

LONDON YOUTH OPERA

Formerly known as
W11 CHILDREN'S OPERA TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT

and

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 5 April 2025

LONDON YOUTH OPERA

Annual Report for the year ended 5 April 2025

London Youth Opera is constituted and governed by a Deed of Trust dated 7 April 1981, although the opera had then been in existence since 1971. A supplemental deed was added on 23 June 2008. It is a registered charity no. 282644. The trust changed its name in 2022 and the name change was approved and registered with the charity commission July 2022. It has since been known as London Youth Opera and is the longest running youth opera company in the UK. Its address is 122 Cheyne Walk London SW10 0ES.

The Trustees during the year to 5 April 2025 were:

Clara Andersson	Chairman
Francesca Beausang	Treasurer
Shadi Fahid	resigned 04.04.2025
Anne-Marie Gilis	
Debbie Joyce	appointed 29.05.2024
Xanthe Steen	
Ian Taylor	appointed 04.04.2025
Sloane Warren	resigned 04.04.2025
Helen Wakeman-Jones	Event advisor to the board

Commissioning team:

Donald Sturrock	Chairman
Alastair Chilvers	
Nicholas Kraemer	
Clara Andersson	Board representative

The Board of Trustees appoints the Trustees for a term not exceeding five years. Once this term is complete the Trustee may offer themselves up for re-election. If re-elected they may continue for a further term with immediate effect.

The annual productions are co-ordinated by a voluntary management group, working together with the charity's Chairman, who oversee the staging of the production. Through their extensive efforts, and those of a wide range of people, including the professional Music, Stage and Movement Directors, the Set, Costume and Lighting Designers, eStage professional production team and, importantly, with the parents of performing children, the opera comes to life.

The principal object of the Trust is to produce opera productions performed by children aged 9-18, resident in greater London. All operas are new commissions or from the companies back-catalogue. Over forty new works have been commissioned for this

purpose, more than by any other UK company. All are available to schools and youth groups worldwide. Details of these operas can be found on the London Youth Opera website.

Over the last decade, London Youth Opera has developed an extensive Outreach Programme, bringing free workshops to state schools and other non fee paying schools. In 2023 we wanted to build on this and started up an internship program for A-level, B-tech and gap year students interested in working behind-the scenes. In 2024 we had an excellent candidate on her gap year who worked with the costume and props department. In 2025 we welcomed two A-level students a one gap year student to the programme who were all involved with multiple departments.

An important aspect of LYO's community involvement is our bursary programme. The availability of both full bursaries, and also of reduced subscription fees, ensures the participation of young people for whom the full subscription fee would be prohibitive. We offer bursaries to deserving young people from across London. The aim is to identify and encourage young people who would not otherwise have this extra-curricular opportunity. In the 2024 production 39% of our cast had full bursaries, this is a significant increase from a historic average of 25% and in keeping with the level at 40% from last year's production.

The productions are funded by:

1. Income from ticket sales
2. Donations from individuals and charitable trusts & foundations
3. Subscriptions from members of the cast
4. Programme sales and advertising income
5. Fund-raising activities

The Trust & Foundations contributions for this year are:

The Backstage Trust	£ 20,000
The Chalden Charitable Trust	£ 10,000
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	£ 4,000

The LYO performances take place in December, with rehearsals throughout the autumn term. The Composing team, Music Director, Stage Director and all in the creative team, the production team and orchestral players are paid fees. They are all professionals working in the theatre and opera world full-time.

This year we produced our second in-person full-scale production since the re-launch after Covid, *THE QUEST* - music by Nathan Williamson and Libretto by Megg Nicol. Rehearsals took place in St James' Church, and in Colville Primary School both in London W11. The performances were held at The Shaw Theatre , 100-110 Euston Road in London. The cast, all children aged 9 to 18, represented 17 London boroughs and 39% were supported by the trust with full bursaries. Alastair Chilvers was welcomed back as Music Director for his sixth season and Madeleine Allegra Brooks was appointed Stage Director for the production.

THE QUEST was nominated for an Ivors Classical Award 2025 - for Best Community and Participation Composition (in association with ABRSM) composer Nathan Williamson and librettist Megg Nicol.

