

AIREDALE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024

Legal and administrative information

Principal address: 6 Beechroyd, Pudsey, LS28 8BH

Registered charity no: 516399

Trustees

Elizabeth Edgington	Chair	Teresa Jones	Secretary
Janet Cade	Vice-chair & Tickets	Rachel Holt	Members' Secretary
Paul Linehan	Treasurer (Co-opted)		

Bankers: Barclays Bank, Barclays Business Centre, PO Box 100, Leeds, LS1 1PA

Aims and organisation

The objects of the orchestra are to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music in all aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by such other ways as the Orchestra through its trustees shall determine from time to time.

Responsibility for the orchestra is with the elected and co-opted trustees. The trustees delegate management of the orchestra to the Management Group which is unelected, this includes:

Librarians	Helen Patterson	Patrons Manager	Charlotte Hazel
	Jay Glasby	Programmes & prii	Oliver Moor
Orchestral Manager	<i>Vacant</i>	Extras Manager	<i>Vacant</i>
Website listings	Heather Mackie	Concert Manager	<i>Vacant</i>
Website Manager	Karen Vaughan	Percussion Manag	Pippa Wilson
Social Media Manage	Philippa Jennings	Sponsorship Manager	<i>Vacant</i>
Social events Manag	Aliki George	Fundraising Manag	<i>Vacant</i>
Stage Manager	Philippa Jennings		

Plus the Trustees of the orchestra all take on management tasks. The Trustees book self-employed conductors for rehearsal and performances. All Trustees and Members of the Management Group are volunteers and more volunteers are welcome, whether to become a Trustee, take on a Management role, or a one off task.

Chair's Review

The Airedale Symphony Orchestra has enjoyed substantial successes during the year to August 31 2024. Concerts were held in November and December 2023 and March and June 2024.

November 2023

The first programme with a new conductor, our new rehearsal venue and several new members, performed to a high standard on 21 November with a bumper audience that overflowed from the sold out Ilkley Kings Hall into the Winter Gardens next door!

- The mountain and the flood - Hamish MacCunn
- Cello Concerto in B Minor - Antonin Dvorak, Soloist: Douglas Badger
- The Oak - Florence Price
- Symphony No 5 in C Minor - Ludwig van Beethoven

December 2023

A pair of Christmas concerts were performed at our rehearsal venue, Wesleys in Baildon. The first a Family concert with opportunities for children to play sleigh bells, sing along with community choir members, and dance to the Sugar Plum Fairy, and the second an atmospheric Candlelight concert. Both concerts were sell-outs with a very happy festive spirit. The programmes included:

- Sleigh Ride - Delius
- A Vaughan Williams' Christmas - Vaughan Williams
- Nutcracker Suite -Tchaikovsky
- Winter from the Four Seasons with ASO leader Ian Banks as soloist
- Sleigh Ride! - Leroy Anderson
- Polar Express suite - Alan Silvestri
- Various carols

March 2024

Performed at Ilkley Kings Hall on 17 March. Featuring work by a composer from our membership, Philippa Jennings who allowed us to present a world premiere of her work 'Killer on the Road'. This was received with great delight alongside Conga del Fuego and William Tell Overture, both featuring solos by our fabulous trumpet section.

- William Tell Overture - Rossini
- Killer on the Road - Jennings
- Conga del Fuego - Arturo Márquez
- Symphony No 9 in E Minor 'From the New World', Op.95 - Dvorak

June 2024

The season finished by fulfilling a lifetime highlight for many, performing Mahler 5 to critical acclaim. Specialists in brass, strings and woodwind led sectionals alongside the peerless musical leadership of Ben Crick, our conductor. The orchestra worked hard to complete this goal, with wonderful solos from several sections including Ewan Hudson our solo horn and lead trumpet Shannon Gateley. Everyone should be very proud of their achievement.

- Shostakovich, Festival Overture
- Grieg, Peer Gynt Suite no 1
- Mahler, Symphony no 5

Finances

During the year to 31 August 2024, finances have improved dramatically after last year left the orchestra vulnerable financially. This improvement is due to:

- Changing the rehearsal venue saving circa £75/week
- Recruiting members to fill places in the orchestra rather than relying on extras - for example, we now have a full brass section and timpanist, and plans for a regular percussionist.
- Increasing the number of members to increase subscription income - we now have 67 members rising from around 50 in September 2023.
- Increasing number of patrons - We are delighted that the support of our Patrons has continued and numbers have increased this year. We would like to thank them for their commitment to, and support of, the orchestra.
- Changing how we manage regular extras to look for good amateur players with whom we have built a relationship rather than rely on professionals except where necessary
- Increased marketing of concerts to maximise ticket sales, particularly use of social media and building relationships with local media, music groups and community organisations.
- Limiting number of pieces programmed with high music hire/extras/percussion costs until we could afford this

Following these changes, year-end profit/deficit has risen from (£6,505) to £6,123. This was achieved without increasing the cost of member subscriptions, or ticket prices.

Management processes

Management processes have also been changed including:

- A change in the ASO constitution to ensure two trustees sign off all spending and all trustees have access to the bank account to allow total transparency.
- A Programming Group to decide on repertoire which is advised by ASO conductor Ben Crick
- Focus on building community relationships - community choir at Christmas, visits by the brownies and cubs, and concerts held at Wesleys - have all developed our audiences and support for the orchestra going forward.
- Supporting talent within our membership to attract and retain excellent musicians to the orchestra

Legal case

Our previous conductor John Anderson continues to pursue a case at employment tribunal. We have solicitors involved whose costs are currently covered by our insurance policy, so this is not costing the orchestra anything. There is a hearing in January 2025, delayed from September, which will decide whether John Anderson was an employee of the orchestra, or was self-employed. If he is judged to have been self-employed the case will end there. If judged to have been an employee, he will no doubt continue his claim of unfair dismissal and age discrimination. Our legal team seem comfortable that we are in the right here, so whilst there is a fair bit of work going on behind the scenes, it is something for the members to be aware of but not concerned about.

