

# 2025

The RCO logo consists of the letters 'RCO' in a white, serif font, centered within a solid purple square.

RCO

## Annual Report & Accounts

Year end 30 June 2025

Incorporated by Royal Charter  
Charity Registration No. 312847





RCO

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THE ROYAL COLLEGE  
OF ORGANISTS



## Reference and Administrative Details

### Professional Advisers

The professional advisers and consultants during the College Year 2024/2025 were as follows:

#### Bankers

Messrs C. Hoare & Co.  
37 Fleet Street  
London  
EC4P 4DQ

#### Investment Managers

Brewin Dolphin Limited  
12 Smithfield Street  
London  
EC1A 9BD

#### Auditors

Kreston Reeves Audit LLP  
9 Donnington Park  
85 Birdham Road  
Chichester  
PO20 7AJ

#### Legal Consultants

Farrer & Co. LLP  
66 Lincoln's Inn Fields  
London  
WC2A 3LH

#### Registered Address

The Royal College of Organists  
118 Pall Mall  
London  
SW1Y 5ED



## The President, Members of the Trustee Council, and Staff during the College year 2024/2025 (with updates to 31 December 2025)

### President

Sarah MacDonald MA, FRCO, ARSCM

### President Elect

Andrew Nethsingha MA, FRCO, FRCM (from 1 July 2025)

### Trustee Council

Sara Benbow LLB

Katherine Dienes-Williams BA, MA, BMus, FRCO, FRSCM, KSL (Chair)

Paul Gobey GRSM, MMus, ARCO(CHM) (from 6 November 2025)

David Hill MBE, MA, DMus, FRCO, HonRCO (Immediate Past President to 30 June 2025)

Carl Jackson MVO, MA, FRCO

Philip Kaye MA, DPhil, FCA, FRCO (to 24 February 2025)

Stephen King BSc, FCCA, FRCO

The Lord Lisvane KCB, DL, MA

Sarah MacDonald MA, FRCO, ARSCM (President)

Philip Moore BMus, DUniv, FRCO, FRSCM

Christopher Morris

Andrew Nethsingha MA, FRCO, FRCM (President Elect from 1 July 2025)

Katharine Pardee MM, DMA, DPhil (to 30 June 2025)

Ghislaine Reece-Trapp MA, FRCO, PGCE

Richard Tanner MA, FRCO (from 1 July 2025)

Tom Winpenny MA, FRCO, DipCHD

Prof. Christopher Wood MD, MB, BCh, MD, FRCSEd, FLSW, HonLMRCO

Peter Wright MA, FRCO(CHM)

### Clerk to the Trustee Council

Mark Brafield MA, FTCL, FRCO

### Chief Executive

Sir Andrew Parmley BMus, MMus, PhD, FRCO(CHM)

### Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Studies, & Director, RCO Midlands, and Mid/South/West Wales

Andrew McCrea BMus, MMus, ARCO, HonRCO, FRCM

### Director, RCO East, South, and South-West England

Simon Williams BA, FRCO

### Director, RCO North of England, North Wales, and Isle of Man

Tom Bell BMus/GradRNCM, PGDip

### Director, RCO Scotland and RCO Northern Ireland

Andrew Macintosh MA, MPhil, ARCO, LRSM, HonLMRCO

### Director of Relationships

Madeline Smith BA, AMusA

### Chief Examiner

Stephen Farr MA, MPhil, PhD, FRCO



RCO

## Report of the Trustees for year ended 30 June 2025

### Structure, Governance, and Management of the Royal College of Organists

Founded in 1864 as the College of Organists, the College was graciously granted a Royal Charter and Byelaws on 23 November 1893. The Charter and Byelaws were most recently amended on 8 July 2009 with the approval of the Privy Council and the Charity Commission (Charity Registration Number 312847). Copies are available on the College's website ([www.rco.org.uk](http://www.rco.org.uk)) and in print on application to the College.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland effective 1 January 2019. The accounting policies are set out on pages 28–31.

The affairs of the College are governed by the Trustee Council constituted in accordance with the Byelaws (2009). The Trustee Council is the trustee body in accordance with the Charities Act. The day-to-day management of the College is delegated to the Chief Executive and the senior management team.

### Objects of the College

The Objects for which the College is incorporated are:

- a) to promote and advance the arts and practice of organ playing and choral directing and related activities to the highest standards of competence and artistry;
- b) to set and maintain proper standards in such arts for the benefit of the public;
- c) to educate musicians in such arts and practices;
- d) to promote study and research in such arts and practices; and
- e) to do all other such lawful things as are incidental to the attainment of the above objects.

For the purpose of attaining the Objects, but not further or otherwise, the College may exercise thirty-two specified powers set out in the Royal Charter.

### Review of Activities

#### Governance

The College's **Annual General Meeting** took place online on 7 March 2025. The meeting was chaired by the President. It received the Annual Report of the Trustee Council and adopted the audited accounts for the year ended 30 June 2024. The Chairman of the Trustee Council spoke to the Annual Report and reviewed the College's activities in 2023/2024.

The College's **Trustee Council** (the trustee body) met four times during the year 2024/2025, in July and November 2024, and in January and May 2025. The Trustee Council's members are listed on page 5 of this report. The Council accepts ultimate responsibility for directing the affairs of the College and for ensuring that it is solvent, well run, and delivering the objects of the Royal Charter. It has a number of clearly defined duties and responsibilities, in the areas of compliance, prudence, and care.

Appointment to the Trustee Council is either by election from among the membership or by the co-option of suitably

qualified and experienced individuals who are identified as being able to fill a particular role or professional need on the Council in order to extend its range of skills as widely as possible. Before co-option, candidates are interviewed by a panel including senior Trustees and representatives of the management team; co-option is then dependant on that panel's recommendation to the wider Council.

All Trustees, whether elected or co-opted, join the Council for an initial term of four years. Elected Trustees are then required to stand for re-election if they wish to serve on the Council for a second term of four years, whilst co-opted Trustees may only serve a second term with the approval of a majority of their fellow Council members.

Upon joining the Council, new trustees are given an induction that includes a brief history of the College, an introduction to its structure and the management team, the role and duties of Trustees, and a summary of matters and issues that are part of the College's current plans. The annual audit of the College's accounts will include an update from its professional advisers as to recent changes in charity law and procedure of which Trustees should be aware. In addition, Trustees are reminded of the need to attend to their continuing professional education, being directed to courses offered externally by leading agencies in the field.

In 2024/2025, the Trustee Council established a working group to monitor and advance the College's commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion. Trustees have a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to treat all people with respect and dignity. This is in addition to the self-evident moral duty to make everyone who deals with the College feel safe and welcome. The College must act, and be seen to act, in a way that respects the protected characteristics set out in the Act. The College's current EDI policy is available on the website and EDI issues are monitored, reported on, and reviewed on a regular basis. The working party has made efforts to approach other organisations so as to learn from their best practice. Various agencies in the fields of music, sport, and education have been considered as comparators.

The Trustee Council appoints four committees to oversee specific areas of activity:

### 1. Academic Board

The governance of the academic affairs of the College is vested in the Academic Board, which is appointed by the Trustee Council in consultation with the Chief Executive and the senior management team. It comprises the senior management team and a number of practitioners and scholars co-opted for their expertise and professional experience in the sector. The Board is chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Studies. The powers of the Academic Board encompass the design, maintenance,

and review of accreditation/examination syllabuses and procedures, and the design, maintenance, and review of the RCO's education programme. The Board has oversight of quality-assurance matters, and of library and learning services, and it monitors member and customer satisfaction.

By the year-end, specific areas of scrutiny included a review of the Certificate of Accredited Membership award (CAM) and the establishment of a new suite of choral-directing diplomas. A working party had been convened to consider the details of a revised choral-directing strategy through a more comprehensive accreditation offer (diplomas at three levels: Colleague, Associate, Fellow); here the emphasis will fall on a more formative assessment type in which practitioners will work with the choirs they lead or encounter. Fellowship will require engagement with a small professional choir provided by the College. Examination finance has also been considered as part of a larger financial review to maximise income and drive efficiencies, with a view to improving activity contribution.

The members of the Board in 2024/2025 were: Tansy Castledine, Stephen Farr (Chief Examiner), Roxanne Gull, Pam Hulme, Andrew Macintosh, Andrew McCrea (Deputy Chief Executive/Chair), Daniel Moult, Sir Andrew Parmley (Chief Executive/Secretary), Robert Sholl, and Simon Williams.

### 2. Appointments and Awards Board

The Appointments and Awards Board, chaired by the President, meets to oversee the College's scheme of honorary awards and to monitor the processes whereby appointments are made. The Appointments and Awards Board is appointed by the Trustee Council.

The members of this Board in 2024/2025 were: Katherine Dienes-Williams (Chair, Trustee Council), Stephen Farr (Chief Examiner), Sarah MacDonald (President), Andrew McCrea (Deputy Chief Executive), Daniel Moult (co-opted), and Sir Andrew Parmley (Chief Executive). The Clerk to the Trustee Council (Mark Brafield) was in attendance.

### 3. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is charged with looking at every aspect of the College's income and expenditure and in overseeing the College's management of risk.

The members of the Finance Committee in 2024/2025 were: Philip Kaye (Trustee to 24 February 2025), Stephen King (Trustee; Chair), Christopher Morris (Trustee), Sir Andrew Parmley (Chief Executive), and Prof. Christopher Wood (Trustee). Paul O'Hare (Finance Officer) is in attendance as required.



In 2024/2025, the Finance Committee has continued to scrutinise the College’s accounts to ensure the RCO represents value for money to its members.

4. The RCO Foundation

The RCO Foundation is a focus group of experts in fundraising, chaired by Prof. Christopher Wood, a Trustee and a past chairman of the Trustee Council.

The members of the RCO Foundation Committee in 2024/2025 were: Marianne Barton (Secretary), Stephen King (Trustee), The Lord Lisvane (Trustee), Christopher Morris (Trustee), Daniel Moulton, Sir Andrew Parmley (Chief Executive), Rachael Snaith, and Prof. Christopher Wood (Trustee; Chair).

In 2024/2025, the RCO Foundation made excellent progress in its fourth year of operation. The Foundation’s ‘Friends of the RCO’ scheme continued to grow during the year and the generosity of the Friends of the RCO and the contributors to The President’s Circle have enabled the College to continue to carry out important work. It has contributed to the outreach platform called *First Stop!*, and supported the nationwide initiative called *Play the Organ Year 2025*.

The RCO Foundation agreed to support a young conducting student at the Royal Northern College of Music and, in collaboration with Viscount Classical Organs, continued to provide organs for schools. The Foundation’s dinner, now an annual event, in Guildhall was a great success and the preceding concert, given by James McVinnie in St Lawrence Jewry, was excellent. The 2026 dinner will be held in the House of Lords preceded by a concert performed by Thomas Trotter at St Margaret’s, Westminster.

