

# Oxford Symphony Orchestra: Trustees' Annual Report

1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025

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 2024 – 25

### 16<sup>th</sup> November 2024, Oxford Town Hall

- Dukas – The Sorcerer's Apprentice
- Mendelssohn – Violin Concerto (Maya Broman Crawford-Philips)
- Prokofiev – Highlights from Romeo and Juliet

### 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025, Oxford Town Hall

- Johann Strauss – Overture to die Fledermaus
- Grieg – Piano Concerto (Petr Limonov)
- Dohnanyi – Symphony no.2

### 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025, Sheldonian Theatre

- Schumann – Overture to Genoveva
- Bartok – Violin Concerto (Stefan Simonca-Oprita)
- Brahms – Symphony no.4

### 27<sup>th</sup> July 2025, Truck Festival

The reporting year, 2024-25, was another successful and interesting year for the Oxford Symphony Orchestra. OSO continues to aspire to high standards in many areas – programming, presentation, publicity and its choice of soloists. As a result, it presents performances that go beyond the orchestra's remit of performing large-scale orchestral repertoire and presents committed performances that express thoughts, feelings and ideas about the music.

The selection of dances from Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet encapsulated the dramatic thread of the whole ballet. OSO performed two major Symphonies: well-known Brahms' 4th Symphony and more un-known Dohnanyi's epic 2<sup>nd</sup> symphony. OSO performed extraordinary concertos by Mendelssohn, Grieg, and Bartok, handing the spotlight to two up-and-coming musicians and one more seasoned performer. Soloist Stefan Simonca (Bartok Violin Concert, June 25) wrote to the Orchestra after the concert:

*“I'm deeply grateful for this profound experience, I'll never forget it! This concert meant a lot to me... It fills me with true joy and genuine gratitude.”*

The adventurousness of OSO's programmes attracted over 900 audience members in its usual concert series.

OSO once again performed at Oxfordshire's Truck Festival, performing a set of popular classical music pieces, film soundtracks and pop song arrangements for Orchestra to a large and extremely enthusiastic audience. OSO also held a conducting masterclass, giving 4 young, local conductors the rare opportunity to conduct a full-size symphony orchestra.

The achievements of the Orchestra in the 2024-25 would not have been possible without expert organisation by the Orchestra's committee, 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 £43,349 and total expenditure of £36,671 for the 2024-25 reporting year. Funds brought forward were £63,978 and total funds carried forward to the next reporting year were £70,567.

### **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**

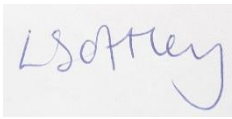
<b>Name</b>	<b>Office and Position</b>	<b>Dates acted</b>	<b>Body entitled to appoint trustee</b>
David Patrick	Trustee: Chair	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Present	Oxford Symphony Orchestra
Lorna Softley	Trustee: Secretary	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Present	Oxford Symphony Orchestra
Andrew Rendell	Trustee: Treasurer	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 – Present	Oxford Symphony Orchestra
Danielle McNeil	Trustee: Librarian	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Present	Oxford Symphony Orchestra
Catherine Hartley	Trustee: Membership Secretary	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025	Oxford Symphony Orchestra
Jill Bailey	Trustee: Concert Manager	8 <sup>th</sup> December 2020 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025	Oxford Symphony Orchestra
Dominic Knight	Trustee: Rehearsal Manager	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2016 – Present	Oxford Symphony Orchestra
Helen Kidd	Trustee: Publicity & Marketing	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Present	Oxford Symphony Orchestra

Matthias Winkel	Trustee: General member	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2016 – Present	Oxford Symphony Orchestra
Sarah Prime	Trustee: General member	22 November 2016 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025	Oxford Symphony Orchestra

### Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Full Name</b>	Lorna Softley
<b>Position</b>	Secretary
<b>Date</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026

**OXORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Registered Charity No 284339**

**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**SECTION A STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