Our future

With the changes to the orchestra and the fantastic conducting and musical coaching of Ben Crick, the orchestra is developing swiftly. This has been noted by others and we have been invited to partner in a large Christmas concert at St George's Hall in December 2025, and thanks to the involvement of Ben Crick, to perform in the Bradford UK City of Culture 2025 opening ceremony.

As the orchestra becomes more skilled it is taking on more challenging and creative work, and thanks to financial stability we can now support local musicians with our new bursary scheme

The Airedale Symphony Orchestra is a wonderful orchestra with a membership of committed, friendly musicians, welcoming new members and all those that work with us. With the dedication and commitment of the members, trustees and management group, we will flourish and continue to make progress as an orchestra.

Elizabeth Edgington, Chair

Financial position

The Orchestra's main source of income comes from members' annual subscriptions, and proceeds from concerts. During the year, the Orchestra enjoyed a profit of £6,123 (2023: deficit of £(6,505)).

Notes to the accounts

1. The Orchestra's accounts for the year ending 31 August 2024 are attached to this Report. The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with Sections 132 and 133(a) and (b) of the Charities Act 2011, as the gross recorded income of the Orchestra was less than £250,000 during the year.
2. The gross recorded income of the Orchestra during the year was more than £25,000, so an independent examination of the accounts has been carried out, pursuant to section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. This has been completed by qualified accountant Helen Nakwhal.
3. The accounts for the year 2022-23 are being restated here to allow for prepayments and liabilities which were not previously taken into account. This is due to material accruals in the year 2023-24, making it necessary to identify other material accruals and prepayments in the previous year. The restatement of prepaid income in 2022-23 relates to subscriptions and patron payments received in 2022-23 for the 2023-24 year. This treatment is consistent with the treatment of subscriptions and patron payments in the 2023/24 year.

Report and Accounts approved by Trustees Committee on 21 November 2024.

AIREDALE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Income and expenditure account - Year ending 31 August 2024

	2023-24	2022-23
Income		
Members' annual subscriptions	£ 8,162	£ 6,866
Patrons' and Friends' subscriptions	£ 2,155	£ 810
Sale of tickets and programmes	£ 13,324	£ 6,542
Sale of programmes and cash donations	£ 1,786	£ -
Sponsorship, grants and donations	£ 1,000	£ 98
Programme advertising	£ 20	£ -
Sundry	£ -	£ 550
Interest on Investments	£ 3	£ -
Total	£ 26,449	£ 14,867
Expenditure		
Hire of performance rooms	£ 4,942	£ 3,350
Rehearsal expenses	£ 2,509	£ 3,710
Conductors' and tutors' fees	£ 6,970	£ 11,395
Artists' fees	£ 350	Included
Extras	£ 1,718	above
Instrument Hire	£ 1,050	£ 661
Hire of music	£ 610	£ 736
Printing expenses	£ 619	£ 823
Miscellaneous concert expenses	£ 290	£ 12
Administration expenses	£ 1,093	£ 502
Sundries	£ 175	£ 183
Total	£ 20,326	£ 21,372
<u>Net surplus/(deficit) for the year</u>	<u>£ 6,124</u>	<u>£ (6,505)</u>

Balance Sheet

	As at 31/08/2024	As at 31/08/2023
Assets:		
National Savings Investment Account	£ 130	£ 130
Nationwide	£ 404	£ 402
Cash box	£ 46	£ 108
Barclays Bank plc Current Account	£ 10,973	£ 4,114
Cash in hand	£ 11,554	£ 4,753
Less Liabilities:		
Fees paid in advance	£1950	£3120
Accruals	£1847	£ -
Total Net Assets	£7,757	£1,633
Represented by:		
Accumulated funds at 1 September	£1,633	£8,138
(Deficit)/ surplus for the year	£6,123	£(6,505)
Accumulated funds at 31 August	£7,757	£1633

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CONCERT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2023/2024

	November	Christmas	March	June
INCOME				
Tickets and programmes	£3,804	£1,228	£3,676	£4,371
Programmes and donations (cash)	£1,030	£15	£350	£240
Programme adverts			£20	
Total	£4,834	£1,243	£4,046	£4,611
EXPENDITURE				
Hall hire	£ 782	£ 140	£ 1,574	£ 1,847
Conductor	£ 350	£ 350	£ 350	£ 350
Soloists	£ 350			
Music hire and purchase	£ 68	£ 250	£ 223	£ 70
Extra players	£ 400	£ 70	£ 188	£ 1,030
Instrument hire	£ 250	£ -	£ 75	£ 275
Flyers, posters and publicity	£ 61	£ 53	£ 70	£ 79
Programme printing	£ 98	£ 75	£ 89	£ 171
Miscellaneous expenses				
Total	£ 2,358	£ 938	£ 2,568	£ 3,822
Concert surplus/(shortfall)	£ 2,476	£ 305	£ 1,477	£ 789
<u>CONCERT SURPLUS/(SHORTFALL) FOR SEASON</u>			<u>£5,048</u>	