Performance, achievements, and plans for the future

*‘To promote and advance the arts and practice of organ playing and choral directing and related activities to the highest standards of competence and artistry.’*

Membership

2024/2025

In June 2025, membership of the College was as follows (the previous year is given for comparison):

| Membership Type                      | 2024/2025 | 2023/2024 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Full Member                          | 1,316     | 1,348     |
| Student Member                       | 234       | 295       |
| Affiliate Student Member             | 53        | 48        |
| Life, Honorary, Complimentary Member | 258       | 268       |
| Affiliate AGO Member                 | 38        | 59        |
| Affiliate RCCO Member                | 4         | 4         |
| Affiliate SCOTS Member               | 15        | 12        |

There were 169 new joiners (2023/2024: 192). 36 previously lapsed members rejoined during the year. Most of the numbers show a decline from the previous year. We have addressed some deficiencies in the automated renewal system which may have been responsible for the drop in AGO and RCCO memberships. Our new newsletter *RCO Transatlantic* has been designed to help grow these membership categories.

Membership rates were increased from £120 to £130 for Full Membership. Student Membership was raised from £56 to £65, and concessionary membership from £56 to £65. Affiliate Student Membership was raised from £28 to £32.50, and AGO/RCCO/SCOTS Affiliate Membership from £25 to £35. We continue to enjoy the sponsorship of Viscount Classical Organs, who offer a year’s RCO subscription to their new customers. 741 (2023/2024: 786) members subscribed using Gift Aid (45% of the paying membership). 868 (2023/2024: 830) members now pay their subscriptions by Direct Debit (52% of the paying membership).

First introduced in 2021, a joint membership offer with the Musicians’ Union (MU) has continued as a core membership benefit. This gives College members an ongoing 50% discount on a normal MU subscription. This ‘2-for-1’ deal makes joint RCO and MU memberships the same price as a

regular MU subscription, providing exceptional value for our members and discounted access to many important benefits such as insurance, financial advice, and legal support.

The annual President's Appeal ran for the sixteenth time in 2024/2025. The appeal raised £3,261 net of Gift Aid. The Friends of the RCO generated £14,653.

## 2025/2026

Membership of the College is open to all. The College will build on the news about relatively stable membership numbers over the last five years as it continues to develop and enhance its membership offer and broaden its appeal and relevance to a wider part of the population. The College will continue to maximise the income from the Gift Aid scheme. Subscription payment by Direct Debit will be encouraged as it offers significant efficiency savings, as does the use of the online subscription facility.

The subscription rates for the 2025/2026 College year were set at £134 for Full Membership (a modest increase), £67 for Student Membership, £33.50 for Affiliate Student Membership, and £40 for the AGO/RCCO/SCOTS Affiliate Membership categories.

## Partnerships

Our work with, and support for, the Society of Women Organists has led to some interesting work in promoting women organists and composers (SWO). The College acts as an academic sponsor of Fugue State Films, whose quality recordings and documentaries about organs and organ music are highly acclaimed. The College's close relationship with the Musicians' Union has developed as we strengthened our member offer as a professional institution. The RCO has worked closely with the Incorporated Association of Organists (IAO) in 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 to mount the fourth IAO-RCO Organ Playing Competition in York in July 2024. As we entered the year, a creative partnership was established with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, and liaison continued with the RSCM over the subject of choral direction and its accreditation.

The College's ongoing and highly successful collaboration with the American Guild of Organists resulted in a deputation attending the AGO's San Francisco Convention in July 2024. RCO staff and Trustees took a trade counter at the Convention and made many new friends and built on the existing relationship which has been nurtured over the past five years. It is hoped that the RCO will be represented in St Louis in 2026 and that there may be an element of an AGO convention in the UK in 2030.

The RCO continues to benefit from the generosity of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) and in return the College is now assisting in the organisation of twice-

yearly concerts in the Grand Temple in Covent Garden. In November 2024, the soloist was D'Arcy Trinkwon and in March 2025 it was the RCO's own Trustee Council Chair, Katherine Dienes-Williams.

## Honours

### The Medal of the Royal College of Organists (HonRCO)

The RCO Medal is awarded each year to recognise distinguished achievement in one or more areas of organ- and choral-related activity; it is also available to recognise distinguished service to the College. The Appointments and Awards Board meets to consider nominations received from various College constituencies, and recommendations are then made to the Trustee Council. In 2025, the RCO Medal was awarded to Mr Gary Cole, Ms Sofi Jeannin, and Dr Cecilia McDowall. The presentations were made at the Conferment Ceremony at Southwark Cathedral in March 2025. Details of 2026's honourees are scheduled for release on or around 1 January 2026.

### Honorary Life Membership of the Royal College of Organists (HonLMRCO)

The Trustee Council instituted Honorary Life Membership (HonLMRCO) some years ago. In the gift of the College's Trustee Council, this award marks distinguished service to the College and recognises individuals who bring credit to the RCO in the wider world. There were no recipients of this special membership status in 2025.

## Marketing Communications

The College's marketing function supports the delivery of the College's strategic objectives and goals through the creation and communication of strong, relevant, and interesting digital and print content for organists, choral directors, and all those interested in their work and music.

*RCO News* continues to be a centrepiece of our member communications, supported by the *iRCO StopPress* online magazine for complementary material better suited to the digital format. Our email publications *RCO e-News* (member only) and *RCO e-Diary* (open subscription) are issued monthly to our mailing lists which contain a combined total of 5,417 email addresses. These email publications remain popular and well read, achieving exceptional rates of 70% and 60% respectively.

In November 2024, we published the final episode of *The Organ Podcast*, a series of twenty broadcasts designed to engage with both members and new audiences in an entirely new format. The show was produced fortnightly through







much of 2024, providing high-quality audio content of interest to organists ‘of every age and stage’, as well as interested audiences of non-organists. This successful project significantly increased the College’s reach, with the podcast having been downloaded or streamed more than 50,000 times so far – as well as generating social media content that attracted millions of views and thousands of engagements. The audience feedback was entirely positive and the breadth and quality of content did much to raise awareness of the full range of the RCO’s work.

The podcast, together with the impact of Play the Organ Year (see below), contributed to yet another increase in our social media engagement. During the year we posted a total of 627 times across Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, Instagram, and our new Bluesky account, and from this activity we registered 4.5m impressions (content views) and 188k engagements (clicks, comments, likes, and shares) – increases of 300% and 164% respectively on the previous 12-month period. Our total audience on social media is now just over 38k – an increase of 145% on the previous year (and more than tripling in just two years).

While social media and email marketing are increasingly popular as sources of online information, our website remains an important resource (not just for news and information, but also for recruitment, engagement, and access to member services). The main RCO website ([www.rco.org.uk](http://www.rco.org.uk)) welcomed 52,000 visitors and hosted 89,000 sessions during the year, both up by more than 10% on the previous 12-month period.

## Engagement

In October 2024, the RCO launched Play the Organ Year 2025, a substantial initiative designed to inspire a year-long effort by the whole organ-playing community to create opportunities for people not just to hear, but to experience playing, the pipe organ – regardless of musical background or experience.

At the time of writing (June 2025), the campaign is reaching its halfway point. We have been notified of more than 100 events, and know that there are more being planned. The campaign was launched with an RCO event at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, where fifty people had a chance to play the organ; since then, we believe more than 1,500 people have been able to lay hands on manuals and feet on pedals, and we expect to comfortably exceed our initial target of 2,000 ‘playing experiences’ during the year.

We have been greatly encouraged by the response of the organ community in the UK and abroad, both individual organists and the many organisations which have engaged in the planning and implementation of Play the Organ Year.

In 2025, we tied our International Organ Day promotions to Play the Organ Year, encouraging everyone doing something for this now-popular day in the organ calendar

to add a #PlaytheOrgan theme. As a result, there were more Play the Organ events on Saturday 26 April than on any other day so far. To help the many organisations, venues, and organists who use this occasion to celebrate the organ and its music, we have now fixed International Organ Day as the final Saturday in April every year – it will next fall on Saturday 25 April in 2026.

With an eye to the long-term legacy of Play the Organ Year, we have now launched First Stop!, a new online resource designed to serve as a literal first stop for anyone wanting to find out more about the organ (in all its forms), the repertoires associated with it, organ-building and organ heritage, the people who play the organ, and how one can learn to play the instrument. While First Stop! has been built and managed by the College, it is envisaged that it will feature content from the large number of UK organisations and individuals with whom we work towards our vision of a world in which organ and choral music are widely valued as being central to cultural and spiritual life.

## Member Services

Developing member services and the membership experience remains a priority for the College.

We have continued to work with our partners at Musicians’ Union on a growing suite of services for organists in their working lives. The core of the partnership is a joint membership rate which allows RCO members to join the MU at a discounted rate.

Our digital content hub, iRCO, is an important and valued benefit for many members, with 60% of members having registered their iRCO accounts and more than 60% of those being considered active users. The site also reaches a sizeable global audience of non-members as guests. The College has continued to invest strongly in digital content over the 2024/2025 year, with more than forty new items being published on iRCO – everything from teaching films to podcasts, and webinars to editorial articles. There are now 550 pieces of high-quality learning content available to members via iRCO. Of particular benefit to members in this respect is the College’s continued and growing creative partnership with Fugue State Films, which provides a regular source of high-quality and authoritative documentary and performance footage.

As well as digital content, the College remains committed to physical events in what is now a balanced ‘hybrid’ model. While attendance remains generally below pre-pandemic levels, such events remain an important part of our work, providing unique experiences that online and digital presentation cannot replicate. With this hybrid approach in mind, we continue to be encouraged by the high satisfaction ratings received for both our digital and ‘real-world’ services. Across all our activity, our ongoing Net Promoter Score (which encapsulates the balance between positive and negative feedback) is now up to an excellent +75.

The average rating received on all questions relating to communications, content, teaching, and the overall quality of our events is 9 out of 10.

### Awards and Bursaries

In 2024/2025, £37,859 was disbursed from the College’s scholarship and prize funds. Disbursements supported RCO examination prizes (two sessions), awards for short courses (such as the RCO’s Summer Course and The Organ Student Experience, and Oundle for Organists courses), and bursaries to assist undergraduates and postgraduates studying the organ and/or choral direction. The College also supported tuition in several schools by paying for an organ tutor.

We renew our thanks to the United Grand Lodge of England for its continued support by providing bursaries for examination prizes, individual organ lessons, and for attendance on short courses.

*‘To set and maintain proper standards in such arts for the benefit of the public.’*

### RCO Accreditation

#### Diploma Examinations

Variations to the ‘standard’ diploma regulations (originating in the revised provisions for the pandemic) were offered for the last time in examination year 2023/2024. These allowed for remote assessment of the organ-playing parts of the practical examinations (relying on AV submission) to take place at CRCO and at the higher diploma levels in cases where an exception has been held. Otherwise, ARCO and FRCO organ-playing modules have been offered as in-person assessment at an RCO examination centre. Keyboard skills tests were remote assessment at all levels and the written examinations were delivered according to an open-book methodology.

