

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**  
**AND**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023**  
**FOR**  
**THE DORKING CONCERTGOERS SOCIETY**

**THE DORKING CONCERTGOERS SOCIETY**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023**

**Address**

South Lodge  
South Holmwood  
Dorking  
Surrey  
RH5 4LZ

**Registered Charity Number** 295839

**President**

The late James Bowman CBE (deceased 27th March 2023)

**Trustees**

Christopher Pratt (Chairman)  
Diana Smith-Billard (Hon Secretary)  
John Chiverton (Hon Treasurer)  
Susan Bixley  
Pam Chiverton (Hon Ticket Secretary)  
Andrew Dorman  
Virginia Wheeler

**Bankers**

National Westminster Bank  
14 High Street  
Dorking  
Surrey RH4 1AX

**Independent Examiner**

David Wheeler, FCCA  
Cheeld Wheeler & Co  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Redhill Chambers  
2d High Street  
Redhill  
Surrey RH1 1RJ

**Dorking Concertgoers Society**

The Trustees present their Annual Report and the Financial Statements of the Society for the year ended 30th June 2023. The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts, and comply with the Society's constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard FRS 102.

**Structure and governance**

The present Constitution of the Society was approved at the Annual General Meeting of the Society on 26th October 2009

The managing body of the Society is a committee that is elected annually and is to be not more than twelve members including those holding the offices of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Membership and Ticket secretary. New Committee members may be recruited either by election at a General Meeting or by co-option.

The Society is a registered charity no. 295839 and the committee members are Trustees.

Members, Friends and Sponsors of the Society are those persons who pay an annual subscription fee at the rate determined by the committee. At the year's end, there were 21 Personal Sponsors, 24 Friends and 40 Members.

**Objectives and activities for the public benefit**

The purpose of the Society is to educate the public in the art and science of music and it seeks to fulfil this by promoting concerts and recitals. The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Society's aims and objectives.

**Trustees responsibilities in relation to the financial statements**

The Charity Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Charity Trustees to prepare Financial Statements for each year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the applicable charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Charity and financial information included on the Charity website.

James Bowman CBE, the internationally renowned countertenor, who had been the Concertgoers' President since 1994, sadly died on the 27th March this year. His great support was much appreciated by the Chairman and committee. He attended many of our concerts, came to our AGMs and showed a persistent interest in the society's affairs. We included an obituary for him in the programme for the concert on the 22nd April. We are delighted to announce that Susan Bixley has agreed to be our new President although we are sad that she has also decided to stand down from the Committee. Susan has served on the Committee for twenty-three years and as Chairman for the past thirteen. We are enormously grateful for all that she has done.

The **2021/22 AGM** was held at St.Martin's Church Christian Centre on 17th October, 2022.

The Committee was very concerned that this season's AGM would not be quorate. Attendance in recent years has been poor and the Covid pandemic seems merely to have reinforced this. We can only hope that, as memories of the pandemic recede, people attend once again. There were **14** members present. All the existing Committee members were willing to stand again and the group is now seven strong. There is no acting Deputy Chairman.

At the close of the 2022-23 season the Society had **85** Members eligible to vote. Thus far, for the coming season, there are only **61** Members eligible to vote. The Constitution only allows Members for the coming season to vote at the AGM and hitherto it is only those that have been notified of the coming AGM. It is suggested that we notify last season's Members as well as next season's in our attempt to boost attendance at the Meeting although, of course, they will not be able to vote until they have joined the Society for the coming season.

There will have been 6 Committee Meetings since the AGM. Three of the meetings of the winter months were held by Zoom. The "non-Zoom" meetings were held at Barry and Penny Collins's house, to whom we offer our thanks.

The Charity's financial results were as follows:-

"Trading Income" (ticket sales etc.) of £33,258

"Expenditure" (Artists' Fees, Hall Hire, etc.) of £53,318

This resulted in an Operational Loss of £20,060.

Although such a result is a matter of some concern, the receipt during the year of further legacies amounting to £31,000 converted the overall result to Net Surplus of £10,940, thus boosting the Charity's Unrestricted Funds to £95,141.