We continued our collaboration with Odyssey Festival Orchestra this year and more than half of the musicians in our orchestra came from them. The Odyssey Festival Orchestra is a professional standard training orchestra for music graduates aged 18-30 who are masters students or recent conservator graduates.

The commission for the 2025 production was announced in December and will be a wonderful Gothic comedy about an undead girl with a magical singing voice that can wake the dead *THE LITTLE ZOMBIE GIRL* by the award winning duo Composer Omar Shahryar and Librettist Ed Harris.

In March we did a successful fundraising campaign with the Big Give - Arts for Impact that set us off on a positive financial projector for the year. In addition we also have an anonymous supporter who pledge to underwrite the 2024 productions of £10,000.

Clara Andersson, (Chairman)
On behalf of the Trustees

**London Youth Opera
Independent Examiner's Report to
The Trustees of London Youth Opera**

I report on the accounts of London Youth Opera (formerly W11 Children's Opera Trust) (the "Charity") for the year ended 5 April 2025 which are set out on the attached pages.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the "Act") do not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charities Commissioners under section 145 of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charities 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 a consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as 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 view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Act: and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records

have not been met

I draw attention to the Annual Report, forming part of these accounts. Taking this into account, in my opinion, a proper understanding of the accounts may be reached.

Caroline Armstrong

Caroline Armstrong MA(Cantab), ACA
21 Hartswood Road
London W12 9NE
2 February 2026

5 April 2025

	As at 5 April 2025		As at 5 April 2024	
<u>Net Assets:</u>				
Cash at CAF Bank	£	2,623	£	5,729
CAF Income Fund	£	-	£	-
Accounts Receivable	£	14,858	£	12,500
Total Assets	£	17,481	£	18,229
Less Designated Funds**	£	16,250	£	17,500
Total Assets (net of Designated Funds)	£	1,231	£	729

Represented by:

Accumulated Funds at 5 April 2024 (net of designated funds)	£	729	£	29
Net surplus/deficit for year	£	1,752	£	3,835
Change in Value of CAF Income Fund (+/- price per share)			-£	635
Increase/ Decrease in Designated Funds	-£	1,250	-£	2,500

Accumulated Funds (net of Designated Funds) 5 April 2025	£	1,231	£	729
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*** Designated Funds are sized to cover those costs of future productions which have been committed to the year end including; venue hire, commission fee and fees for the Music Director and Production Team.*

Chairman



Treasurer



FBEAUSANG-NUNTER

5 April 2025

	Fiscal Year 2024/2025		Fiscal Year 2023/2024	
<u>INCOME:</u>				
Donations	£	21,015.77	£	27,531.42
Subscriptions	£	13,018.51	£	11,900.04
Box Office net fees	£	11,861.07	£	11,120.00
Grant	£	34,000.00	£	48,800.00
Business Sponsorship	£	5,000.00	£	5,000.00
Tax Recoverable	£	6,086.14	£	8,739.12
Miscellaneous	£	379.98	£	1,284.67
Advertising Sales	£	1,000.00	£	2,000.00
DVD and CD Sales	£	985.54	£	840.85
Big Give March campaign	£	14,858.65	£	-
Pledge grant	£	10,000.00	£	-
 Total Income	 £	 118,205.66	 £	 117,216.10
<u>EXPENSES:</u>				
Set	£	13,767.41	£	11,972.92
Music (Includes Commision)	£	26,636.00	£	23,832.00
Venue / Rehearsal Space	£	26,091.32	£	24,445.20
Production	£	15,715.13	£	23,311.53
Direction / Choreography	£	14,738.90	£	14,410.00
Administration Expense	£	6,404.89	£	6,104.20
Media Production	£	4,075.00	£	1,642.80
Publicity & Programmes	£	1,140.20	£	-
Events/Hospitality	£	595.25	£	547.22
Fundrasing	£	7,290.00	£	7,115.04
 Total Expense	 £	 116,454.10	 £	 113,380.91
 Profit / Loss	 £	 1,751.56	 £	 3,835.19