

Oxford Symphony Orchestra: Trustees' Annual Report

1st September 2023 – 31st August 2024

Charity registration number: 284339

Objectives and Activities

The purpose of the Oxford Symphony Orchestra (OSO) is to educate the public in the Arts and Sciences, and in particular the Art and Science of Music by presentation of concerts and other activities. The concerts are available to all members of the public. The Oxford Symphony Orchestra can confirm its trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on Public benefit and take it into account whenever a decision is taken to which the guidance is relevant.

Achievements and Performance for the year 2023 – 24

19th November 2023, Oxford Town Hall

- Prokofiev – Piano Concerto no.2 (Alim Beisembayev)
- Mahler – Symphony no.1

16th March 2024, Oxford Town Hall

- Verdi – Force of Destiny Overture
- Bloch – Violin Concerto (Hana Mizuta Spencer)
- Rachmaninov – Symphonic Dances

22nd June 2024, Sheldonian Theatre

- Sarah Frances Jenkins – The Holloway (first performance)
- Elgar – Cello Concerto (Finn Anderson-Hendra)
- Vaughan Williams – Symphony no.2, A London Symphony

28th July 2024, Truck Festival

The reporting year, 2023-24, was a successful and interesting year for the Oxford Symphony Orchestra's players and audiences. OSO continues to expand its musical horizons while, at the same time, improving its financial position.

The Orchestra enjoys the thrill of performing with top soloists who are in the public eye, and the reporting year was no exception with its return invitation to Alim to play Prokofiev's 2nd Piano Concerto. The solo piano part is renowned for its fearsome difficulty, but Alim didn't seem to notice this, and it was a pleasure for OSO to work and play with him once again. Alim said: *"I enjoyed it very much and it was incredibly useful for me! Thank you for having me."*

Up and coming violinist Hana Mizuta Spencer joined OSO's exploration of Bloch's splendid yet genuinely neglected Violin Concerto; the performance was a remarkable event of great significance for OSO. Hana wrote *"I had such a great time discovering the piece with you...I am so grateful that you asked me to play it and it's been so wonderful to learn such a wonderful piece."*

In the Summer, OSO was joined by young cello soloist Finn Henderson Andra who gave a stylish and committed performance of Elgar's Cello Concerto. Rehearsing with Finn was an important reminder of the crucial work the Orchestra does, not only encouraging young soloists but giving them a taste of the orchestral rehearsal experience as well as the final performance. Finn had to adapt quickly to the speed of rehearsing and to balancing the amount of sound a real live orchestra makes, both of which she achieved very well. Finn said *"thank you so much again for giving me the opportunity to play the Elgar with such a lovely orchestra to a really appreciative audience in an amazing place. It was one of my favourite ever concerts and I've learnt a lot from the experience."* OSO was pleased to see her in the BBC YMY this autumn and proud of our connection with her before a little TV fame shone upon her.

The theme of youth and opportunity also shone in the Orchestra's commission of local young composer Sarah Francis Jenkins, who wrote a 9-minute opener for the same concert. Again, Sarah found the experience of working in depth and with the luxury of time really useful and the piece grew in clarity and stature as a result. The final performance was certainly enjoyed by the whole audience and by the orchestra too.

Beyond that, OSO performed well known and loved symphonic works by Mahler, Rachmaninov and Vaughan Williams. OSO also performed another set at Truck Festival with the super Eleanor Grant as guest soloist.

The achievements of the Orchestra in the 2023-24 would not have been possible without expert organisation by the Trustees of the Orchestra, the Musical Director (Robert Max), orchestra leader (Mariette Richter) and the open-minded, engaged and enthusiastic players of OSO.

Financial Review

The financial report submitted alongside this trustees' report presents a gross income of £40,780 and total expenditure of £36,070 for the 2023-24 reporting year. Funds brought forward were £59,268 and total funds carried forward to the next reporting year were £63,978.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Oxford Symphony Orchestra is a charitable trust, and its governing document is a trust deed. Trustees are elected annually to the management committee at the annual general meeting. Nominations for all members of the Committee are made in writing to the Chairman by any two members of the Orchestra at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting. In the event of more nominations than required being received, a ballot shall be taken.

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Name	Office and Position	Dates acted	Body entitled to appoint trustee
Sarah Maitlis	Trustee: Chair	16 November 2021 – 26 November 2024	Oxford Symphony Orchestra
Lorna Softley	Trustee: Secretary	29 November 2022 – Present	Oxford Symphony Orchestra
Andrew Rendell	Trustee: Treasurer	28 November 2023 – Present	Oxford Symphony Orchestra

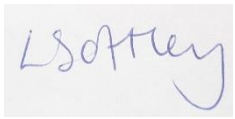
Sarah Prime	Trustee: Librarian	22 November 2016 – 1 September 2024	Oxford Symphony Orchestra
Jill Bailey	Trustee: Concert Manager	8 December 2020 – Present	Oxford Symphony Orchestra
Dominic Knight	Trustee: Rehearsal Manager	22 November 2016 – Present	Oxford Symphony Orchestra
Helen Kidd	Trustee: Publicity & Marketing	12 January 2020 – Present	Oxford Symphony Orchestra

All key personnel details have been disclosed

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	
Full Name	Lorna Softley
Position	Secretary
Date	3 rd May 2025

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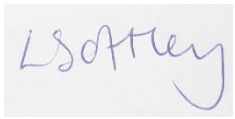
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Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	
Full Name	Lorna Softley
Position	Secretary
Date	3 rd May 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

Oxford Symphony Orchestra

On accounts for the year
ended

31 August 2024

Charity no
(if any)

284339

Set out on pages

1 - 2

(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 DD/MM/YYYY.

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 Trust'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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [-] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) 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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

MURRAY

Date:

3 June 2025

Name:

MURRAY

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

ACA (ICAEW)

Address:

487 Meadow Lane
Oxford
OX4 4ED

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.

None