2024/2025 saw the consolidation of all the regulations, as too suitable changes to syllabus content to align with remote-assessment examining. The management team and Academic Board scrutinised the transition, as well as all quality-assurance matters relating to diploma content and assessment. The existing administrative systems, however, have been tested to their limit in recent years, and consequently an upgrade/redesign of the handling of data, the submissions to be assessed, and the report writing was instigated through a new platform. This has meant much beneficial revision to working procedures. Provisions were introduced stage by stage from Summer 2024.

It was pleasing to record the names of forty-four members successful in RCO diploma accreditation in 2024/2025. In addition, there were two recipients of the Certificate of

Accredited Membership (CAM) and four of the certificate of the Scottish Churches Organist Training Scheme (SCOTS).

In 2024/2025, five RCO members were awarded the Colleague diploma (CRCO), twenty-six the Associateship diploma (ARCO), and thirteen the Fellowship diploma (FRCO). There were no applications to sit the DipCHD examination. Fifteen successful diploma candidates were in receipt of one or more examination prizes.

### CRCO

#### Statistics for examination year 2024/2025 (Summer 2024 and Winter 2025), with previous sessions to Summer 2019

Total applications (full-entry and sectional applications, and incl. absentees):

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 11  | 5   | 6   | 10  | 3   | 6   | 5   | 7   | 12      | 11  | 16  |

Aiming to complete (full-entry and sectional applications, and incl. absentees):

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 10  | 2   | 4   | 8   | 3   | 4   | 4   | 7   | 12      | 10  | 13  |

Passes:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 5   | 0   | 2   | 4   | 2   | 3   | 2   | 6   | 12      | 3   | 4   |

Passes in one attempt:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 4   | 0   | 1   | 4   | 1   | 3   | 1   | 4   | 2       | 1   | 4   |

Candidates examined in Organ Pieces:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 7   | 2   | 3   | 8   | 1   | 6   | 5   | 5   | 6       | 6   | 11  |

Pass rate in Organ Pieces:

| W25 | S24  | W24  | S23 | W23  | S22  | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 71% | 100% | 100% | 75% | 100% | 100% | 60% | 80% | 100%    | 50% | 73% |

Candidates examined in Organ Tests:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 8   | 3   | 3   | 7   | 3   | 5   | 5   | 7   | 10      | 9   | 15  |

Pass rate in Organ Tests:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 63% | 33% | 67% | 71% | 67% | 60% | 60% | 86% | 80%     | 11% | 33% |

Candidates examined in Written Paper Part A (introduced S24):

| W25 | S24 |
|-----|-----|
| 6   | 3   |

Pass rate in Written Paper Part A:

| W25 | S24 |
|-----|-----|
| 67% | 67% |

Candidates examined in Written Paper Part B (introduced S24):

| W25 | S24 |
|-----|-----|
| 6   | 3   |

Pass rate in Written Paper Part B:

| W25 | S24 |
|-----|-----|
| 83% | 67% |

Candidates examined in the Written Paper (Parts A and B, to W24):

| W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 1   | 9   | 1   | 3   | 3   | 5   | 6       | 6   | 9   |

Pass rate in the Written Paper:

| W24  | S23 | W23  | S22  | W22  | S21  | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|------|-----|------|------|------|------|---------|-----|-----|
| 100% | 89% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100%    | 67% | 78% |

## ARCO

Statistics for examination year 2024/2025 (Summer 2024 and Winter 2025), with previous sessions to Summer 2019

Total applications (full-entry and sectional applications, and incl. absentees):

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 39  | 35  | 47  | 42  | 38  | 29  | 32  | 49  | 62      | 46  | 54  |

Aiming to complete (full-entry and sectional applications, and incl. absentees):

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 28  | 28  | 41  | 34  | 30  | 20  | 22  | 42  | 50      | 35  | 40  |

Passes:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 13  | 13  | 28  | 8   | 13  | 9   | 12  | 29  | 33      | 11  | 16  |

Passes in one attempt:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 8   | 6   | 11  | 3   | 8   | 4   | 5   | 12  | 19      | 3   | 10  |

Candidates examined in Organ Pieces:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 26  | 22  | 30  | 31  | 27  | 20  | 20  | 32  | 40      | 16  | 35  |

Pass rate in Organ Pieces:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 77% | 73% | 73% | 52% | 59% | 50% | 60% | 72% | 88%     | 63% | 74% |

Candidates examined in Organ Tests:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 27  | 23  | 31  | 28  | 25  | 17  | 16  | 32  | 43      | 18  | 34  |

Pass rate in Organ Tests:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 70% | 52% | 77% | 50% | 68% | 71% | 69% | 84% | 90%     | 56% | 59% |



Candidates examined in Written Paper I:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 25  | 21  | 26  | 29  | 27  | 13  | 12  | 33  | 37      | 19  | 24  |

Pass rate in Written Paper I:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 72% | 71% | 77% | 59% | 74% | 85% | 83% | 85% | 76%     | 84% | 75% |

Candidates examined in Written Paper II Part A (introduced S24):

| W25 | S24 |
|-----|-----|
| 25  | 23  |

Pass rate in Written Paper II Part A:

| W25 | S24 |
|-----|-----|
| 72% | 65% |

Candidates examined in Written Paper II Part B (introduced S24):

| W25 | S24 |
|-----|-----|
| 21  | 20  |

Pass rate in Written Paper II Part B:

| W25 | S24 |
|-----|-----|
| 71% | 80% |

Candidates examined in Written Paper II (Parts A and B, to W24):

| W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 22  | 28  | 29  | 16  | 18  | 33  | 40      | 18  | 25  |

Pass rate in Written Paper II (Parts A and B, to W24):

| W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 68% | 68% | 69% | 56% | 61% | 79% | 83%     | 50% | 52% |

## FRCO

Statistics for examination year 2024/2025 (Summer 2024 and Winter 2025), with previous sessions to Summer 2019

Total applications (full-entry and sectional applications, and incl. absentees):

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 19  | 16  | 22  | 26  | 26  | 22  | 20  | 30  | 36      | 24  | 22  |

Aiming to complete (full-entry and sectional applications, and incl. absentees):

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 15  | 15  | 20  | 17  | 22  | 15  | 16  | 25  | 29      | 18  | 19  |

Passes:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 5   | 8   | 11  | 7   | 10  | 7   | 11  | 8   | 20      | 5   | 8   |

Passes in one attempt:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 3   | 3   | 3   | 3   | 2   | 5   | 2   | 4   | 8       | 3   | 3   |

Candidates examined in Organ Pieces:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 10  | 11  | 11  | 15  | 12  | 11  | 8   | 20  | 23      | 14  | 13  |

Pass rate in Organ Pieces:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 60% | 73% | 45% | 80% | 42% | 73% | 75% | 65% | 78%     | 79% | 62% |

Candidates examined in Organ Tests:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 12  | 11  | 11  | 14  | 8   | 12  | 3   | 16  | 21      | 17  | 12  |

Pass rate in Organ Tests:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22  | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 83% | 82% | 45% | 50% | 63% | 92% | 100% | 81% | 95%     | 76% | 50% |

## Candidates examined in Written Paper I:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 11  | 8   | 9   | 12  | 14  | 13  | 8   | 21  | 21      | 11  | 7   |

## Pass rate in Written Paper I:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 82% | 88% | 89% | 75% | 50% | 77% | 88% | 67% | 76%     | 55% | 71% |

## Candidates examined in Written Paper II:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 11  | 7   | 11  | 14  | 19  | 15  | 10  | 24  | 18      | 11  | 6   |

## Pass rate in Written Paper II:

| W25 | S24 | W24 | S23 | W23 | S22 | W22 | S21 | S20/W21 | W20 | S19 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| 55% | 71% | 91% | 79% | 89% | 60% | 60% | 58% | 67%     | 55% | 67% |

The regulations for the Examination Year 2024/2025 were published in 2023, and those for Examination Year 2025/2026 in 2024.

The College continues to be grateful to the United Grand Lodge of England for their generosity in donating annual funds to support the examination prizes at Colleague level, including a specially named award for the highest aggregate score called The Freemasons' Prize.

The Conferment of Diplomas took place at Southwark Cathedral on 8 March. There was an excellent turn-out by candidates and their families, and it was good to see many College constituencies represented in the platform party. The Ede & Ravenscroft recitalist was Dr Isabelle Demers (McGill University, Montreal, and international concert organist). Her programme reflected the current syllabus, one of the Medal honorands (Dr Cecilia McDowall), and Women Composer Sunday, which occurred that weekend. The three RCO Medal recipients were all present (see above).

## Certificate of Accredited Membership (CAM)

This award has marked an important step towards extending the accreditation programme so that the RCO can provide opportunities to acquire awards from the early stages to (equivalent) postgraduate level. CAM offers the player a developmental route from foundation level (roughly equivalent to ABRSM/TCL Grade 2) via the intermediate level (around Grade 4) to advanced level (around Grade 6). Open to all, and with flexibility in its submission procedures, the Certificate scheme provides

either an end in itself or a series of stepping stones towards the diplomas, and it offers a discounted Year 1 membership fee for non-members.

In the Examination Year 2024/2025, there were two CAM recipients: one at Stage 1 and one at Stage 2. To 30 June 2024, and since its commencement in 2017, over fifty organists have been accredited through the CAM scheme. The majority of the applicants have used the audio-visual submission option, and this has proved attractive to a number of overseas candidates. The applicant numbers, however, remain relatively low and consideration was given in 2024/2025 to improving publicity and resourcing. A review was commenced by the Academic Board.

## Accrediting Organ Teachers and Organ Teaching

The College runs a programme to accredit teachers of the organ. The year ended with twenty-seven Accredited Teachers, a stable number for some time. Several teachers are due for their four-yearly review in the second half of 2025.

In addition to the Accredited Teachers' scheme, an RCO programme for accrediting institutions for their organ teaching was launched in January 2020. This programme aims to consolidate collaborations and to encourage the sharing of ideas and approaches to teaching and learning, mainly in schools; it also encourages the co-branding of activities for marketing and fundraising purposes, and it provides benefits such as access for students of accredited institutions to the RCO's digital learning platforms and to RCO events at a discount. Students (pre-tertiary) of RCO Accredited Institutions may join the College at a very favourable rate (as Affiliate Student Members), usually equivalent to about half of the prevailing student membership fee. At the end of College year 2024/2025, nineteen schools and the Young Organ Scholars' Trust (YOST) had been accredited. Discussions are ongoing with other schools, state and independent. Encouraging schools in the state sector to enter the scheme remains a challenge. A general lack of disposable funds to cover the annual accreditation fee is a deterrent. This issue continues to receive scrutiny by the management team.

In March 2024, a number of Affiliate Student Members (by virtue of their schools being accredited) were brought together to mount a successful series of lunchtime recitals under the banner of 'RCO Young Performers'. The idea for a lunchtime series celebrating the talent, hard work, and achievements of young organists was first brought to fruition in 2006 by former RCO President Catherine Ennis, to whose memory this latest series was dedicated. Catherine was a lifelong advocate for young musicians and musicianship. Young Performers' Concerts were held in St Lawrence Jewry in September 2024 (City of London School, City of London School for Girls, Merchant Taylors' School, and Cheltenham Ladies' College) and March 2025

(Uppingham, Merchant Taylors', and Rugby). The series will continue in Leeds and London thanks to the financial support of John Higham KC, for which the College and all the Young Performers are most grateful.