At this point it is also important to mention people who, though not members of the Committee, give us invaluable help.

Ian Codd writes almost all the "copy" for our brochures and programmes. This is an enormous task for which we also offer our profound thanks. His efforts, combined with those of Andrew Dorman (our longest-serving Committee member) who compiles and publishes our publicity material, have earned the Concertgoers an enviable reputation for professional publicity standards. Alex Cissokho services the Society's website.

The season was our first since the ravages of Covid and we were apprehensive about the long-term effects of the pandemic on our concert attendance.

Our first concert on 22<sup>nd</sup> October was given by the **Vienna Mozart Trio**. It was part of the annual Mole Valley Arts Alive event. There were 112/196 (Hall capacity) audience members in the Martineau Hall. The Trio consists of father, mother and son. They played two Piano Trios by Mozart and Mendelssohn's 2<sup>nd</sup> trio in C Minor. The concert was very well received not least because of the fascinating historical introductions to the music that Daniel, the young violinist, gave us and it also transpired that Diethard, his father, the 'cellist, had actually created some of the editions of the Mozart pieces that they played.

The second concert on 12th November was a Piano Recital by **duo blz'art**. This attracted the poorest audience of the season with only 82/196 tickets sold. The potential audience did not, perhaps, know what to expect. The name implies "bizarre" but the excellent music the duo played was anything but. Those members of the Concertgoers, and indeed the general public who decided to "pass on this one", missed an absolutely superb concert of duets – played by four hands on one piano. Geoffrey Baptiste and Andre Roe presented a fascinating evening of music including a version, specially arranged for the Concertgoers, of Vaughan Williams's "The Wasps" Overture in celebration of the composer's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and a captivating rendition of Ravel's "Mother Goose Suite".

The third concert was a thrilling visit by the **Grimethorpe Colliery Band**. It is rare that we are able to report that a Grand Hall concert was a virtual sell-out, with 666/697 seats taken. Our current policy of offering free tickets to young people under 18 meant that there were also a lot of children in the audience. The world-famous band, conducted by Christopher Binns, who also acted as the Master of Ceremonies, presented a truly eclectic programme which ranged from music by Verdi, the "Force of Destiny Overture", through Errol Garner, "Misty", to Percy Granger, "Danny Boy". They finished with the "Overture to William Tell" by Rossini. The concert stimulated great interest beyond our core membership. Our Members bought only 67 tickets but the Dorking Halls Box Office sold 523. It was a truly multigenerational event and it was exciting to see whole families in the audience. It was also the only concert of the season to make a financial surplus and this obviously has clear implications for our future programme planning.

Many Members consider our annual string quartet series to be the high spot of the Concertgoers season. This year was no exception and we welcomed the **Carducci Quartet** – Matthew Denton (Violin), Michelle Fleming (Violin), Eoin Schmidt-Martin (Viola) and Emma Denton ('Cello). At the time of writing this Report, they have just appeared as part of this year's Proms season.

The three concerts on 12th February, 5th March and 2nd April all attracted good, if not capacity, audiences, with an average 79% attendance. It is invidious to single out individual programme items but the performance of Fanny Mendelssohn's String Quartet was of particular interest. Beethoven was well represented with performances of his Op. 59 No. 2 (Razumovsky) and Op. 127. Many audience members commented that they had never heard a finer performance of Beethoven's late masterpiece. We were treated, in the final concert, to performances of Dvorak's "American Quartet" and to the extraordinarily powerful 8th Quartet by Shostakovich. Matthew Denton spoke knowledgeably and very entertainingly about the music at each concert.

