to tell if that is down to the environment mentioned above or the timing. It is worth mentioning that St Mary's sister church, St John's in Bridgetown, Totnes offers a more comfortable audience experience but with less immediate parking and was used by an ensemble group of the

In September we played a concert called 'Concerto Heaven with Virtuoso Flutes' featuring soloists James Risdon and Rachel Brown. This was one of our double venue concerts at Tiverton and Dartington. We are continuing to learn from playing at Tiverton where additional publicity resources are required to boost the audience numbers.

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Devon Baroque
Trustees Report cont. for the year ended 31 March 2024

In December we once again supported the Exeter Cathedral Choir in their performance of Messiah. This has become a regular feature of our concert programme and we are now being commissioned early enough by the cathedral to ensure that we can hire the best talent to augment the regular orchestra.

In February we returned to Dartington to play a concert called 'Baroque without Borders' featuring flautist, Georgia Browne, and it also saw the return of Matthew Nisbet to play theorbo and guitar with the orchestra. This concert sold out.

WORKSHOP

After the 'Baroque without Borders' concert, a number of players took part in a workshop the following day for schoolchildren doing GCSE music, organised by the Devon Music Education Hub. The Hub have said they were pleased with the way the workshop went but if it is repeated the organisers from our side would like to make some changes to make it more effective.

DARTINGTON

The financial woes of Dartington have been well documented over recent years. Following real problems encountered by the orchestra in the run-up to and on the weekend of the 'Baroque without Borders' concert we took the difficult decision to sever our relationship with Dartington, at least for the time being. The issues for us were twofold. Firstly, we had serious doubts as to whether our ticket money would be paid because of the parlous state of their finances and secondly the new management team at Dartington had terminated the employment of almost all the people who understood what was involved in hosting a professional orchestra. In addition, Dartington had wanted to raise their hire rates from a level which already posed great problems for us to a level which made performing there completely untenable. It is a sad situation as our relationship goes back over 20 years but we cannot take that degree of financial risk. I have recently received assurances from Dartington management that the finances are now stable but have also had reports that their concert management continues to be chaotic. We will continue to monitor the situation.

THE ORCHESTRA

The talent, professionalism and dedication of members of the orchestra has never been in doubt but I believe that this year they have surpassed themselves. Our audiences have been delighted, enchanted and enthralled by the quality of their music and we must count ourselves truly fortunate to hear them play. On behalf of the trustees I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

TRUSTEES, MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS

I would like to thank my fellow trustees, the management committee and our volunteers for their continued hard work and dedication over the last year. We hope to appoint two new trustees shortly to allow two long serving trustees to retire. Recruiting trustees and volunteers is proving difficult and we are not alone amongst charities who face similar problems. As I will be leaving Devon and moving to Buckinghamshire this will be my last AGM report. Nicola Smith, who is well known to many of you, has taken on the role of General Manager responsible for the day to day running of the orchestra. I will be handing over my Trustee duties to Angus Gordon who will hold the role until a new Chair can be found. I have worked with the orchestra and its support team for about five years and it has been the greatest pleasure to be part of such an inspiring group of people who bring such pleasure to our audiences. Thank you.

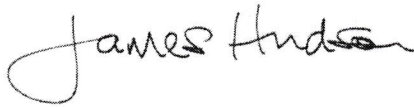
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Devon Baroque

Trustees Report cont. for the year ended 31 March 2024

Reserves Policy

The Trustees seek to ensure that the cash balance does not fall below £3,000 as this provides for running costs for the year. It is hoped that the successful Patron's Scheme may be expanded during the coming year.



James Hudson

On behalf of the Board of Trustees

8th July 2024

Date

Devon Baroque**Receipts & Payments for the year ended 31 March 2024**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income		
Ticket Sales	12,829.15	10,270.65
Friends Subscriptions	1,275.00	-
Patrons Scheme	1,950.00	5,330.00
Grants and Donations	15,682.50	7,781.00
Interest	124.80	70.37
Concert and Workshop fees	-	-
Programme Sales	499.05	305.00
Gift Aid	2,959.19	2,526.24
Total receipts	35,319.69	26,283.26
Payments		
Orchestra Fees	26,968.83	27,911.14
Workshop Fees	668.00	-
Venue Hire/Subscriptions	2,456.00	3,213.50
Travel	-	-
Publicity, Programmes & Recording	975.15	1,055.00
Postage, Stationery & Committee expenses	-	1,853.04
Fundraising Fees	-	1,527.00
Website	759.29	223.00
Concert Expenses	207.00	790.00
Accommodation & Food	-	-
Vehicle Hire	-	-
Insurance	557.82	517.82
Bank Charges	60.00	72.00
Independent Examination of Accounts	150.00	75.00
Total payments	32,802.09	37,237.50
NET OF RECEIPTS/(PAYMENTS)	<u>2,517.60</u>	<u>- 10,954.24</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS		
Cash funds brought forward	6,858.46	17,812.70
CASH FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>9,376.06</u>	<u>6,858.46</u>

Devon Baroque
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the period
as at 31 March 2024

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Cash Funds	Bank Current Account	2,744.71	-	-
	Bank Deposit Account	6,631.35	-	-
			-	-
	Total cash funds	9,376.06	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments accounts(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
Other monetary assets	Gift Aid	1,216.25	-	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Liabilities	Independent Examiner's Fee	Unrestricted	150.00	-
				-
			-	-

Devon Baroque
Approval statement

We approve these accounts which comprise the Receipts & Payments Account, Statement of Assets & Liabilities and related notes. We acknowledge our responsibility for the accounts, including the appropriateness of the accounting basis as set out in note 1, and for providing all the information and explanations necessary for their compilation.

Signed by one or two
trustees on behalf of all
the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of Approval
	J. HUDSON	16/8/24