*'To educate musicians in such arts and practices.'*

## RCO Learning

### Regional, National, and International Engagement

The College works for the recruitment and nurturing of the next generation of young organists; supports those seeking accreditation in organ playing, organ teaching, and choral directing; provides personal and professional development for organists of all ages, levels of attainment, and aspirations; and creates opportunities for the sharing of common interests and the exploration of the organ and its associated repertoires.

In 2016, the College adopted a regionally conceived management structure. In tandem with this, engagement events and educational classes and courses have been planned and delivered on a regional basis, directors in each of the regions overseeing and delegating as appropriate to local consultants (Regional Consultants). The aims have been to grow RCO membership and increase take-up for both RCO accreditation (diplomas and the Certificate of Accredited Membership) and educational services.

The RCO regions are as follows:

RCO East/South/South-West England (Director: Simon Williams)

RCO Midlands, and Mid/South/West Wales (Director: Andrew McCrea)

RCO North of England/North Wales/Isle of Man (Director: Tom Bell)

RCO Scotland and RCO Northern Ireland (Director: Andrew Macintosh)

The reports of the regional directors on the activities in their areas follow below.

The College is grateful to all those who have agreed to act as supporting Regional Consultants in the RCO regions and for their professional expertise and support of the College's mission.

Since the introduction of the College's regional structure, activity has been divided between centrally organised events (including those with national and international reach), those organised locally, and those run by other organisations but with input and/or support from the College. The pandemic brought about the adaptation of the regional

structure in order to deliver a degree of online learning. The College now pursues a blended-learning model.

## RCO East/South/South-West England (including national events and online courses)

### National Events

The College year always begins with our two flagship residential courses: The Organ Student Experience (TOSE) Week and the RCO Summer Course for Organists. TOSE Week 2024, in Oxford, was attended by forty teenagers of Grade 7 level. It marked the end of Daniel Moul's co-directorship after seven years, during which time he brought focus to the Week and expanded the TOSE concept to encompass annual single-day events (one in the South and one in the North of England) for teenagers playing at Grade 5 level and above, and the TOSE Community, which provides regular online meetings for all young organists from beginner level upwards. TOSE Week 2024 was also Yvonne Eddy's final year as administrator. The Summer Course, directed by Drew Cantrill-Fenwick and administered by Kate Matthews, saw forty-three people gather in London for a busy and varied week of learning, with nine of the participants aged under 18.

TOSE Community, directed by Tom Bell and Cathy Lamb and co-ordinated by Makoto James, met online five times during the year, with presentations and interviews from, among others, Tom Daggett, Anna Lapwood, Jan Liebermann, and the College's President, Sarah MacDonald.

The annual RCO Organ Forum took place in Cambridge in October celebrating the life and music of Sir Charles Villiers Stanford (particularly his work and influence in Cambridge) in the 100th anniversary year of his death. Presenters included Professor Jeremy Dibble, with performances from Leora Cohen (violin) and Paul Wingfield (piano), Anthony Gritten (organ), and the Choir of Selwyn College directed by Sarah MacDonald. The day ended at the church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs with a Sung Mass featuring the composer's music.

Richard Brasier again devised and led two overseas study trips, both well attended. The first, in October, was to Arnstadt, where Bach was church organist, exploring the same musical skills that Bach needed and used throughout his life as a church musician. The second, in May, explored the rich variety of organs to be found in Belgium.

### In-person events in the East, South, and South-West regions

Partly as a result of last year's experience, when the appetite for in-person classes post-pandemic seemed to have diminished, and partly because time and energy was necessarily diverted into planning and delivering Play the Organ Year, only a small programme of 'hands-on'



classes was offered. These embraced performing music for special occasions, playing Viennese mass settings on the organ, preparing CRCO keyboard skills, and performing pieces from the ARCO and FRCO lists. The teachers were, respectively, Julian Haggett, Jeremiah Stephenson, Frederick Stocken, and Richard Brasier. Pleasingly, all went ahead, at or near capacity.

### Looking ahead

TOSE Week takes place in late July 2025, once again in Oxford and with David Pipe taking over the co-directorship role from Daniel Moulton. Sixteen of the thirty-four teenagers attending are girls, the highest proportion ever. The Summer Course follows in London. This year, partly in response to Play the Organ Year, a new 'Organ Explorers' strand of two-and-a-half days has been introduced for 10–15-year-olds, including those who are new to keyboard playing. Seven bookings have been received for this strand and fifty-two for the full course, the highest number since restarting the course in-person after the pandemic.

The RCO Organ Forum in the autumn revisits the music of César Franck now that the Lyrebird Music edition (ed. Brasier) of the organ and harmonium music is complete. The title of the day is 'César Franck at the piano, organ and harmonium'. An overseas study trip to Switzerland is planned for October 2025 and a major Play the Organ Year event with strands both for those new to the organ and those familiar with it will take place at Reading Town Hall in September, promoted by the Hall with the College, the Berkshire Organists' Association, the British Institute of Organ Studies, the Incorporated Association of Organists, and the Society of Women Organists supporting.

### RCO Midlands and Mid/South/West Wales

The College supported the annual MusicFest held at the English Martyrs' Catholic School, Leicester in February 2025 (specifically the organ competition and masterclass for youngsters, this year adjudicated/taken by Polina Sosnina).

Three RCO-nominated recitalists were chosen to represent the College at the Worcester Three Choirs Festival in 2024: Ashley Chow, Sophia Membrey, and Drew Sellis. The annual connection with the Three Choirs organisation is much valued, and it brings professional and developmental opportunities for our young professional players, most of whom are recent examination prize-winners.

There were no classes in this region during 2024/2025.

### RCO North of England/North Wales/Isle of Man

It has been a quiet year in the north in terms of classes and courses. The main event during the review period was our second annual northern TOSE-in-a-Day. Held again in

York, this year the day concluded with an opportunity for students to play the organ in York Minster. Much fun was had by all! There were no classes run in partnership with local IAO groups during the review period (though a class with the Newcastle and District Society of Organists was scheduled to take place just after the period finished). Two private classes did take place, however, at Liverpool Hope University: Drew Cantrill-Fenwick worked with students at that institution on improvisation and composition for the organ. It is hoped to run further events in partnership with this institution.

Once again, a focal point for Institutional Accreditation in the region was the RCO Young Performers Concert in Leeds, as part of the Leeds International Concert Season. Three institutions participated in 2025: Bolton School, Junior Royal Northern College of Music, and Liverpool Blue Coat school (who sent two students). The event was a fantastic opportunity for talented young players to perform in a very significant and well-established recital series, with a wonderful audience. We thank Darius Battiwalla and his colleagues for their generosity and support.

Also serving young organists is TOSE Community, which the regional director continues to enjoy planning and hosting alongside wonderful colleagues Cathy Lamb and Makoto James. Huge thanks are given to them, and to all our guest contributors from near and far.

The First Stop! website is now live, and work in 2025/2026 will focus on building further content for the site. Imminent at the time of writing is the publication of a new organ tutor book, designed for players with no previous keyboard experience. Written by RCO Accredited Teachers Robin Harrison and Andrew Cantrill-Fenwick, and edited by David Pipe, the book is an initiative of the RC Diocese of Leeds. It has been a joy to have been involved, and to be part of a not-inconsiderable RCO contribution to the project. These two projects point towards a change of focus in the regional director's role, in the direction of outreach and engagement. Events promoting the organ, as part of PtOY, point the way forwards also: at the time of writing there have been workshops in York (Milthorpe School) and at Doncaster Minster (in conjunction with the Diocese of Sheffield). More will follow later in 2025.

In the contribution to the 2026 Annual Report, the regional director hopes to be able to write about some exciting outreach and engagement partnerships which, henceforth, will form the lion's share of his work with the RCO. For all that, his regional role will remain important: indeed, the region will be the locus of several of the partnerships which will be forged. Classes and events in the region in 2025/2026 will include a day of choral and organ tuition in Durham and a celebration of W. T. Best's bicentenary at St George's Hall in Liverpool.

## RCO Scotland and RCO Northern Ireland

SCOTS continues to show healthy growth. Three workshop days were held: St Andrews in December, Stirling in January, and Rosewell, Midlothian in June. These days attract a healthy interest with many repeat attendees. Three SCOTS Affiliate Members have passed a Stage assessment during the year, two at Stage 1 and one at Stage 2. Elsewhere, the College has been involved in managing the procurement of an Orgelkids kit for use in Scotland, partnering with a number of other organisations. Thanks to a generous donation from the RCO Foundation, the College is covering half the cost of the kit, which is expected to arrive in the autumn of 2025.

## RCO Library Collections

The RCO collaborates with two institutions to provide access to the RCO's library collections: Birmingham City University (The Curzon Library, where the RCO collection is co-located with the collections of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire) and the Royal College of Music in London. The RCO warmly welcomes the continuing, facilitatory arrangements with these institutions. Stored library holdings can be called up to be consulted at either institution by arrangement. This has happened on a number of occasions during 2024/2025.

## Tudor Organs

During the period under review, the Wetheringsett Organ has remained at Newcastle Cathedral, and has been used regularly in services, recitals, and workshop events. It has been used too at the Medieval and Renaissance Music Conference in the region in 2025. Funds from the Northern Bridge Consortium were successfully secured by the two universities in Newcastle, the Cathedral, and the College to support a doctoral student who will use the organ as a main resource in his PhD work. The student is Harry Sullivan, a recent Associate of the College, who will commence work in September 2025. The Wingfield Organ enjoyed a fruitful residency at Bradford Cathedral in 2023/2024, and in May 2024 was relocated to St Cuthbert's, Wells, where it has resided before.

## RCO Journal

*The Journal of the Royal College of Organists* vol. 16 (2023) was published in August 2024 and vol. 17 (2024) has been in preparation during 2024/2025. Contributing to the College's long-standing commitment to commissioning original research, the Journal, and previous RCO scholarly publications, became available during 2016 in the full-text version of the International Repertory of Music Literature (RILM). All issues are available on iRCO.

## National Pipe Organ Register (NPOR)

The College continues to provide management services to the British Institute of Organ Studies (BIOS) to facilitate the day-to-day running of this important resource. In the previous year, we have supported the transfer of hosting facilities to a new provider. This in turn has enabled the completion in 2024/2025 of significant updates to the structure and coding of the database which will enhance the efficiency of the service we provide.

## Financial Review

The detailed College accounts follow this report. The Trustee Council reviews all aspects of the College's finances on a regular basis. The budgetary control and the attendant management information systems are satisfactory.

## Reserves Policy

### General Reserves

The College will draw on reserves as required to maintain its current level of activity. The Trustees believe that the reserves as at 30 June 2025 are sufficient to meet the current and future needs of the beneficiaries. Donations and Legacies are an essential element in our income. Income under this heading has varied from year to year; this year £135,281 was received (2024: £172,566).

### Restricted and Endowment Funds

These funds are in large part endowments and the income generated is restricted to a specific use.