The final concert of the season was given by the Philharmonia Orchestra on April 22nd. The concert was dedicated to the memory of Mary and Ted Williams, who were long-standing members of the Dorking Concertgoers and former members of the Committee. It is because of the large legacy that we received from Mary Williams' s estate that we were able to sponsor the concert and are able to plan similar events in the future. It was originally scheduled for May 6th but King Charles' Coronation "intervened" and we were extremely fortunate that both the Dorking Halls and the Philharmonia were still available a fortnight previously. The concert was conducted by Rory Macdonald and Rainer Crassett was the soloist in Dvorak's 'cello concerto. The programme also included the "Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus" by Vaughan Williams and Brahms's 1st Symphony. The concert was enthusiastically received by a disappointingly small audience (386/697 55%). We sustained a financial loss of £15,609.36. This clearly raises issues about the timing, the choice of artists and the programming of our future concerts.

Our 2023/24 brochure, as always, looks very impressive. It is widely distributed throughout Surrey. We also produce posters and flyers for each concert that are circulated to public libraries and community noticeboards. We are affiliated to the Mole Valley "Arts Alive" programme. Our first concert falls under its auspices and benefits from its wide associated publicity. We also subscribe to Bachtrack, which is a national database of concerts. We are extremely lucky to be able to use the Dorking Halls for our concerts and to use its considerable publicity "machine". The friendly team at the Hall is a delight to deal with and we thank the members sincerely. Details of our concerts appear in the Halls' printed brochure, on their website and on the digital display screen outside the Halls. Members of the public may also purchase tickets directly from the Halls Box Office although in doing so they do not benefit from membership discounts.

The Concertgoers lost any form of public sponsorship some time ago. In addition to normal Membership, Friends' and Sponsors' subscriptions, we have, as already reported, received substantial legacies which are allowing us to sponsor more ambitious concerts in future seasons. A small number of people have agreed to support the Concertgoers by playing the Mole Valley Lottery. 50p of every £1 purchased goes to the Society as a nominated "good cause". There have been a number of winners and on almost every occasion the winner has donated their winnings back to the Concertgoers. At the moment, the Lottery is on target to raise over £338 this year on our behalf.

Our 2023/24 programme features:-

A recital by **Nicholas McCarthy** (Piano) (7/10/23).

Two chamber recitals:-

**Hannah Condliffe** (Oboe) and **Mark Rogers** (Piano) (11/11/23) (this concert is made possible by the Countess of Munster Musical Trust Recital Scheme).

**Oscar Perks** (Violin) and **Ayaka Shigeno** (Piano) (13/1/24).

Our string quartet series features return visits from the:-

**Piatti Quartet** (4/2/24)

**Carducci Quartet** (18/2/24)

**Jubilee Quartet** (17/3/24)

The season will end with an exciting visit from **Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason** ('Cello and Piano) (11/5/24).

### Looking further ahead

It could be argued that what follows is irrelevant to this report. I think it is important, however, to emphasise just how far ahead the Committee has to plan.

Planning for our 2024/25 season is now nearly complete. It will feature :-

**The Jess Gillam Octet** (19/10/24)

**Ignas Maknickas** (Piano) (23/11/24)

**The Philharmonia Orchestra** (11/1/25)

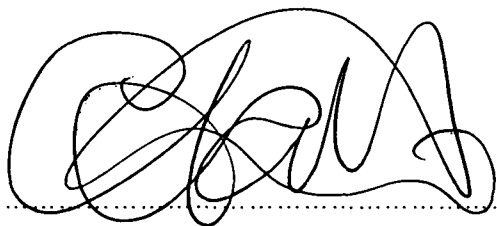
**The Brodsky Quartet** (2/2/25, 16/2/25, 2/3/25)

**The Grimethorpe Colliery Band** (10/5/25)

We shall be discussing the 2025/26 season very soon.

May I express my profound thanks to the members of the Committee of the Concertgoers for their unstinting hard work. I cannot but be concerned by its 'fragility'. Our current membership of seven is soon to be reduced to six and various overtures to possible new, younger members have, thus far, been unsuccessful. I can only hope that we may soon find some more volunteers to administer the exciting series of concerts that we are sponsoring.

Approved by the Trustees on 9th October 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C Pratt', written over a dotted line.

