



CSO AGM 2025

Chair's Report

Introduction

This has been my first year as Chair of the City of Southampton Orchestra, and I want to begin by saying how much of a privilege it has been to serve in this role. My focus this year has been on getting to know the running of the orchestra behind the scenes and understanding the many tasks that keep us moving, from programming and finances to communications, volunteer coordination, and audience development.

It has been a year of listening, learning, and laying foundations. I have seen first-hand the dedication of our committee, section leaders, and volunteers, and I am grateful for the support and encouragement I have received.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

I want to thank everyone who has contributed this year – committee members, section leaders, and those who have volunteered extra time for moving instruments, stewarding etc. Special thanks go to Wayne Landen, who is stepping down as Marketing and Publicity Co-ordinator.

Concerts and Rehearsals

We have enjoyed a rich and ambitious programme across our venues:

- **Thornden Hall, November 2024** – Mel Bonis (*Ophelia* and *Cleopatra*), Bernstein (*West Side Story* Symphonic Dances), Prokofiev (*Romeo and Juliet*). A bold and colourful start to the season.
- **Family Concert, January 2025, Central Hall** – A “Heroes and Villains” theme, including Bernard Hughes’ *The Knight Who Took All Day*, alongside music from *Frozen*, *Star Wars*, and *Spiderman*. A long-standing tradition for the orchestra and always a pleasure to work with Phil Cheeseman. I would welcome ideas for how to invigorate this format and lift audience numbers.
- **Turner Sims, March 2025** – Shostakovich’s *Chamber Symphony*, Stravinsky’s *Concerto for Piano and Winds* with David Palmer, and Tchaikovsky’s *Symphony No. 2*, conducted by Joe Davies. A bold programme, though again, unfortunately not matched by audience numbers.
- **Romsey Abbey, June 2025** – Emilie Mayer’s *Faust Overture*, Elgar’s *Cello Concerto* with Hannah Arnold, and Brahms’ *Symphony No. 4*. A demanding programme, but one that showed the orchestra’s confidence and ambition.

- **Music in the City, September 2025, St Michael's Church** – Mendelssohn's *Midsummer Night's Dream Overture*, Beethoven's *Romance No. 2*, Haydn's *Symphony No. 101 "The Clock"*, and Fauré's *Requiem*, in collaboration with Clara Voces Chamber Choir. A packed audience and a reminder of how well CSO adapts to chamber-scale and collaborative performance.

These concerts have reaffirmed our reputation as one of the leading amateur orchestras in the region, with a broad repertoire and appeal.

Finances

The Treasurer's Report highlights both successes and challenges. On a positive note, our non-concert income and costs saw a small addition to the reserves of £242, which shows that our subscription rate was appropriate, and the proposed increase of £10 per player will allow the budget to absorb further inflationary costs. I know first-hand that the programming committee has also worked hard to keep concert expenses down in a time of inflationary pressures.

The main challenge we are facing is the dip in concert income, which fell on a per concert basis by £631.

Per concert breakdown – comparing 23/24 to 24/25*

	24/25 – 4 concerts	23/24 – 5 concerts
Concert income	3585	3865
Concert expenses	3969	3618
Surplus (Deficit)	(384)	247

*MitC excluded

When comparing the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons (excluding Music in the City), we can see the importance of maintaining strong audience numbers. In 2023/24, across five concerts, we achieved a modest surplus of £247, while in 2024/25, with four concerts, we recorded a small deficit of £384. Concert income fell slightly (£3,585 vs £3,865), while expenses rose (£3,969 vs £3,618).

At our current ticket price of £18, we needed to sell around 20 more tickets per concert to break even, or 32 more tickets per concert to enjoy the same small surplus we achieved in 23/24.

I recognise that this is not easy in the current climate, with many audience members themselves feeling the financial pressures of rising costs. That makes it all the more important for us to add value to the audience experience, whether through imaginative programming, engaging soloists, family-friendly events, or opportunities to connect with the orchestra. By making each concert feel special and memorable, we can encourage audiences to see CSO performances as experiences worth prioritising, even in challenging times.

Future Goals

Looking forward, my priorities as Chair are clear:

- **Revising our Marketing Plan** in order to widen our audience base and improve ticket sales through clearer branding, stronger social media presence, and more proactive promotion of concerts.
- **Increasing Volunteer Involvement** – The orchestra depends on the contributions of its members. I am asking everyone to consider how they might help beyond playing. Even small contributions make a big difference.
- **Seeking Player Feedback More Regularly** – We are introducing short **online surveys** to capture members' views on programming, rehearsal experience, and organisational priorities. This will help the committee respond more effectively to your needs.