The total funds of the College at 30 June 2025 were £3,202,815 of which £1,604,429 were Unrestricted, £978,758 represented Restricted Funds, and £619,628 represented Endowments for particular purposes as described in note 12 of the accounts.

The College will seek to ensure that the anticipated income stream from its investments is adequate for its day-to-day operational requirements. Wherever possible, surpluses will be reinvested in the fund.

## Investment Policy

The College investment managers, Brewin Dolphin Limited, presented their review of the investment market and the College's portfolio at a Trustee Council meeting in January 2025.

The College's investments have performed broadly in line with expectations in what has continued to be a very challenging economic climate.

## Remuneration Policy

Staff members, who are all key management personnel, are paid in line with staff in similar charities. Salaries are reviewed annually and revised in line with changes to workload and responsibilities.

## Legacies, donations, and support

The College is profoundly grateful for the generosity of those who make gifts or donate funds to assist us in our work.

For the sixteenth year our annual appeal for additional donations was made alongside the request for subscriptions by the College President. This raised £3,261 net of Gift Aid.

In addition to those donating to the President's Appeal, our work has been supported by the following individuals and institutions over the course of the year:

United Grand Lodge of England  
*Donation to the educational work of the College*

Professor Christopher Wood  
*Support of the work of the College (RCO Foundation)*

Andrew Gillett Livery Company  
*Support of the work of the College (RCO Foundation)*

Mr John Higham KC  
*In support of RCO Young Performers*

GMC Trust  
*RCO Academy (TOSE) – supporting young organists*

PF Charitable Trust  
*Donation to the educational work of the College (Organ Forum)*

The Percy Whitlock Trust  
*Donation to the library and to the educational work of the College*

The Estate of Graham Matthews  
*Support of the work of the College*

The Estate of Elizabeth Mary Evans  
*Support of the work of the College*

The Estate of William Ulrich Kreis  
*Support of the work of the College*

Donation in Memory of Michael Richardson  
*Support of the work of the College*

Donation in Memory of Timothy Storey  
*Support of the work of the College*

The Champniss Foundation  
*Support of the work of the College*

Gloucester Organists' Association  
*Support of the work of the College*

School Organ Teachers' Association  
*Support of the work of the College*

The College would like to record special thanks to Viscount Organs for their ongoing support and sponsorship of the educational work of the College.

## Anniversary Circle and the 'Friends of the RCO'

The College does not receive any state support and is dependent on member subscriptions, project funding from trusts, and ad hoc benefaction and legacies from individuals. In conjunction with the 150th anniversary in 2014, the 'Anniversary Circle' was launched in order to establish a new community of individual and corporate benefactors through which the College aims to build the strongest possible platform for its work long into the future. The Anniversary Circle has been revised to form the 'Friends of the RCO' (see above). The Friends of the RCO raised £14,653 in 2024/2025.

## Support in Kind

The Cavalry and Guards Club  
The Dean and Chapter of Southwark Cathedral

The College wishes to thank the authorities and the staff of the many churches and institutions it has liaised with during the year. It is grateful for any unpaid assistance offered, and for the many instances of goodwill extended.



## Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with the law applicable to charities in England and Wales. Law applicable to England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom accounting standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of incoming resources for that period and:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently; and
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities' SORP; and
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position and for ensuring that the financial statements comply with applicable law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard for the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

## Audit Information

So far as each of the Trustees at the time the Trustees' report is approved is aware:

- a) there is no relevant information of which the auditors are unaware; and
- b) they have taken all relevant steps they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

## Auditors

Kreston Reeves Audit LLP will be reappointed as auditors at the Annual General Meeting.

## Risks and Outlook

The Trustee Council and the management team have review processes in place which include an assessment of the risks faced by the College, and the monitoring of these.

The prosperity of the College and the achievement of its objectives are directly related to the prosperity, rituals, and facilities of a small number of institutions, many religious, served by its members. The College has little influence over these, but seeks to address this risk by the excellence of its achievements and plans for the future described earlier in this report. By promoting the highest professional and artistic standards and encouraging wide interest in organ playing and choral directing among the community generally, these activities are intended to support the continuing prosperity of these institutions.

The College's opus operandi, activities, and digital campus (iRCO) are heavily dependent on the College remaining at the forefront of relevant digital technology, and its proper implementation and adaptation to the College's requirements. This is updated and reviewed periodically. During 2023/2024 the College carried out a major review of its IT and data systems, policies, and processes. New policies were drawn up and agreed, new cloud-based IT infrastructure and systems introduced, and the training of staff, contractors, and relevant volunteers was refreshed. This work was carried out to ensure the College's continued alignment with both regulations and best practice, as well as in recognition of our growing online and digital requirements.

The financial position of the College is greatly dependent on the valuation of and income from its investments; and also from the flow of donations and particularly legacies. The bequests necessary to finance the College's operating deficiencies can be unpredictable and intermittent, and for these reasons, and to secure bequests of sufficient size, the RCO Foundation has been set up. The Foundation will be addressing these issues as a matter of priority. Through a network of Individual and Corporate Friends, and of Creative Partners, the Foundation will be seeking to establish meaningful and lasting financial relationships and a significant increase in legacy giving.

Loss of key staff is mitigated by active succession planning, the review of recruitment processes, and staff training. The implementation of a regional management structure has reduced vulnerability through the devolution of responsibilities.

Budgetary control and financial reporting risks are mitigated by maintaining a link between budgets and business planning/objectives, the use of proper costing procedures for service delivery, and the regular review of reserves and investments. The Finance Committee reviews the management accounts on a monthly basis.

Public perception risk is mitigated by communications with supporters and beneficiaries using the website and print and digital publications; these ensure that good-quality reporting of the charity's activities and financial situation is in place.

## Thanks to our staff

The College is fortunate to have a dedicated team of staff supported by a small, hard-working group of freelancers and contractors providing specialist services. The Trustees are grateful for their combined efforts.

By order of the Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Dienes-Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ms Katherine Dienes-Williams BA, MA, BMus, FRCO,  
FRSCM, KSL

Chair of the Trustee Council

Date: 6 November 2025

# Independent auditors' report to the Members of The Royal College of Organists

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal College of Organists (the 'charity') for the year ended 30 June 2025 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

This has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 30 June 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements



does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

## Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

### Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities, including fraud

Based on our understanding of the charity and the sector as a whole, and through discussion with the Trustees and other management (as required by auditing standards), we identified that the principal risks of noncompliance with laws and regulations related to health and safety and employment law. We considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities SORP (FRS 102) Second Edition (released October 2019), and other relevant charity legislation. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks related to posting inappropriate journal entries to increase revenue or reduce expenditure, and management bias in accounting estimates and judgemental areas of the financial statements. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management and assessment of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud; and
- Assessment of identified fraud risk factors; and

- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates; and
- Confirmation of related parties with management, and review of transactions throughout the period to identify any previously undisclosed transactions with related parties outside the normal course of business; and
- Performing analytical procedures with automated data analytics tools to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships, including related party transactions, that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud; and
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance, and
- Review of significant and unusual transactions and evaluation of the underlying financial rationale supporting the transactions; and
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any manual entries made at the year end for financial statement preparation.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

## Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

*Kreston Reeves Audit LLP*

Kreston Reeves Audit LLP  
Statutory Auditor  
Chichester

Date: 20 November 2025

Kreston Reeves Audit LLP are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

## Statement of Financial Activities

### Year end 30 June 2025

|  | Note | Endowment<br>funds<br>2025<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>2025<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>2025<br>£ | Total<br>funds<br>2025<br>£ | Total<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ |
|--|------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Income and endowments from:</b>                     |      |                                 |                                  |                                    |                             |                             |
| Donations and legacies                                 | 4    | -                               | 44,138                           | 91,143                             | 135,281                     | 172,566                     |
| Charitable activities:                                 |      |                                 |                                  |                                    |                             |                             |
| Annual subscriptions                                   |      | -                               | -                                | 179,325                            | 179,325                     | 166,311                     |
| Examination fees                                       |      | -                               | -                                | 39,088                             | 39,088                      | 43,796                      |
| Events   |      | -                               | -                                | 75,369                             | 75,369                      | 70,243                      |
| Other charitable activities                            |      | -                               | -                                | -                                  | -                           | 13,062                      |
| Investment income                                      | 6    | -                               | 34,824                           | 59,178                             | 94,002                      | 96,796                      |
| <b>Total income and endowments</b>                     |      | <b>-</b>                        | <b>78,962</b>                    | <b>444,103</b>                     | <b>523,065</b>              | <b>562,774</b>              |
| <b>Expenditure on:</b>                                 |      |                                 |                                  |                                    |                             |                             |
| Raising funds:   |      |                                 |                                  |                                    |                             |                             |
| Fundraising and publicity                              | 7    | -                               | -                                | 45,421                             | 45,421                      | 43,260                      |
| Investment management fees                             |      | 2,687                           | 4,345                            | 9,968                              | 17,000                      | 16,693                      |
| Charitable activities                                  | 8    | -                               | 114,759                          | 564,969                            | 679,728                     | 647,871                     |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                               |      | <b>2,687</b>                    | <b>119,104</b>                   | <b>620,358</b>                     | <b>742,149</b>              | <b>707,824</b>              |
| <b>Net expenditure before net gains on investments</b> |      | <b>(2,687)</b>                  | <b>(40,142)</b>                  | <b>(176,255)</b>                   | <b>(219,084)</b>            | <b>(145,050)</b>            |
| Net gains on investments                               |      | 6,994                           | 11,219                           | 37,258                             | 55,471                      | 280,558                     |
| <b>Net movement in funds</b>                           |      | <b>4,307</b>                    | <b>(28,923)</b>                  | <b>(138,997)</b>                   | <b>(163,613)</b>            | <b>135,508</b>              |
| <b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>                        |      |                                 |                                  |                                    |                             |                             |
| Total funds brought forward                            |      | 615,321                         | 1,007,681                        | 1,743,426                          | 3,366,428                   | 3,230,920                   |
| Net movement in funds                                  |      | 4,307                           | (28,923)                         | (138,997)                          | (163,613)                   | 135,508                     |
| <b>Total funds carried forward</b>                     |      | <b>619,628</b>                  | <b>978,758</b>                   | <b>1,604,429</b>                   | <b>3,202,815</b>            | <b>3,366,428</b>            |

All amounts related to continuing activities.

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

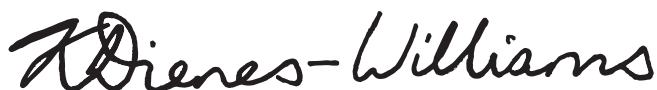
The notes on pages 28 to 47 form part of these financial statements.