Christopher Pratt, Chairman, on behalf of the Trustees

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT**  
**TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE DORKING CONCERTGOERS SOCIETY**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Dorking Concertgoers Society for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Society, 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 Society's accounts as required 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**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Society as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. That accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. That accounts do 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 the 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.

.....  
*David Wheeler*  
David Wheeler – Independent Examiner

David Wheeler, FCCA  
Cheeld Wheeler & Co  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
Redhill Chambers  
2d High Street  
Redhill Surrey RH1 1RJ.

Dated:..... 12 October 2023 .....

## THE DORKING CONCERTGOERS SOCIETY

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE 2023

	Notes	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Computer Equipment	2		0		0
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors and Prepayments	3		7,873		3,307
Cash at Bank			88,177		81,246
Cash in Hand			60		60
			<hr/>		<hr/>
			96,110		84,613
<b>LIABILITIES: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	4		(969)		(412)
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			95,141		84,201
			<hr/>		<hr/>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>£95,141</u>		<u>£84,201</u>
<b>THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>					
Unrestricted Funds	5		<u>£95,141</u>		<u>£84,201</u>

NOTE: The notes on pages 8 and 9 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the Trustees on

9th October, 2023

Signed on their behalf



.....  
John Chiverton  
Honorary Treasurer



# THE DORKING CONCERTGOERS SOCIETY

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023

			2023	2022
	Notes	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Concerts - sales of tickets and programmes			27,722	12,908
CD sales			29	75
Programme advertising			610	680
Subscriptions			753	625
Donations, gifts and similar income			2,686	2,312
Grants and Support	6		0	2,256
Bequests			31,000	65,000
Bank interest receivable			722	23
Gift Aid refunds			736	996
Sundry Income			0	0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b>64,258</b>	<b>84,875</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES</b>				
Concert costs	7	43,793		16,534
Support costs	8	7,798		4,444
Cost of CD's		0		91
			<b>51,591</b>	<b>21,069</b>
<b>OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>				
Management and administration	9		1,727	1,613
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>			<b>53,318</b>	<b>22,682</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>			<b>£10,940</b>	<b>£62,193</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:-</b>				
Net Income			£10,940	£62,193
Fund balances brought forward 1st July 2022			84,201	£22,008
<b>Fund balances carried forward 30th June 2023</b>			<b>£95,141</b>	<b>£84,201</b>

NOTE: All funds are unrestricted.

## 1 Accounting Policies

- ## 2 Fixed Assets

### 3 Debtors and Prepayments

**4 Creditors - Amounts falling due within one year**

2023	2022
£	£
Accruals	250
Deferred Income	80
VAT liability	82
<b>£969</b>	<b>£412</b>

# THE DORKING CONCERTGOERS SOCIETY

## NOTES ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023

(Continued)

### 5 Unrestricted Funds

This represents the surplus income accumulated over the years.

### 6 Grants and Support

	2023	2022
	£	£
Specific Concert Sponsorship - Personal	0	2,256
Specific Concert Sponsorship - Corporate	0	0
Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust	0	0
	<u>£0</u>	<u>£2,256</u>

### 7 Concert expenses

	2023	2022
	£	£
Artists' fees	32,260	8,785
Hire of hall	6,315	5,125
Instrument hire	1,610	1,570
Commission, service charges and PRS	3,608	1,054
	<u>£43,793</u>	<u>£16,534</u>

### 8 Support Costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Advertising, publicity, marketing and printing	5,207	2,095
Making Music subscription including insurance	458	452
Concert brochure	2,134	1,748
Equipment costs	0	149
	<u>£7,799</u>	<u>£4,444</u>

### 9 Management and Administration

	2023	2022
	£	£
Telephone, postage and stationery	382	532
Subscriptions	20	5
Independent Examiner's Fee	250	250
Bank Charges	30	22
Other administration expenses	1,045	803
	<u>£1,727</u>	<u>£1,613</u>

- 10 The role of the Trustees, who are the Society's only volunteers, is to manage all aspects of the Society's activity of promoting and presenting classical music concerts. None of the Trustees received any remuneration; Trustees' expenses reimbursed totalled £433.