One of the greatest strengths of the CSO is the energy and commitment of its players, both on stage and behind the scenes. As we look ahead, I would encourage everyone to think about how we can each contribute a little more to the life of the orchestra — whether that's helping to promote concerts, welcoming new members, sharing ideas through our surveys, or simply spreading the word among friends and family. Every small act of engagement makes a big difference: it builds our audiences, strengthens our community, and ensures that the CSO continues to flourish. Together, we can create not only memorable performances but also a vibrant and supportive environment that reflects the very best of what a community orchestra can be.

Bernie's View

Bernie would like the final word:

"A symphony is like life – sometimes stormy, sometimes calm, but always worth playing through."



Bree Enemark
CSO Chair

City of Southampton Orchestra
"Highlights"
for the 12 Months Ended 31 July 2025

	24/25	23/24	Variance
Concert Income	14,343	19,327	(4,984)
Concert Costs	15,878	18,094	(2,216)
	<u>-1,535</u>	<u>1,233</u>	<u>(2,768)</u>
Non-concert Income	14,899	16,240	(1,341)
Non-concert Costs	14,657	13,131	1,526
	<u>242</u>	<u>3,109</u>	<u>(2,867)</u>
TOTAL	<u>-1,293</u>	<u>4,342</u>	<u>(5,635)</u>
 SURPLUS FUNDS AT YEAR END	 32,819	 34,112	 (1,293)

City of Southampton Orchestra
Statement of Financial Activities
for the 12 Months Ended 31 July 2025

	Unrestricted Funds 2024-25 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023-24 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022-23 £
Incoming Resources			
Non-Concert Income			
Subscriptions	11031	11947	10422
Friends	630	690	540
Donations	0	500	0
Gift Aid	2834	2589	2674
CDs/books	0	0	5
Teas Income	172	96	197
Interest	231	243	120
Concert Fees	0	175	0
Sponsorship	0	0	150
Miscellaneous	0	0	0
Total Non-Concert Income	14,899	16,240	14,108
Concert Income			
Ticket Revenue	13951	18528	15150
Programme Sales	392	799	478
Total Concert Income	14,343	19,327	15,628
Total Incoming Resources	29,242	35,567	29,736
Resources Expended			
Non-Concert Expenditure			
Rehearsal Conductor	5820	5895	5680
Rehearsal Hall Hire	4734	3866	4527
Music Hire	2057	1095	2453
Making Music Subscription	566	323	458
Admin & Stationery	95	61	141
Marketing - non concert	138	298	121
Concert expense	120		
Depreciation/loss on disposal	771	784	872
Miscellaneous	201	532	251
Bank costs	155	277	236
Total Non-Concert Expenditure	14,657	13,131	14,739
Concert Expenditure			
Conductor - Concert	3150	3900	3150
Soloists	1475	1363	1937
Players Expenses	1587	1115	1085
Hall - Concert	5660	6881	5673
BO Commission	1161	1776	1280
PRS	643	549	622
Instrument Hire	377	132	0
Percussion Transport	533	597	587
Flowers/Drink/Gifts	66	73	62
Printing Programmes	436	701	434
Posters	326	313	214
Mail Shot	85	104	589
Advertising	379	590	444
Miscellaneous	0	0	1022
Total Concert Expenditure	15,878	18,094	17,099
Total Resources Expended	30,534	31,225	31,838
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources before Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)	(1,293)	4,342	(2,102)
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Movement in Funds	(1,293)	4,342	(2,102)
Total Funds Brought Forward	34,112	29,770	31,872
Total Funds Carried Forward	32,819	34,112	29,770

of which:

Concert Related	(1,535)	1,233	(1,471)
Rehearsal & Non-Concert Related	242	3,109	(631)
Total	(1,293)	4,342	(2,102)

Concert P&Ls

City of Southampton Orchestra
Concert Income & Expenditure
for concert season 2024/25