		<b>31-Aug-25</b>	<b>31-Aug-24</b>
		£	£
<b>Incoming resources:</b>		<b>F01=F04</b>	<b>F01=F04</b>
Donations	<b>S01</b>	17,561.24	17,065.21
Charitable activities	<b>S02</b>	25,225.27	23,129.00
Investments	<b>S04</b>	562.83	585.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>S07</b>	<b>43,349.34</b>	<b>40,779.51</b>
<b>Resources expended:</b>			
Raising funds	<b>S08</b>	5,010.68	4,309.42
Charitable activities	<b>S09</b>	31,660.00	31,760.40
Other	<b>S11</b>	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>S12</b>	<b>36,670.68</b>	<b>36,069.82</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>S15</b>	<b>6,678.66</b>	<b>4,709.69</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>S21</b>	63,977.94	59,268.25
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>S22</b>	<b>70,656.60</b>	<b>63,977.94</b>

**SECTION B BALANCE SHEET**

<b>Fixed assets</b>	<b>B05</b>	-	-
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	<b>B07</b>	44,000.00	44,000.00
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>B09</b>	49,761.72	45,245.79
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>B10</b>	<b>93,761.72</b>	<b>89,245.79</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>B11</b>	<b>23,105.12</b>	<b>25,267.85</b>
<b>Total net assets or liabilities</b>	<b>B16</b>	<b>70,656.60</b>	<b>63,977.94</b>
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>			
Unrestricted funds	<b>B19</b>	70,656.60	63,977.94
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>B21</b>	<b>70,656.60</b>	<b>63,977.94</b>

**SECTION C Notes to the Accounts**

**Note 3 Analysis of income**

<b>Donations and legacies</b>			
Donations and gifts		-	-
Gift Aid		2,783.22	2,573.21
General grants		1,500.00	1,500.00
Membership subs and sponsorship		13,278.02	12,992.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>17,561.24</b>	<b>17,065.21</b>
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Ticket sales		13,496.00	14,026.00
Programme sales		592.00	603.00
Music hire		-	-
Engagement Receipts		11,137.27	8,500.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>25,225.27</b>	<b>23,129.00</b>
<b>Income from investments</b>			
Interest income		562.83	585.30
<b>Total</b>		<b>562.83</b>	<b>585.30</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>43,349.34</b>	<b>40,779.51</b>

**OXORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Registered Charity No 284339**

**YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**SECTION C Notes to the Accounts (cont)**

**Note 6 Analysis of expenditure**

**Expenditure on raising funds**

Operating a trading company	-	-
Marketing and publicity	4,201.71	3,710.42
Administration cost	808.97	599.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,010.68</b>	<b>4,309.42</b>

**Expenditure on charitable activities**

OSOP Ltd commission fee (after OTR)	23,105.12	25,047.32
Rehearsal payments	-	-
Concert payments	826.56	1,380.83
Engagement payments	7,728.32	5,332.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,660.00</b>	<b>31,760.40</b>

**Other expenditure**

	-	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>36,670.68</b>	<b>36,069.82</b>

**Note 19 Debtors and prepayments**

**Analysis of debtors**

Trade debtors	44,000.00	44,000.00
Prepayment and accrued income	-	-
Other debtors	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,000.00</b>	<b>44,000.00</b>

**Analysis of debtors recoverable in more than one year**

Trade debtors	10,000.00	8,000.00
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**Note 20 Creditors and accruals**

**Analysis of creditors**

Trade creditors	23,105.12	25,047.32
Other creditors	-	220.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,105.12</b>	<b>25,267.85</b>

**Note 22 Other disclosures for debtors and creditors**

**Information about debtors and creditors**

Trade Debtor: Trading subsidiary OSOP Ltd	44,000.00	44,000.00
<b>Total debtors</b>	<b>44,000.00</b>	<b>44,000.00</b>
Trade creditor: Trading subsidiary OSOP Ltd	23,105.12	25,047.32
Trade creditor: outstanding PRS payments	-	-
Trade creditor: engagement musicians	-	-
Other creditor: Truck music hire	-	190.53
Other creditor: Flowers for summer concert	-	30.00
<b>Total creditors</b>	<b>23,105.12</b>	<b>25,267.85</b>



# CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name Oxford Symphony Orchestra		
On accounts for the year ended	31 August 2025	Charity no (if any)	284 339
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 trustees of the Trust, 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 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 (other than that disclosed below \*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn 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: John Mears Date: 30th March 2026

Name: JOHN MEARS

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

n/a

Address:

2 Fitzharrys Road  
Abingdon  
Oxfordshire OX14 1EJ

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight 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.