## Balance Sheet at 30 June 2025

|  | Note | 2025<br>£               | 2024<br>£               |
|--|------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Fixed assets</b>                            |      |                         |                         |
| Investments                                    | 12   | 3,158,012               | 3,272,524               |
|  |      | <u>3,158,012</u>        | <u>3,272,524</u>        |
| <b>Current assets</b>                          |      |                         |                         |
| Debtors and advance payments                   | 13   | 84,546                  | 85,592                  |
| Cash at bank and in hand                       | 18   | 133,170                 | 181,978                 |
|  |      | <u>217,716</u>          | <u>267,570</u>          |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>                     |      |                         |                         |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 14   | (172,913)               | (173,666)               |
|  |      | <u>44,803</u>           | <u>93,904</u>           |
| <b>Net current assets</b>                      |      | <u>44,803</u>           | <u>93,904</u>           |
| <b>Total net assets</b>                        |      | <u><u>3,202,815</u></u> | <u><u>3,366,428</u></u> |
| <b>Charity funds</b>                           |      |                         |                         |
| Endowment funds                                | 15   | 619,628                 | 615,321                 |
| Restricted funds                               | 15   | 978,758                 | 1,007,681               |
| Unrestricted funds                             | 15   | 1,604,429               | 1,743,426               |
| <b>Total funds</b>                             |      | <u><u>3,202,815</u></u> | <u><u>3,366,428</u></u> |

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Ms Katherine Dienes-Williams BA, MA, BMus, FRCO, FRSCM, KSL  
Chair of the Trustee Council

Date: 6 November 2025

The notes on pages 28 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

## Statement of Cash Flows

### Year end 30 June 2025

|   | 2025<br>£       | 2024<br>£      |
|---|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>             |                 |                |
| Net cash used in operating activities                   | (282,486)       | (209,008)      |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>             |                 |                |
| Investment income and interest received                 | 94,002          | 96,796         |
| Proceeds from disposal of fixed asset investments       | 616,337         | 999,147        |
| Acquisition of fixed asset investments                  | (476,661)       | (854,947)      |
| <b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>        | <b>233,678</b>  | <b>240,996</b> |
| <b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>  | <b>(48,808)</b> | <b>31,988</b>  |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year  | 181,978         | 149,990        |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b> | <b>133,170</b>  | <b>181,978</b> |

The notes on pages 28 to 47 form part of these financial statements

## Notes to the Financial Statements for year ended 30 June 2025

### 1. General information

The Royal College of Organists is a registered charity in England and Wales (Charity Number: 312847). The objectives of the Charity are as set out in the Trustees Report. The charity's registered address is The Royal College of Organists, 118 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5ED.

### 2. Accounting policies

#### 2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The Royal College of Organists meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

#### 2.2 Going concern

The Trustees have assessed whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate and have considered possible events or conditions that might cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees have made this assessment for a period of at least one year from the date of approval of the financial statements. After making enquiries, the Trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.



## Notes to the Financial Statements Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

### 2.3 Reserves policy and fund accounting

#### Unrestricted Funds

The Trustees have reviewed the College's need for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission. They have identified the future needs of the College and where appropriate have set aside funds or designated funds to meet those needs.

The balance of the funds, after the separation of restricted and designated funds, represent the College's general or free reserves. They can be used at the Trustees' discretion for the general running of the College. A statement of the Trustees' view of the necessary level of unrestricted reserves is made within the Trustee's Report.

#### Restricted and Endowment Funds

The College's Restricted and Trust Funds consist of a number of different funds where the donor has imposed restrictions on the use of the funds which are legally binding. The accounting records separate these restricted funds from the unrestricted funds of the College.

A schedule of the movements on each individual fund during the year are set out in note 15.

Permanent endowment funds must be held permanently by the Trustees and income arising is separately included in restricted funds for specific use as defined by the donors.

### 2.4 Income

Subscriptions for 2024/2025 are shown in the accounts on a receivable basis with provision being made for those amounts considered irrecoverable. An element of membership income is deferred where annual memberships commence part way through the year.

Exam fees income relating to exam sittings post year end and advance payments for the programme of RCO Academy classes and events taking place in 2025/2026 are treated as deferred income.

Investment income and Gift Aid income relating to 2024/2025 is accrued. All other income, including recoverable tax credits, is included in income when it is received.

Donations and gifts in kind include assets and resources received from many benefactors. Income is recognised as soon as there is probability of receipt and the value can be measured with reliability.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

### 2.5 Heritage assets

The College is the owner of a library of Organ and Choral music and books. Many precious works are contained in the library which is housed and managed on behalf of the College by Birmingham City University

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

and the Royal College of Music. The collection is considered irreplaceable and as such it is not possible to attribute a reliable cost or value to it. It is additionally considered that the process of obtaining valuations of the collection would be disproportionate to any public benefit that might be derived and that it is impractical to apply conventional valuation techniques to the collection, due to the uniqueness of its nature.

#### 2.6 Investments

Investments are included at market value as at the balance sheet date in accordance with the SORP. Realised and unrealised gains or losses on assets are accounted for within the particular fund of which the asset forms a part.

#### 2.7 Apportionment of Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is analysed into the categories required by the SORP. Notes 7, 8 and 9 to the financial statements provide an analysis of each of the relevant categories according to function.

Staff costs are apportioned in accordance with time spent within each category. Governance costs represent the institutional costs of the College.

Support costs have been allocated to charitable activities in proportion to the direct costs incurred for each charitable activity.

#### 2.8 Pensions

The College runs a non contributory defined contribution scheme for its employees. Alternatively, the College will make a contribution to the personal pensions schemes of employees. Contributions payable are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities.

#### 2.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

#### 2.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

With the exceptions of prepayments and deferred income all other debtor and creditor balances are considered to be basic financial instruments under FRS 102. See notes 13 and 14a for the debtor and creditor notes.

#### 2.11 Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense.

## Notes to the Financial Statements Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

### 2.12 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any discounts due.

### 2.13 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

## 3. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

In preparing financial statements it is necessary to make certain judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

In the view of the Trustees in applying the accounting policies adopted, no judgements were required that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements nor do any estimates or assumptions made carry a significant risk of material adjustment in the next financial year.



## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

#### 4. Income from donations and legacies

|                                | <b>Restricted<br/>funds<br/>2025<br/>£</b> | <b>Unrestricted<br/>funds<br/>2025<br/>£</b> | <b>Total<br/>funds<br/>2025<br/>£</b> |
|--------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Donations (including gift aid) | 44,138                                     | 64,842                                       | <b>108,980</b>                        |
| Legacies and bequests          | -  | 26,301                                       | <b>26,301</b>                         |
|                                | <u>44,138</u>                              | <u>91,143</u>                                | <u><b>135,281</b></u>                 |
|                                |  |  |                                       |
|                                | <b>Restricted<br/>funds<br/>2024<br/>£</b> | <b>Unrestricted<br/>funds<br/>2024<br/>£</b> | <b>Total<br/>funds<br/>2024<br/>£</b> |
| Donations (including gift aid) | 77,117                                     | 94,449                                       | 171,566                               |
| Legacies and bequests          | -  | 1,000  | 1,000                                 |
|                                | <u>77,117</u>                              | <u>95,449</u>                                | <u>172,566</u>                        |

#### 5. Charitable activities

All income from charitable activities in the current and prior year related to unrestricted funds.

#### 6. Investment income

|                   | <b>Restricted<br/>funds<br/>2025<br/>£</b> | <b>Unrestricted<br/>funds<br/>2025<br/>£</b> | <b>Total<br/>funds<br/>2025<br/>£</b> |
|-------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Investment income | <u>34,824</u>                              | <u>59,178</u>                                | <u><b>94,002</b></u>                  |
|                   |  |  |                                       |
|                   | <b>Restricted<br/>funds<br/>2024<br/>£</b> | <b>Unrestricted<br/>funds<br/>2024<br/>£</b> | <b>Total<br/>funds<br/>2024<br/>£</b> |
| Investment income | <u>37,011</u>                              | <u>59,785</u>                                | <u>96,796</u>                         |

Investment income is derived from listed securities, common investment funds and bank interest.

## Notes to the Financial Statements Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

### 7. Expenditure on raising funds

#### Costs of raising funds

|                            | Endowment<br>funds<br>2025<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>2025<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>2025<br>£ | Total<br>funds<br>2025<br>£ |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fundraising and publicity  | -                               | -                                | 45,421                             | <b>45,421</b>               |
| Investment management fees | 2,687                           | 4,345                            | 9,968                              | <b>17,000</b>               |
|                            | <u>2,687</u>                    | <u>4,345</u>                     | <u>55,389</u>                      | <u><b>62,421</b></u>        |
|                            | <u><u>2,687</u></u>             | <u><u>4,345</u></u>              | <u><u>55,389</u></u>               | <u><u><b>62,421</b></u></u> |
|                            | Endowment<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Total<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ |
| Fundraising and publicity  | -                               | -                                | 43,260                             | 43,260                      |
| Investment management fees | 2,756                           | 4,539                            | 9,398                              | 16,693                      |
|                            | <u>2,756</u>                    | <u>4,539</u>                     | <u>52,658</u>                      | <u>59,953</u>               |
|                            | <u><u>2,756</u></u>             | <u><u>4,539</u></u>              | <u><u>52,658</u></u>               | <u><u>59,953</u></u>        |

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

#### 8. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

##### Summary by fund type

|                         | Restricted<br>funds<br>2025<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>2025<br>£ | Total<br>2025<br>£ |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Examinations            | 42,628                           | 140,127                            | 182,755            |
| Publications            | -                                | 77,727                             | 77,727             |
| Library and other       | -                                | 25,613                             | 25,613             |
| Scholarships and Prizes | 37,859                           | 49,363                             | 87,222             |
| Events                  | 27,521                           | 232,824                            | 260,345            |
| Membership Services     | -                                | 29,305                             | 29,305             |
| EEOP Project            | -                                | 829                                | 829                |
| Governance              | 6,751                            | 9,181                              | 15,932             |
|                         | <u>114,759</u>                   | <u>564,969</u>                     | <u>679,728</u>     |

|                         | Restricted<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Total<br>2024<br>£ |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Examinations            | 17,556                           | 168,106                            | 185,662            |
| Publications            | -                                | 77,021                             | 77,021             |
| Library and other       | -                                | 25,438                             | 25,438             |
| Scholarships and Prizes | 32,712                           | 42,954                             | 75,666             |
| Events                  | 44,800                           | 184,270                            | 229,070            |
| Membership Services     | -                                | 26,436                             | 26,436             |
| EEOP Project            | -                                | 3,201                              | 3,201              |
| Governance              | 9,502                            | 15,875                             | 25,377             |
|                         | <u>104,570</u>                   | <u>543,301</u>                     | <u>647,871</u>     |

Notes to the Financial Statements  
Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

