

# **LAWYERS' MUSIC**

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## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

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**REGISTERED ADDRESS:** 49 Croham Road  
South Croydon  
CR2 7HD

**COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER:** 1952985

**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER:** 293015

**BANKERS:** HSBC

**HONORARY PRESIDENT:** H W Ashton

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** A M Blankfield (resigned 8 July 2024)  
B Cater – Chair  
I Dal Soglio (appointed 21 October 2024)  
S M Gibbons  
W F G Hess – Treasurer and Secretary  
T Le Brocq (appointed 29 January 2024)  
R J Reid (resigned 8 July 2024)  
O Curd (appointed 30 October 2023)  
S Sadoughi  
J Tuppen  
S Webbe

## **LAWYERS' MUSIC**

### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee Members submit their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024. The names of those who served on the Committee during the year are given on page 1.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

Lawyers' Music is a company limited by guarantee, constituted in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association. Each of the members has undertaken to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the company in the event of the same being wound up and the assets being insufficient to cover its liabilities.

The company is managed by the Committee, which is made up of members whose appointment is subject to approval by the membership as a whole in General Meeting.

#### **Objectives and activities**

The company is established "to advance the aesthetic education of the public throughout the world in the art and science of music". It works to achieve this aim:

- by recruiting amateur singers and instrumentalists to form the London Lawyers' Symphony Orchestra and the London Lawyers' Chorus, and
- by the Orchestra and Chorus presenting a series of public concerts each year, usually in central London.

The company publicises its activities through its website [www.lawyersmusic.org.uk](http://www.lawyersmusic.org.uk).

The Committee members have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

#### **Achievements and performance**

The charity enjoyed a successful year of music-making and charitable activities, putting on the following programme of events:

- On 18 November 2023, the orchestra started the year performing, with Mark Prescott conducting, Dvorak's Othello overture, Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition and He Zhenhao and Chen Gang's Butterfly Lovers concerto with orchestra member Lydia Cheng as violin soloist at St. Giles' Cripplegate;
- On 29 November 2023, the choir performed their first concert of the year at St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, performing Bruckner's Requiem and other motets under the baton of Rupert Gill;
- On 23 March 2024, Mark Prescott once again took up the baton, and the orchestra performed Mozart's Clarinet Concerto (with orchestra member Larissa Joy as soloist), Brahms's 3<sup>rd</sup> Symphony, and Mendelssohn's "Ruy Blas" Overture, at the National Musicians' Church, Holy Sepulchre;
- On 14 March 2024, the choir performed Vivaldi's Gloria, Byrd's Ave Verum and Purcell's Come Ye Sons of Art at St Andrew's, Holborn under the baton of Chris Oakley;

## **LAWYERS' MUSIC**

- On 29 June 2024, the choir and orchestra together finished the musical year with Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* and Dvorak's *Symphony no. 6*, at St Giles's Church, Barbican with Mark Prescott conducting.

### **Membership**

Following a successful year in 2023, 2024 was a disappointing year for recruitment. From 81 paying members in 2022, 2023 had seen growth to 108 paying members. However, in 2024 this dropped to 85. In 2024, the split between paying members in the orchestra and choir was 47 versus 38, which compares to 54 versus 54 in 2023 and 41 versus 40 in 2022. Recruitment and ensuring that all members who are able to pay their subscriptions do pay will be a key focus in the 2025 season and the Committee intend to look at this closely.

### **Financial review**

Following a post-Covid boosted 2023, 2024 saw a slightly weaker year with lower membership numbers than anticipated and hoped for combined with continued inflationary pressures (albeit these were not as significant as in 2023). The financial result for the year was an excess of expenditure over income of £4,353 (2023: *surplus of £15,656 albeit this included the one-off impact of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary donations campaign and prior year orchestra tax relief claims: the normalised net-deficit in 2023 was £18*).

As at 31 August 2024 the company had bank deposits totalling £24,526 (2023: £25,064). The company also had amounts recoverable under gift aid of £4,018 (2023: £9,343). The sums include general reserves which the company aims to maintain at the level of at least half a year's expenditure and this will continue to be closely monitored. They also include the balance of the Helen Sibthorp legacy (£19,622, of which £2,073 remains) bequeathed to Lawyers' Music by former member Helen Sibthorp "*in the hope that they will do something truly interesting with it*", together with a further legacy of (£5,000, of which £553 remains) bequeathed by former member Sylvia Kapp in October 2014. The Committee expects to use a portion of these during the 2024/25 season.

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies exemption in accordance with s.415A, Companies Act 2006.



s approved by the Committee on 20 November 2024.