	Sep 24				Nov 24		Jan 24		Mar 25		Jun 05		2024-25 Total	2023-24 Total	
	Music in the City		Thornden		Central Hall		Turner Sims		Romsey Abbey						
	£ Actual	£ Actual	£ Actual	£ Actual	£ Actual	£ Actual	£ Actual	£ Actual							
Concert Income															
Tickets	0	4051	0	3622	2144	4134	0	13951					18,528		
Programme Sales	0	165	0	0	65	162	0	392					799		
Programme Advertising															
Sponsorship															
Miscellaneous							0								
Total Concert Income															
	0	4,216	0	3,622	2,209	4,296	0	14,343					19,327		
Concert Expenditure															
Conductor - Concert	0	750	0	1,000	650	750	0	3,150					3,900		
Soloists	0	0	0	50	675	750	0	1,475					1,363		
Players Expenses	85	595	85	545	175	187	0	1,587					1,115		
Orchestra costs															
Total Professional Fees															
	85	1,345	85	1,595	1,500	1,687	0	6,212					6,378		
Hall - Concert	0	1,290	0	1,190	1,452	990	0	4,922					5,882		
Venue staffing costs	0	0	0	738	0	0	0	738					999		
BO Commission	0	486	0	227	308	140	0	1,161					1,776		
PRS	0	75	0	240	167	161	0	643					549		
Instrument Hire/Purchase/Tune	50	100	0	0	227	0	0	377					132		
Percussion Transport	8	172	0	124	115	114	0	533					597		
Flowers/Drink/Gifts	0	0	0	35	19	12	0	66					73		
Total Venue															
	58	2,123	58	2,554	2,288	1,417	0	8,440					10,008		
Printing Programmes	0	175	0	0	107	154	0	436					701		
Posters	0	117	0	63	48	98	0	326					313		
Mail Shots/FB Boosts	0	25	0	20	40	0	0	85					104		
Advertising/design/artwork	0	114	0	163	102	0	0	379					590		
Total Publicity															
	0	431	0	246	297	252	0	1,226					1,708		
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0								
Total Concert Expenditure															
	143	3,899	143	4,395	4,085	3,356	0	15,878					18,094		
Net Income/(Expenditure)															
	(143)	317	(143)	(773)	(1,876)	940	0	(1,535)					1,233		
Cumulative profit/(loss)															
	(143)	174	(143)	(599)	(2,475)	(1,535)	0	0							

City of Southampton Orchestra
Balance Sheet at 31 July 2025

						Total Funds 31/07/25 £	Total Funds 31/07/24 £	Total Funds 31/07/23 £	Total Funds 31/07/22 £	Total Funds 31/07/21 £
Fixed Assets										
Cost	Instruments	Eqpt	Music	T-shirts	Total					
Balance at 01/08/24	11,840	1,945	4,416	1,877	20,078					
Additions	0	0	0	0	0					
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0					
Balance at 31/07/25	11,840	1,945	4,416	1,877	20,078					
Accumulated Depreciation										
Balance at 01/08/24	10,661	1,073	1,189	998	13,921					
Charge for the year	177	140	322	132	771					
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0					
Balance at 31/07/25	10,838	1,213	1,511	1,130	14,692					
Net Book Value										
Balance at 01/08/24	1,179	873	3,225	880	6,157					
Balance at 31/07/25	1,002	732	2,905	747	5,386					
Total Fixed Assets						5,386	6,157	6,389	7,161	3,388
Current Assets										
Debtors – Due Within 1 Year										
Prepayments & Accrued Income						3,617	3,770	3,160	2,146	2,793
Cash at Bank & In Hand										
Bank Accounts – RBS & Barclays						24,168	24,485	20,866	23,348	35,174
Cash in hand						99	99	120	140	140
Total Current Assets						27,884	28,354	24,146	25,634	38,107
Liabilities										
Creditors – Due Within 1 Year										
Accruals & Deferred Income						451	399	765	923	1,575
Net Current Assets						27,433	27,955	23,381	24,711	36,532
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities						32,819	34,112	29,770	31,872	39,920
Creditors – Due After 1 Year						0	0	0	0	0
Net Assets						32,819	34,112	29,770	31,872	39,920
Funds of the Charity										
Unrestricted Funds						32,819	34,112	29,770	31,872	39,920
Total Funds						32,819	34,112	29,770	31,872	39,920

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Trevor Grant

Treasurer

3 October 2025

Bree Enemark

Chairman

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

I report to the Trustees of the City of Southampton Orchestra on the accounts for the twelve months ended 31 July 2025 set out on the preceding pages.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner's

The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under Section 43 of the Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 43(7)(b) of the Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the Trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:
 - proper accounting records are kept (in accordance with section 41 of the Act);
 - accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act: or
2. to which, in my opinion, should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Peter RE Hanlon FCIB
35 Horseshoe Drive
Romsey
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3rd October 2025