9. Analysis of expenditure by activities

|                         | Activities<br>undertaken<br>directly<br>2025<br>£ | Grants<br>2025<br>£ | Support<br>costs<br>2025<br>£ | Total<br>funds<br>2025<br>£ |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Examinations            | 91,538  | -                   | 91,217                        | 182,755                     |
| Publications            | 38,933  | -                   | 38,794                        | 77,727                      |
| Library and other       | 12,830  | -                   | 12,783                        | 25,613                      |
| Scholarships and Prizes | 5,830   | 37,859              | 43,533                        | 87,222                      |
| Events                  | 130,403   | -                   | 129,942                       | 260,345                     |
| Membership Services     | 14,679  | -                   | 14,626                        | 29,305                      |
| EEOP Project            | 414   | -                   | 415                           | 829                         |
| Governance              | -   | -                   | 15,932                        | 15,932                      |
|                         | <u>294,627</u>                                    | <u>37,859</u>       | <u>347,242</u>                | <u>679,728</u>              |

|                         | Activities<br>undertaken<br>directly<br>2024<br>£ | Grants<br>2024<br>£ | Support<br>costs<br>2024<br>£ | Total<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Examinations            | 93,942  | -                   | 91,720                        | 185,662                     |
| Publications            | 38,970  | -                   | 38,051                        | 77,021                      |
| Library and other       | 12,872  | -                   | 12,566                        | 25,438                      |
| Scholarships and Prizes | 5,573   | 32,712              | 37,381                        | 75,666                      |
| Events                  | 115,904   | -                   | 113,166                       | 229,070                     |
| Membership Services     | 13,376  | -                   | 13,060                        | 26,436                      |
| EEOP Project            | 1,620   | -                   | 1,581                         | 3,201                       |
| Governance              | -   | -                   | 25,377                        | 25,377                      |
|                         | <u>282,257</u>                                    | <u>32,712</u>       | <u>332,902</u>                | <u>647,871</u>              |



## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

#### 9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

##### Analysis of support costs

|                                     | Examinations<br>2025<br>£ | Publications<br>2025<br>£ | Library and<br>other<br>2025<br>£ | Scholarships<br>and Prizes<br>2025<br>£ | Events<br>2025<br>£ |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Staff costs                         | 32,180                    | 13,687                    | 4,510                             | 15,358                                  | 45,843              |
| Rent, rates, services and insurance | 3,597                     | 1,530                     | 504                               | 1,717                                   | 5,124               |
| Other establishment expenses        | 596                       | 253                       | 83                                | 284                                     | 848                 |
| Telephone and internet expenses     | 2,601                     | 1,106                     | 365                               | 1,242                                   | 3,706               |
| Bank charges                        | 2,043                     | 868                       | 286                               | 974                                     | 2,909               |
| Legal and professional fees         | 15,336                    | 6,522                     | 2,149                             | 7,319                                   | 21,846              |
| Printing, postage and stationery    | 930                       | 395                       | 130                               | 443                                     | 1,324               |
| Sundry                              | 28,170                    | 11,981                    | 3,948                             | 13,444                                  | 40,129              |
| Travel and accommodation            | 5,764                     | 2,452                     | 808                               | 2,752                                   | 8,213               |
|                                     | <u>91,217</u>             | <u>38,794</u>             | <u>12,783</u>                     | <u>43,533</u>                           | <u>129,942</u>      |

|                                     | Membership<br>Services<br>2025<br>£ | EEOP<br>Project<br>2025<br>£ | Governance<br>2025<br>£ | Total<br>funds<br>2025<br>£ |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Staff costs                         | 5,160                               | 146                          | -                       | 116,884                     |
| Rent, rates, services and insurance | 577                                 | 16                           | -                       | 13,065                      |
| Other establishment expenses        | 95                                  | 3                            | -                       | 2,162                       |
| Telephone and internet expenses     | 417                                 | 12                           | -                       | 9,449                       |
| Bank charges                        | 327                                 | 9                            | -                       | 7,416                       |
| Legal and professional fees         | 2,459                               | 69                           | -                       | 55,700                      |
| Audit fees                          | -                                   | -                            | 12,716                  | 12,716                      |
| Printing, postage and stationery    | 149                                 | 4                            | -                       | 3,375                       |
| Council travel and meeting costs    | -                                   | -                            | 3,216                   | 3,216                       |
| Sundry                              | 4,517                               | 128                          | -                       | 102,317                     |
| Travel and accommodation            | 925                                 | 28                           | -                       | 20,942                      |
|                                     | <u>14,626</u>                       | <u>415</u>                   | <u>15,932</u>           | <u>347,242</u>              |

## Notes to the Financial Statements Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

### 9. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

#### Analysis of support costs (continued)

|                                     | Examinations<br>2024<br>£ | Publications<br>2024<br>£           | Library and<br>other<br>2024<br>£ | Scholarships<br>and Prizes<br>2024<br>£ | Events<br>2024<br>£         |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Staff costs                         | 33,445                    | 13,875                              | 4,582                             | 13,631                                  | 41,265                      |
| Rent, rates, services and insurance | 3,466                     | 1,439                               | 475                               | 1,413                                   | 4,279                       |
| Other establishment expenses        | 222                       | 92                                  | 30                                | 91                                      | 274                         |
| Telephone and internet expenses     | 2,663                     | 1,105                               | 365                               | 1,085                                   | 3,285                       |
| Bank charges                        | 2,332                     | 967                                 | 319                               | 950                                     | 2,877                       |
| Legal and professional fees         | 15,450                    | 6,410                               | 2,117                             | 6,297                                   | 19,063                      |
| Printing, postage and stationery    | 1,529                     | 635                                 | 210                               | 624                                     | 1,888                       |
| Sundry                              | 26,557                    | 11,016                              | 3,638                             | 10,822                                  | 32,764                      |
| Travel and accommodation            | 6,056                     | 2,512                               | 830                               | 2,468                                   | 7,471                       |
|                                     | <u>91,720</u>             | <u>38,051</u>                       | <u>12,566</u>                     | <u>37,381</u>                           | <u>113,166</u>              |
|                                     |                           | Membership<br>Services<br>2024<br>£ | EEOP<br>Project<br>2024<br>£      | Governance<br>2024<br>£                 | Total<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ |
| Staff costs                         |                           | 4,762                               | 577                               | -                                       | 112,137                     |
| Rent, rates, services and insurance |                           | 494                                 | 60                                | -                                       | 11,626                      |
| Other establishment expenses        |                           | 32                                  | 4                                 | -                                       | 745                         |
| Telephone and internet expenses     |                           | 379                                 | 46                                | -                                       | 8,928                       |
| Bank charges                        |                           | 332                                 | 40                                | -                                       | 7,817                       |
| Legal and professional fees         |                           | 2,200                               | 266                               | -                                       | 51,803                      |
| Audit fees                          |                           | -                                   | -                                 | 22,191                                  | 22,191                      |
| Printing, postage and stationery    |                           | 218                                 | 26                                | -                                       | 5,130                       |
| Council travel and meeting costs    |                           | -                                   | -                                 | 3,186                                   | 3,186                       |
| Sundry                              |                           | 3,781                               | 458                               | -                                       | 89,036                      |
| Travel and accommodation            |                           | 862                                 | 104                               | -                                       | 20,303                      |
|                                     |                           | <u>13,060</u>                       | <u>1,581</u>                      | <u>25,377</u>                           | <u>332,902</u>              |

Support costs have been allocated to charitable activities in proportion to the direct costs incurred for each charitable activity.

Notes to the Financial Statements  
Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

10. Staff costs

|                       | 2025<br>£      | 2024<br>£      |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wages and salaries    | 180,179        | 173,248        |
| Social security costs | 14,605         | 13,526         |
| Pension costs         | 12,868         | 12,080         |
|                       | <u>207,652</u> | <u>198,854</u> |

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

|                   | 2025<br>No. | 2024<br>No. |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Direct charitable | <u>5</u>    | <u>6</u>    |

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

|                               | 2025<br>No. | 2024<br>No. |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| In the band £60,001 - £70,000 | 1           | 1           |

Key management personnel include the Trustees, Chief Executive and senior staff reporting directly to the Chief Executive. The total employee benefits of the charity's key management personnel were £213,935 (2024: £204,480) before deducting the employer's NI allowance.

## Notes to the Financial Statements Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

### 11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £NIL).

The following trustees received fees for assisting in the examination and tutoring of students, as permitted by the Royal Charter:

|                           | 2025<br>£    | 2024<br>£    |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Christopher Morris        | 51           | 800          |
| Tom Winpenny              | 684          | 80           |
| Katherine Dienes-Williams | 119          | 683          |
| Philip Moore              | 127          | 447          |
| Sarah MacDonald           | 1,050        | 81           |
|                           | <u>2,031</u> | <u>2,091</u> |

Included in the above are travel expenses amounting to £1,635 (2024: £527) which were reimbursed to 5 (2024: 2) trustees during the year. At the year end there was no outstanding balances (2024: £Nil).

### 12. Fixed asset investments

|                  | Listed<br>investments<br>£ |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Valuation</b> |                            |
| At 1 July 2024   | 3,272,524                  |
| Additions        | 476,661                    |
| Disposals        | (616,337)                  |
| Revaluations     | 25,164                     |
| At 30 June 2025  | <u>3,158,012</u>           |

Net gains on investments of £55,471 for the year, as reported in the Statement of financial activities, comprise revaluations of £25,164 and realised gains of £30,307 included within the above disposals.



## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

#### 13. Debtors

|                                | 2025<br>£     | 2024<br>£     |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Due within one year</b>     |               |               |
| Trade debtors                  | 763           | 1,106         |
| Other debtors                  | 64            | 798           |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 83,719        | 83,688        |
|                                | <u>84,546</u> | <u>85,592</u> |

#### 14a. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

|                                    | 2025<br>£      | 2024<br>£      |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Trade creditors                    | 16,940         | 28,642         |
| Other taxation and social security | 3,970          | 2,908          |
| Deferred income (See 14b)          | 112,040        | 98,563         |
| Accruals                           | 39,963         | 43,553         |
|                                    | <u>172,913</u> | <u>173,666</u> |

#### 14b. Deferred Income

|  | 2025<br>£      | 2024<br>£     |
|--|----------------|---------------|
| Balance as at the beginning of the year  | 98,563         | 96,249        |
| Released during the year                 | (98,563)       | (96,249)      |
| Deferred during the year                 | 112,040        | 98,563        |
| <b>Balance as at the end of the year</b> | <u>112,040</u> | <u>98,563</u> |

Deferred income relates to exam fees and subscriptions received in advance.