B Cater  
Committee Chair  
20 November 2024

## **LAWYERS' MUSIC**

### **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**For the year ended 31 August 2024**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2024</b> £	<b>2023</b> £
<b><u>Income – Resources arising</u></b>			
Income from regular concerts		6,332	8,336
Income from special events		0	35
Donations and legacies		1,112	7,545
Subscriptions		18,627	20,635
Income Tax recoverable under Gift Aid	6	4,651	6,169
Interest receivable		0	0
Orchestra Tax Credit	7	6,274	8,360
		<u>36,996</u>	<u>51,080</u>
<b><u>Expenditure – Resources used</u></b>			
Direct charitable expenditure:			
Costs of regular concerts	2	(36,125)	(30,953)
Costs of special events		(100)	(1,465)
Administration costs	3	(5,124)	(3,006)
		<u>(41,349)</u>	<u>(35,424)</u>
<b><u>Net movement of resources in the year</u></b>		<b>(4,353)</b>	<b>15,656</b>
<b><u>(Deficit)/surplus</u></b>			
Reserves brought forward		<u>36,285</u>	<u>20,629</u>
Reserves carried forward		<u>31,932</u>	<u>36,285</u>

*The notes on page 6 form part of these financial statements.*

The above results, which have been calculated on the historical cost basis, are wholly attributable to the continuing activities of the company.

There are no recognised gains or losses for either year, other than those shown above.

## **LAWYERS' MUSIC**

### **BALANCE SHEET**

**As at 31 August 2024**

	<b>2024</b> £	<b>2023</b> £
<b><u>Current assets</u></b>		
Debtors and prepayments	7,405	11,220
Cash at bank	24,526	25,065
	<u>31,931</u>	<u>36,285</u>
<b><u>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</u></b>		
Other creditors and accruals	0	0
<b><u>Net assets</u></b>	<u>31,931</u>	<u>36,285</u>
<b><u>Reserves</u></b>		
Income and expenditure account -		
Balance brought forward	36,285	20,629
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(4,353)	15,656
Balance carried forward	<u>31,932</u>	<u>36,285</u>
Of which:		
<b><u>Legacy reserves</u></b>		
Sibthorp legacy brought forward	2,073	2,073
Movement in the year	0	0
Sibthorp legacy carried forward	<u>2,073</u>	<u>2,073</u>
Kapp legacy brought forward	553	553
Movement in the year	0	0
Kapp legacy carried forward	<u>553</u>	<u>553</u>
<b><u>General reserves</u></b>		
Brought forward	33,659	18,003
Movement in the year	(4,353)	15,656
Carried forward	<u>29,306</u>	<u>33,659</u>

*The notes on page 6 form part of these financial statements.*

For the year ended 31 August 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to small companies' regime.

B Cater  Committee Chair

Approved by the Committee on 20 November 2024.

## **LAWYERS' MUSIC**

### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

#### **For the year ended 31 August 2024**

##### **1. Accounting policy**

###### **Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

##### **2. Concert expenses**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£	£
Soloists' and instrumentalists' fees and expenses	14,605	12,572
Conductors' fees and expenses	5,905	3,310
Hire of venues	13,209	11,702
Hire and carriage of music	892	1,031
Publicity and programmes	294	494
Hire of equipment and instruments	1,050	1,318
Other concert expenses	170	526
	<u>36,125</u>	<u>30,953</u>

##### **3. Administration costs**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Society website and membership platform	451	772
Registrar of Companies	13	13
Making Music (National Federation of Music Societies)	596	476
PRS for Music fees	0	0
Account fees	60	62
Advertising	1,300	1,637
Sundry expenses	2,704	46
	<u>5,124</u>	<u>3,006</u>

##### **4. Committee members' emoluments**

The Committee Members receive no emoluments in respect of their services on the Committee. The Charity has no employees.

##### **5. Income**

Income is accounted for on the basis of amounts received or receivable in respect of activities in the financial year.

##### **6. Tax status**

Due to the charitable status of the company, no taxation arises on the results for the year. Income tax recoverable on subscriptions and donations paid under Gift Aid is accrued and amounted to £4,651 (2023: £6,169).

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### **7. Orchestra Tax Credit**

Due to the orchestral productions undertaken by Lawyers' Music, Orchestra Tax Credit is available with respect to the production cost of Orchestral events. After expenses, the Orchestra Tax Credit accrued in the current year was £6,274 (2023: £8,360). Note, of the current year figure, a portion relates to additional amounts received with respect to prior years. The amount which relates to concerts during the year ended 31 August 2024 is £2,727.

### **8. Related Party Transactions**

During the year, Lawyers' Music engaged Susie Blankfield, who is the daughter of committee member Andrew Blankfield. In total she received £250 (2023: £335) which was all settled within the year. Andrew Blankfield took no part in any discussions relating to this appointment.





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the  
trustees/directors/  
members of

Charity Name

Lawyers' Music

On accounts for the year  
ended

31 August 2024

Charity no.:

293015

Company no.:

1952985

Set out on pages

2 - 7

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31/08/2024.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination, I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act).


Independent  
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 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; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

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:  Date: 30 April 2025

Name: Geoffrey Matthew Hunter

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

Address: Flat 34 Darwin Court  
Gloucester Avenue  
LONDON NW1 7BG

## 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.