Notes to the Financial Statements  
Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

15. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

|                              | Balance at 1<br>July 2024<br>£ | Income<br>£ | Expenditure<br>£ | Gains/<br>(Losses)<br>£ | Balance at<br>30 June<br>2025<br>£ |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b>    |                                |             |                  |                         |                                    |
| General Funds                | 1,743,426                      | 444,103     | (620,358)        | 37,258                  | 1,604,429                          |
|                              |                                |             |                  |                         |                                    |
|                              | Balance at 1<br>July 2024<br>£ | Income<br>£ | Expenditure<br>£ | Gains/<br>(Losses)<br>£ | Balance at<br>30 June<br>2025<br>£ |
| <b>Endowment funds</b>       |                                |             |                  |                         |                                    |
| The Birch fund (salaries)    | 44,170                         | -           | (190)            | 492                     | 44,472                             |
| The Birch fund (course fees) | 253,058                        | -           | (1,107)          | 2,859                   | 254,810                            |
| The Minshall-Jones fund      | 76,591                         | -           | (339)            | 874                     | 77,126                             |
| The Gabb fund                | 241,502                        | -           | (1,051)          | 2,769                   | 243,220                            |
|                              | 615,321                        | -           | (2,687)          | 6,994                   | 619,628                            |

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

#### 15. Statement of funds (continued)

|                              | Balance at 1<br>July 2024<br>£ | Income<br>£           | Expenditure<br>£        | Gains/<br>(Losses)<br>£ | Balance at<br>30 June<br>2025<br>£ |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Restricted funds</b>      |                                |                       |                         |                         |                                    |
| The Prize Fund               | 285,841                        | 6,164                 | (17,255)                | 3,224                   | 277,974                            |
| The Bursary Fund             | 167,378                        | 3,622                 | (15,914)                | 1,894                   | 156,980                            |
| Freestone Fund               | 235,539                        | 5,084                 | (8,933)                 | 2,659                   | 234,349                            |
| The Birch fund (salaries)    | (33)                           | 940                   | (1,028)                 | -                       | (121)                              |
| The Birch fund (course fees) | 5,624                          | 5,468                 | (3,364)                 | -                       | 7,728                              |
| The Scholarship & Award      | 183,404                        | 3,935                 | (7,168)                 | 2,058                   | 182,229                            |
| The Wiles fund               | 102,624                        | 2,194                 | (4,538)                 | 1,147                   | 101,427                            |
| The Philip Mason fund        | 21,750                         | 453                   | (2,954)                 | 237                     | 19,486                             |
| The Roger Gabb Bursary       | 5,209                          | 5,293                 | (4,294)                 | -                       | 6,208                              |
| The Minshall-Jones fund      | 345                            | 1,672                 | (819)                   | -                       | 1,198                              |
| Organs For Schools           | -                              | 17,750                | (35,630)                | -                       | (17,880)                           |
| Hill-Ennis Concert Series    | -                              | 11,387                | (2,207)                 | -                       | 9,180                              |
| St Albans Festival           | -                              | 10,000                | (10,000)                | -                       | -                                  |
| RNCM Bursary                 | -                              | 5,000                 | (5,000)                 | -                       | -                                  |
|                              | <u>1,007,681</u>               | <u>78,962</u>         | <u>(119,104)</u>        | <u>11,219</u>           | <u>978,758</u>                     |
| <b>Total of funds</b>        | <u><u>3,366,428</u></u>        | <u><u>523,065</u></u> | <u><u>(742,149)</u></u> | <u><u>55,471</u></u>    | <u><u>3,202,815</u></u>            |

## Notes to the Financial Statements Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

### 15. Statement of funds (continued)

#### Restricted Funds

For the purposes of administration and management of the charity, and with permission of the Charity Commission, the trusts already in existence are to be administered as on charity and as a result have been divided into the following areas:

- The Prize Branch - to award prizes in the subject of organ music.
- The Bursary Branch - to advance education in organ music to students in need.
- The Freestone Fund - for the provision of an organ scholarship to be known as the "Leonard Freestone" scholarship.
- Birch fund (salaries) - to fund salaries and administration costs.
- Birch fund (course fees) - to fund Course Fees and other financial help for organ students.
- The Scholarship and Award Branch - to be awarded in the subject of organ music.
- The Wiles fund - to fund an Annual Scholarship.
- The Phillip Mason fund - to fund Awards and Scholarships.
- The Roger Gabb Bursary - to fund Awards and Scholarships
- The Minshall-Jones fund - to fund Awards and Scholarships.
- The Hill-Ennis Concert Series - to fund a series of concerts in memory of our past president Catherine Ennis.
- St Albans Festival - to contribute towards the St Albans International Organ Festival.
- Organs For Schools - to fund the purchase of organs for schools.
- RNCM Bursary - to fund a specific bursary to the Royal Northern College of Music.

#### Endowment funds

The Birch Fund (salaries) - In 2013 a £30,000 endowment was received and going forwards income derived from the endowment is to be used to fund administration costs and salaries of the College.

The Birch fund (course fees) - In 2014 a £176,643 endowment was received and going forwards income derived from the endowment is to be used to fund course fees and other financial help for organ students.

The Minshall-Jones fund - In 2014 a £50,000 endowment was received and going forwards income derived from the endowment is to be used to fund Awards and Scholarships.

The Gabb fund - In 2018 a £175,000 endowment was received and going forwards income derived from the endowment is to be used to fund Awards and Scholarships.



## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

#### 15. Statement of funds (continued)

##### Statement of funds - prior year

|                               | Balance at<br>1 July 2023<br>£ | Income<br>£ | Expenditure<br>£ | Transfers<br>in/out<br>£ | Gains/<br>(Losses)<br>£ | Balance at<br>30 June<br>2024<br>£ |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted<br/>funds</b> |                                |             |                  |                          |                         |                                    |
| General Funds                 | 1,706,401                      | 448,646     | (595,959)        | 32,317                   | 152,021                 | 1,743,426                          |

|                                 | Balance at<br>1 July 2023<br>£ | Income<br>£ | Expenditure<br>£ | Transfers<br>in/out<br>£ | Gains/<br>(Losses)<br>£ | Balance at<br>30 June<br>2024<br>£ |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Endowment<br/>funds</b>      |                                |             |                  |                          |                         |                                    |
| The Birch fund<br>(salaries)    | 40,913                         | -           | (196)            | -                        | 3,453                   | 44,170                             |
| The Birch fund<br>(course fees) | 234,163                        | -           | (1,137)          | -                        | 20,032                  | 253,058                            |
| The Minshall-<br>Jones fund     | 70,948                         | -           | (339)            | -                        | 5,982                   | 76,591                             |
| The Gabb fund                   | 223,489                        | -           | (1,084)          | -                        | 19,097                  | 241,502                            |
|                                 | 569,513                        | -           | (2,756)          | -                        | 48,564                  | 615,321                            |

## Notes to the Financial Statements Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

### 15. Statement of funds (continued)

|                              | Balance at<br>1 July 2023<br>£ | Income<br>£    | Expenditure<br>£ | Transfers<br>in/out<br>£ | Gains/<br>(Losses)<br>£ | Balance at<br>30 June<br>2024<br>£ |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Restricted funds</b>      |                                |                |                  |                          |                         |                                    |
| The Prize Fund               | 270,851                        | 6,575          | (14,421)         | -                        | 22,836                  | 285,841                            |
| The Bursary Fund             | 157,305                        | 3,819          | (7,009)          | -                        | 13,263                  | 167,378                            |
| Freestone Fund               | 223,190                        | 5,418          | (11,887)         | -                        | 18,818                  | 235,539                            |
| The Birch fund (salaries)    | 40                             | 994            | (1,067)          | -                        | -                       | (33)                               |
| The Birch fund (course fees) | 3,429                          | 5,768          | (3,573)          | -                        | -                       | 5,624                              |
| The Scholarship & Award      | 177,357                        | 4,294          | (13,161)         | -                        | 14,914                  | 183,404                            |
| The Wiles fund               | 96,866                         | 2,352          | (4,761)          | -                        | 8,167                   | 102,624                            |
| The Philip Mason fund        | 23,423                         | 569            | (4,217)          | -                        | 1,975                   | 21,750                             |
| The Roger Gabb Bursary       | 3,013                          | 5,500          | (3,304)          | -                        | -                       | 5,209                              |
| The Minshall-Jones fund      | (468)                          | 1,722          | (909)            | -                        | -                       | 345                                |
| Orgelbuchlein                | -                              | 13,757         | -                | (13,757)                 | -                       | -                                  |
| Organs For Schools           | -                              | 60,000         | (42,000)         | (18,000)                 | -                       | -                                  |
| God Save The King            | -                              | 3,360          | (2,800)          | (560)                    | -                       | -                                  |
|                              | <u>955,006</u>                 | <u>114,128</u> | <u>(109,109)</u> | <u>(32,317)</u>          | <u>79,973</u>           | <u>1,007,681</u>                   |
| <b>Total of funds</b>        | <u>3,230,920</u>               | <u>562,774</u> | <u>(707,824)</u> | <u>-</u>                 | <u>280,558</u>          | <u>3,366,428</u>                   |

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

#### 16. Analysis of net assets between funds

##### Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

|                               | Endowment<br>funds<br>2025<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>2025<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>2025<br>£ | Total<br>funds<br>2025<br>£ |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fixed asset investments       | 619,628                         | 978,758                          | 1,559,626                          | 3,158,012                   |
| Current assets                | -                               | -                                | 217,716                            | 217,716                     |
| Creditors due within one year | -                               | -                                | (172,913)                          | (172,913)                   |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>619,628</b>                  | <b>978,758</b>                   | <b>1,604,429</b>                   | <b>3,202,815</b>            |

##### Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

|                               | Endowment<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Restricted<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Unrestricted<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ | Total<br>funds<br>2024<br>£ |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fixed asset investments       | 615,321                         | 1,007,681                        | 1,649,522                          | 3,272,524                   |
| Current assets                | -                               | -                                | 267,570                            | 267,570                     |
| Creditors due within one year | -                               | -                                | (173,666)                          | (173,666)                   |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>615,321</b>                  | <b>1,007,681</b>                 | <b>1,743,426</b>                   | <b>3,366,428</b>            |

#### 17. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

|  | 2025<br>£        | 2024<br>£        |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities) | (163,613)        | 135,508          |
| <b>Adjustments for:</b>  |                  |                  |
| Investment income  | (94,002)         | (96,796)         |
| Net (gains)/ losses on investments   | (25,164)         | (254,726)        |
| (Increase)/ decrease in debtors  | 1,046            | (839)            |
| Increase/ (decrease) in creditors  | (753)            | 7,845            |
| <b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>                                   | <b>(282,486)</b> | <b>(209,008)</b> |

## Notes to the Financial Statements Year end 30 June 2025 (continued)

### 18. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

|              | 2025<br>£      | 2024<br>£      |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cash in hand | <u>133,170</u> | <u>181,978</u> |

### 19. Analysis of changes in net debt

|                          | At 1 July<br>2024<br>£ | Cash flows<br>£ | At 30 June<br>2025<br>£ |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Cash at bank and in hand | <u>181,978</u>         | <u>(48,808)</u> | <u>133,170</u>          |

### 20. Pension commitments

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £12,868 (2024: £12,080). Contributions totalling £421 (2024: £21 owed to the Charity) payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

### 21. Related party transactions

The Charity has disclosed in note 11 the related party transactions in respect of amounts paid to trustees.

During the year, the Charity received £33,150 (2024: £5,400) in donations, without conditions, from trustees. All trustees are also members of the Charity and paid the standard membership subscriptions.

At the year end, there was a balance of £1,000 (2024: £1,000) owed by the five (2024: five) key management personnel for amounts loaned to them in their role as employees of the Charity to cover incidental expenses incurred in carrying out their responsibilities prior to reimbursement. These amounts are due to be repaid when the employee ends their employment with the Charity.

During the year, the Charity paid examiner fees of £1,443 (2024: £1,170) to Stephen Farr Organists, a business wholly owned by Stephen Farr, who is a member of the Charity's key management personnel. The services were provided on normal commercial terms. No amounts were outstanding at the year-end.



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